

GEF-8 Program Framework Document (PFD)

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General Project Information

Project Title

Sahel RESILAND Program: Building Resilience through Sustainable Natural Resource Management

Country(ies)

Regional
Chad
Mali

GEF Program ID

11743

GEF Agency(ies)

World Bank

GEF Agency ID

Other GEF Agency(ies):

Submission Date

9/18/2024

Type of Trust Fund

LDCF

Anticipated Program Executing Entity(s):

Ministry of Environment, Fisheries and Sustainable
Development
Mali Land Restoration Project Implementation Unit -
Ministry of Environment
Pan African Agency

Anticipated Program Executing Partner Type(s):

Government
Government
Government

Sector (Only for Programs on CC):

Climate Change Adaptation Sector

Project Duration (Months):

60

GEF Focal Area (s)

Climate Change

Program Commitment Deadline:

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Climate Change, Climate Change Adaptation, Least Developed Countries, Ecosystem-based Adaptation, Community-based adaptation

GEF Program Financing (a)

18,801,101.00

PPG Amount: (c)

0.00

Agency Fee(s): (b)

1,687,598.00

PPG Agency Fee(s): (d)

0.00

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

20,488,699.00

Total Co-financing

411,500,000.00

Project Tags

CBIT: No SGP: No

Program:

Other Program

Program Summary

Provide a brief summary description of the program, including: (i) what is the problem and issues to be addressed? (ii) what are the program objectives, and how will the program promote transformational change? (iii) how will this be achieved (approach to deliver on objectives), and (iv) what are the GEBs 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 program should be in section B “program description”. (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

The countries of the African Sahel region, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger are among the least developed countries in the world. The regular and growing climate shocks in these countries are causing large losses in outputs, reducing human capital accumulation, and leading to potentially devastating ecological and economic tipping points in the region. The Sahel region is one of the most vulnerable in the world to extreme droughts, floods, heatwaves, and other impacts caused by climate change. Two of the five Sahel countries, Chad and Mali, rank among the most vulnerable regionally to climate change. Not only is the Sahel region expected to experience temperature increases 1.5 times greater than the world average, it is also particularly susceptible to land degradation and desertification. The opportunities for resilient development in these countries are significant and can enable the reversal of environmental degradation and maximize the benefits of climate action for the poor and most vulnerable. In addition, resilient and inclusive growth is both the best form of adaptation to climate change and the best strategy for meeting development goals in an effective, sustainable, and productive manner. Climate change, by putting additional stress on the livelihoods and economic space of rural communities, can also be linked to conflict in the Sahel and exacerbates fragility. Violent conflicts in the Sahel are associated with exclusion and perceptions of injustice and marginalization. Impacts fall hardest on the poorest and most vulnerable, including women, youth, ethnic minorities, nomadic groups, and displaced people. These marginalized groups are often forced to resort to a variety of negative coping strategies – further decreasing their resilience to climate change and creating even more conflict. Given the large negative impacts of climate change on poverty and the challenges of the most vulnerable to fully adapt, expanding adaptation and poverty reduction measures in transboundary areas is critical and as climate and conflict risks transcend national borders, a coordinated approach in the Sahel is necessary.

Given these trans-national problems faced by the five countries of the Sahel, it is crucial to address the threats facing these areas collectively, and even more critical that the institutional foundations and stakeholder capacity be strengthened for climate action. Support from the LDCF, by building the execution capacity of the Pan African Agency, with its mandate to coordinate and manage regional cooperation on sustainable development, will allow for a strengthened knowledge exchange platform that maximizes engagement and scales up re-greening, including participatory planning, in Sahel RESILAND program countries. Given inherent connections in landscapes as well as similarities in climate change challenges, the program will offer a coordinated and integrated approach toward climate that will bring multiple benefits. In particular, it will improve the effectiveness of national climate actions through (i) complementarities (e.g., agricultural trade, regional power markets, etc.); (ii) economies of scale (e.g., shared research and knowledge efforts); (iii) strategic planning and financing (e.g., access to climate finance, collaboration with development partners); and (iv) innovation and experience-sharing.

The proposed program will support the Sahel countries of Chad and Mali in meeting their Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) adaptation and mitigation commitments and objectives under the countries’ National Adaptation Plans. The program will also be complemented by ongoing and new World Bank projects, with co-financing of over \$470 million that is directly supporting all five countries in the Sahel as well as enabling the Sahel countries of Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Niger to also participate in the LDCF Sahel RESILAND Program’s regional activities. This co-financing will help to cover costs of coordination and regional participation in the program, ensuring all Sahel countries are able to participate in regional fora and learning events. Also, while Chad and Mali will receive direct community investment support under the program and directly benefit from bilateral investments fostering greater collaboration and

transboundary investments, the other Sahel countries with support from project co-financing will also benefit from bilateral investments supporting improved information management and tools for decision making.

Indicative Program Overview

Program Objective

To increase resilience and strengthen livelihoods of targeted communities in the Sahel through the adoption of climate-smart landscape restoration practices.

Program Components

Component 1. Regional Capacity Building, Coordination, and Climate Services

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	LDCF
GEF Program Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
683,594.00	45,045,045.00

Program Outcome:

- (i) Improved regional awareness and capacity for transboundary landscape restoration.
- (ii) Increased resilience and strengthened livelihoods via adoption of landscape restoration practices.
- (iii) Increased collaboration among Sahel countries on landscape restoration

[lessons learned will reflect knowledge gained from supporting women's participation throughout the program's child projects]

Component 2. National Capacity Building for Landscape and Climate Resilience

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	LDCF
GEF Program Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
2,603,906.00	62,360,248.00

Program Outcome:

- (i) National forest inventory, monitoring systems, and landscape plans enhancing national capacities and providing inputs for decision-making
- (ii) Increased resilience and strengthened livelihoods via adoption of landscape restoration practices.

[national community development plans will ensure training, capacity building, and awareness raising activities are targeted towards women]

Component 3: National Investments in Landscape Restoration and Communities' Resilience to Climate Impacts

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	LDCF
GEF Program Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
14,260,479.00	265,642,857.00

Program Outcome:

(i) Increased adoption of landscape management practices by rural communities. Increase area of land under sustainable restoration practices

(ii) Increased resilience and strengthened livelihoods via adoption of landscape restoration practices.

[national community investments such as agro-sylvo-pastoral production systems that will generate income and reduce food insecurity for vulnerable populations, will focus on women]

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
	LDCF
GEF Program Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
358,122.00	20,555,370.00

Program Outcome:

Program and projects monitoring and evaluation reports, audits, knowledge and learning. [gender-specific results, lessons, and knowledge shared broadly]

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
Component 1. Regional Capacity Building, Coordination, and Climate Services	683,594.00	45,045,045.00
Component 2. National Capacity Building for Landscape and Climate Resilience	2,603,906.00	62,360,248.00
Component 3: National Investments in Landscape Restoration and Communities' Resilience to Climate Impacts	14,260,479.00	265,642,857.00
M&E	358,122.00	20,555,370.00
Subtotal	17,906,101.00	393,603,520.00

Project Management Cost	895,000.00	17,896,480.00
Total Project Cost (\$)	18,801,101.00	411,500,000.00

Please provide Justification

PROGRAM OUTLINE

A. PROGRAM RATIONALE

Briefly describe the current situation: the global environmental problems that the program will address, the key elements and underlying drivers of environmental change to be targeted, and the urgency to transform associated systems in line with the GEF-8 Programming Directions document. Describe the overall objective of the program, and the justification for it. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

Regional Context:

Overall climatic stresses. Climate change is putting significant stresses on the five countries of the Sahel region, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger. The region is one of the most vulnerable in the world to extreme droughts, floods, heatwaves, and other impacts caused by climate change. Two of the five Sahel countries, Chad and Mali, rank among the most vulnerable regionally to climate change. Not only is the Sahel region expected to experience temperature increases 1.5 times greater than the world average, it is also particularly susceptible to land degradation and desertification. Indeed, the region has been identified as being one of the world's tipping points if the global average surface temperature rises by 3°C above pre-industrial levels. According to the IPCC, most climate scenarios show that temperatures in the Sahel will rise by at least 2°C in the near term (2021- 2040). Already, communities across the region are being threatened by frequent – and often more severe – droughts and floods. Since 2000, an average of 248,000 people per year have been affected by floods that have damaged homes, roads, and other infrastructure and assets, and disrupted services. Meanwhile, droughts harmed more than 20 million people between 2016 and 2020 because of food insecurity or economic hardship.

Economic losses due to climate change. Large economic losses are expected from climate change for the five Sahel countries, and substantial adaptation interventions are needed to reduce negative impacts on growth and poverty reduction. Significant GDP losses are expected from the combined effects of six impact channels that have been modeled: rainfed crop yields, livestock yields, heat-labor productivity, human health-productivity, flooding damages, and road and bridges damages. The negative impacts increase over time and are higher under dry and pessimistic climate scenarios.^[1] The negative impacts are large enough to wipe out most or all annual growth in real GDP and GDP per capita. Further, these estimates are likely to underestimate the impact of climate change on GDP because they do not include the magnifying effects of climate-induced increases in conflicts, ecosystem shifts, and migration. For comparison, a 2016 World Bank study estimated that the Sahel's GDP could drop by as much as 11.7 percent by 2050 because of climate-related water scarcity alone.

Poverty impacts. Climate change will increase the poverty challenge in the Sahel. Climate change shocks reduce productivity through a myriad of ways. They include declines in rainfed crops and livestock yields, increased heat stress making it difficult to work outdoors, increases in morbidity and mortality levels, and reductions in productive capital and infrastructure, which translates into lower average household incomes. Moreover, impacts like drought often force marginalized groups into negative coping strategies, such as cutting forests for fuel, that perpetuate and deepen cycles of poverty, fragility, and vulnerability. Given the estimates of economic losses from climate shocks with no adaptation policies and investments, it is estimated that by 2050 there would be an increase in the poverty rate of the five Sahel countries from 27 percent with a medium-growth baseline (no climate change) to 29 percent with a wet and optimistic climate scenario and to 34 percent with a dry and pessimistic climate scenario. This would translate into an additional 4.1 million and 13.5 million people falling into poverty, respectively. Chad is projected to have one of the highest increases

in poverty. Inequality will increase and climate change will have a heterogeneous spatial effect in the Sahel with higher poverty impacts in rural areas, including in some of the most vulnerable border communities in Chad and Mali.

Climate change, by putting additional stress on the livelihoods and economic space of rural communities, can also be linked to conflict in the Sahel and exacerbates fragility. Violent conflicts in the Sahel are associated with exclusion and perceptions of injustice and marginalization. Impacts fall hardest on the poorest and most vulnerable, including women, youth, ethnic minorities, nomadic groups, and displaced people. These marginalized groups are often forced to resort to a variety of negative coping strategies – further decreasing their resilience to climate change and creating even more conflict. Given the large negative impacts of climate change on poverty and the challenges of the most vulnerable to fully adapt, expanding adaptation and poverty reduction measures in transboundary areas is critical and as climate and conflict risks transcend national borders, a regionally coordinated approach in the Sahel is necessary.

Natural capital. The Sahel countries' economies are dependent on agriculture and their natural resources, with the region's natural capital one of most environmentally degraded in the world. About 80 percent of farmland is depleted, and the countries are in ecological deficit, which is not sustainable. This degradation is increasing, with about 60 percent being caused by human activity, such as household use of wood and charcoal for cooking, and the other 40 percent by climate change. Significant past droughts have meant that some Sahel countries experienced a 47 percent increase in sandy areas in their important savannah habitats.

Even if global warming is limited to a less than 1.5°C increase, climate change is expected to impact agriculture, for example reducing maize, millet, and sorghum yields. Agriculture in Chad will be greatly impacted considering that current crops are predominantly rainfed, where the use of irrigation techniques and equipment is limited, and soils are poor in nutrients and shallow. There is also risk of the country doubling its exposure to climate risks, with at least one drought per year. Some crops may be more heavily impacted than others, including maize and millet. Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) remain crucial for climate change adaptation and resilience in rural landscapes, from reducing droughts and desertification, to protecting crops, reducing the impacts of flooding, and maintaining water quality. In addition, the cumulative GDP losses in Chad, compared to projected from medium-growth baselines with no adaptation measures, projects a loss of up to 4.2 percent from floodings and heavy rains, and up to 10.5 percent from worsening conditions during the dry (drought) periods. Because of this, inequality is expected to increase particularly in rural areas, including in some of the most vulnerable border communities. At least US\$5 billion are estimated to be needed by 2030 to achieve the adaptation targets of Chad's NDC and reduce the vulnerability of the country.

In Mali, based on recent assessments, around 2 million people live on degraded landscapes and land degradation costs over 31 percent of GDP annually. Land degradation threatens the livelihoods of numerous households, by reducing food production and water storage, negatively affecting biodiversity, soil organic carbon and ecosystem services. Underlying drivers of land degradation include soil mining, that is, removal of soil nutrients without replenishment, deforestation mainly due to overgrazing, wood trading, seasonal uncontrolled bushfires, and domestic energy demand (almost 90 percent of household rely on fuelwood and charcoal for their energy needs). Thus, out of the 32 million ha of forests listed in Mali in 1985, there are currently only around 17.4 million ha left. According to the Malian 2020 National Land Degradation Neutrality Commitment, croplands are increasingly affected by wind erosion, chemical degradation (especially loss of fertility due to nutrient loss and salinization), physical degradation of soils (due to compaction, asphyxiation, and crusting), biological degradation (due to insufficient plant cover, and the decline of mixed cropping systems), and by water degradation (runoff, and pollution of surface water). Furthermore, the duration and severity of droughts are expected to increase while hotter temperatures will raise evaporation rates and reduce overall surface water supply. The highly variable inter-seasonal flow of the Niger River, combined with more frequent and severe droughts, have reduced dry season water availability in central and eastern Mali.

The increased risk to livelihoods means a greater risk of food insecurity and malnutrition. Anemia due to malnutrition in pregnant women further increases the risk of stunting in children later on with deleterious effects on their children's future productivity, thereby trapping families in a vicious cycle of poverty and vulnerability. Water continues to be a significant limiting factor for development in a region that is one of the most water-stressed in the world. In Chad, for example, less than half of the population has access to basic drinking water. Surface water across the region is limited and often seasonal, making groundwater a primary source of water for many people. While groundwater potentially represents a large

untapped potential, the lack of data and monitoring of aquifers could lead to overuse of key aquifers that could provide reliable decentralized water supply. The burden of these impacts is likely to fall disproportionately on the poor and most vulnerable – women, youth, ethnic minorities, nomadic groups, displaced people, and people with disabilities.

Climate change has made the overall development and growth agendas in Chad and Mali even more urgent. Sustainable and inclusive interventions that strengthen livelihoods and increase the resilience of communities to climate change are critical. In particular, programs that provide support to affected communities and contribute to the adaptation agenda by building community resilience are needed. Productive inclusion programs are effective in helping to boost investments and diversify off-farm income-generating activities of poor households across the Sahel, which is central to reducing households' vulnerability to climate-related shocks. As climate-related shocks can have long-term negative consequences on households, especially affecting children's health and nutritional status, investing in human capital is a foundational need for addressing climate change and economic development.

World Bank's current response. The WBG has a long-standing commitment to protecting Sahel landscapes and ecosystems while improving the livelihoods of the people who depend on them. From TerrAfrica to the Sahel and West Africa Program (SAWAP), over the past two decades the World Bank has supported these countries in natural resource management for sustainable and climate-resilient development. The Bank continues this country-driven support today, via current WB operations in the Sahel region totaling over \$400 million in financing, to increase land area under sustainable landscape management practices and improve access to income earning opportunities. In particular, the Sahel RESILAND program's child project in Chad will be fully blended with a new IDA Chad sustainable natural resource management operation under preparation (\$100 million) and the Sahel RESILAND program also builds on the following World Bank operations that are currently under implementation:

- Chad Local Development and Adaptation Project (IDA \$50 million)
- Mali Landscape Restoration Project (IDA \$150 million)
- Niger Integrated Landscape Project (IDA \$150 million)
- Burkina Faso Strengthening Climate Resilience (IDA \$10.5 million)
- Mauritania Climate Change, Forestry and Blue Economy Program (\$1 million)

Need for scaled action. Even with the best sectoral plans, climate change impacts require strengthened institutional capacity, where governance and accountability systems are often limited. Bilaterally coordinated actions are also needed in Chad and Mali among environment, agriculture, infrastructure, and water for a resilient development path, as well as among regional and national agencies. It is crucial to address the integrated threats facing these countries collectively to maximize natural capital and productive uses, and that institutional foundations and stakeholder capacity also be strengthened for climate action. Support from the LDCF, by building the execution capacity of the Pan African Agency along with the respective national government agencies in Chad and Mali, will allow for the implementation and continual improvement of a knowledge exchange platform that maximizes engagement and scales up re-greening, including participatory planning, and will also facilitate peer-to-peer exchange and offer training, knowledge sharing services, and other learning tools to these Sahel countries. By building capacity of a regional agency, the Pan African Agency, LDCF would play a key role in enhancing and sustaining bilateral oversight and knowledge mechanisms to provide critical bilateral support as well as greater assurance to building resilience to climate impacts.

Local communities in the two countries will also be engaged as partners in resilience-building, where climate adaption actions can provide an opportunity to build a stronger social contract. Inclusive institutional processes will support climate action and promote social cohesion and the inclusion of all groups, including marginalized ones. Program investments will contribute directly to building resilience in agricultural systems and food security, and in nature-

based solutions through interventions to protect, manage, and restore ecosystems to provide biodiversity, socioeconomic, and climate adaptation benefits.

[1] The climate scenarios follow World Bank guidance and were provided by the World Bank's Climate Change Knowledge Portal for 29 General Circulation Models (GCMs) from the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project 6 suite of IPCC model outputs.

B. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This section asks for a theory of change as part of a joined-up description of the program as a whole. The program 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 PFD guidance document. (Approximately 10-15 pages) see guidance here

The program PDO is "To increase resilience and strengthen livelihoods of targeted communities in the Sahel countries of Chad and Mali through the adoption of climate-smart landscape restoration practices".

The program will promote transboundary cooperation and landscape restoration in Chad and Mali, two of the countries most vulnerable to climate change in the Sahel, given the critical need to address emerging threats at the regional/bilateral level, including impacts of climate change. It will provide the two countries with improved climate planning and monitoring tools that will build institutional foundations and lead to greater institutional capacity both regionally/bilaterally and at the national level to manage climate impacts and increase resilience. The Program will emphasize strengthening the capacity of existing institutions in these countries with regional and national climate and natural resource management mandates to ensure Program sustainability.

The program will additionally strengthen the resilience of vulnerable rural populations in Chad and Mali in the face of climate change, including the fight against land degradation and desertification, and support the integrated and inclusive management of natural resources. The project will support the development of low-carbon, nature-positive, value chains from non-timber forest products (NTFP) for vulnerable populations, particularly women and young people. The expected key results from the project and proposed indicators include:

- Millions of hectares of terrestrial and aquatic areas under enhanced conservation and management (hectares). This is also a CSI and reports to LDCF indicator *Area of land managed for climate resilience (ha)*.
 - Area of land restored (hectares). This is a GEF Core indicator and could be a sub-indicator from the previous one.
 - **The area under new or improved production techniques and technologies in agro-ecology/climate-smart sustainable agriculture/low-impact sustainable production schemes (CRI, Hectares (Ha)).**
- Millions of people with enhanced resilience to climate risks (disaggregated by gender, contributed to both key areas). This is a CSI and reports to GEF Core Indicator *Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment* and LDCF indicator *Number of direct beneficiaries*.
 - **Number producers in the targeted value chains adopting improved practices on the harvest and trade of agro-forestry products** (disaggregated by gender).
 - Number of people trained or with awareness raised (disaggregated by gender). This is an LDCF indicator and could be a sub-indicator of the enhanced resilience to climate risks.
 - **Number of farmers adopting new agro-ecology/climate-smart sustainable agriculture/low-impact sustainable production technologies** (disaggregated by gender).

- The number of people with an increase in incomes from NTFP trade (disaggregated by gender).

The proposed program will support the Sahel countries of Chad and Mali in meeting their Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) adaptation and mitigation commitments and objectives under the countries' National Adaptation Plans. The program will also be complemented by ongoing and new World Bank projects, with co-financing of over \$470 million that is directly supporting all five countries in the Sahel as well as enabling the Sahel countries of Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Niger to also participate in the LDCF Sahel RESILAND Program's regional activities. This co-financing will help to cover costs of coordination and regional participation in the program, ensuring all Sahel countries are able to participate in regional fora and learning events. Also, while Chad and Mali will receive direct community investment support under the program and directly benefit from bilateral investments fostering greater collaboration and transboundary investments, the other Sahel countries with support from project co-financing will also benefit from bilateral investments supporting improved information management and tools for decision making.

The proposed program draws on lessons learned from on-going World Bank interventions in Chad, including: (i) the Local Development and Adaptation Project for Chad (ALBIA) which aims to improve the management of natural resources and the livelihoods of populations in certain climate-vulnerable areas in and around the Ouadi Rime and Ouadi Achim reserves (OROA); and (ii) the Chad Territorial Development and Resilience Project (ResiTchad) which invests in climate-resilient community infrastructure such as boreholes, roads, urban resilience infrastructure, sociocultural centers, and small productive and income-generating investments. Specifically, the proposed Chad child project will strengthen local governance structures, i.e. scale-up local natural resources management committees developed under the ALBIA project. The proposed project will coordinate closely with the Chad Refugees and Host Communities Support Project currently under implementation.

In addition, it builds on the Mali Landscape Restoration and Resilience Project and the Niger Integrated Landscape Management project. Building on experiences drawn from both the Mali and Niger landscape restoration projects, the program (i) adopts a community-driven activity identification approach and replicates successful practices such as the promotion of cost-effective technologies and practices for the rehabilitation of degraded lands, (ii) ensures that project interventions at commune level coincide with the preparation of multi-year communal integrated development plans, (iii) strengthens PMU implementation capacity, and (iv) develops a conflict management strategy using remote monitoring of project activities in conflict-prone areas and grievance reporting. In addition to focusing on sound governance of natural resources management as the key driver of land degradation, the project also recognizes that supporting income-generating agro-silvo-pastoral activities for women will maximize chances for sustainability of the investments.

Resources from the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) under the GEF will contribute to maximizing the scale, impact, and reach of the climate adaptation activities.

Target Area

The program's intervention area includes the two Sahel countries of Chad and Mali, Component 1 will foster collaboration and capacity building among these countries, while Component 2 will provide direct investment support to Chad and Mali. In Chad, the provinces potentially targeted include Bahr El Gazal, Batha, Borkou, Ennedi Est, Ennedi Ouest, Guerra, Hadjer Lamis, Kanem, Ouaddai, Sila and Wadi Fira. In addition, given that some of the most vulnerable communities in Chad and Mali are located along the border, the project will focus adaptation and poverty reduction measures in transboundary areas. In Mali, restoration activities will also extend to the municipality of Hawa Dembaya, where degradation is severe and dissemination of alternatives to the use of firewood and charcoal in households will be supported. The precise identification of intervention areas for investment projects (land rehabilitation; irrigation systems; etc.) will be the subject of in-depth studies **in consultation with** local populations.

Description of components:

Component 1 Bilateral Capacity Building, Coordination, and Climate Services. To address the critical need for strengthened and sustained institutional capacity for bilateral oversight and knowledge mechanisms and promote collaboration between countries facing similar challenges, the Sahel RESILAND Program will provide technical assistance, as well as minor civil works, goods, and training at both bilateral and national levels to the countries of Chad and Mali, to develop a unified, integrated regional/bilateral analytical platform for climate resilient and low emission development, with improved data, information, knowledge, and decision-support tools. Although this information platform will be managed at the regional level, national agencies and other stakeholders (e.g., academia, civil society organizations) in the two countries will also have access and contribute to this system. This platform will ensure a cross-fertilization of knowledge, harmonization of technologies, and consistency in evaluation methods for transboundary landscape restoration across the Sahel countries. In addition to providing an improved data and information platform, this component will also develop a mechanism to assess the results and lessons of the climate investments implemented under the Program (under the child projects) in order to ensure that these lessons and results are systematically evaluated and disseminated to support Sahel countries in their planning processes and lead to greater scale-up of climate action in the region. This dissemination and regional capacity building will be further supported via an annual climate change forum, regional training and e-learning events, as well as climate networks. Other Sahel countries and regional stakeholders would participate in these fora, training and e-learning events with funding for example, from World Bank projects, and also to ensure full collaboration with the UNEP LDCF Great Green Wall (GGW) Program.

While this component will be managed at the regional level, the Chad and Mali government agencies will benefit from technical support and capacity building for integrated landscape planning. Staff in these agencies at both the central and field levels will benefit from investments in improved equipment and infrastructure and improved and more accessible data to support timely decision-making related to landscape restoration. These Sahel countries will gain knowledge about landscape restoration and other solutions for emerging regional/bilateral issues and will be provided with opportunities to create and foster partnerships around these issues of common interest. Addressing the critical need for well-funded and effective communication in natural resource management and landscape interventions will inform policy makers, promote practitioners' networking and capacity building, and also enable reaching out to a large number of beneficiaries.

The component's **climate** services will include:

- **Strengthening the information platform for the Sahel.** This activity will support the development of an open information platform to facilitate public-domain collection, sharing, and maintenance of datasets relevant for climate assessment and decision and policy-making. This platform will build on existing systems to collate, analyze, disseminate, and use climate-change relevant data. The platform (including supporting ICT hardware, software, connectivity, datasets, access to expertise, and training) will facilitate data computerization, collation of comprehensive spatial (e.g., GIS, remote sensing) and temporal datasets from global, regional, and local sources, including in real time (e.g., including from earth observation and hydromet systems). The platform will also offer interfaces and tools for data visualization, contextualization, and interpretation, such as GIS to layer data and map risks and hotspots, screening and modeling tools to support analysis for climate adaptation and mitigation. The platform will make available a comprehensive and up-to-date data, which could be shared and leveraged through public-domain access platforms and the creation of a range of knowledge products and services. The platform will be designed following open data practices, starting from publicly available datasets (and building on on-going initiative such as the World Bank *Spatial Agent App*) and promoting further information sharing. It will be managed by an Information Technology/Data Specialist with the Pan African Agency, working in tandem with each participating country's National Coordination Unit to improve awareness of the growing collection of high-quality, global public-domain datasets relevant for climate assessments, facilitate data acquisition and curation, as well as build capacity at national level on data management and analysis. This analysis will support revisions and updates to existing policy, legal, and implementation frameworks to help align these with national and international obligations including NDC commitments. The sub-component will cover consulting services, non-consulting services, and goods to design the platform (e.g., survey of datasets and other relevant sources of information; data management solutions; development of apps and interfaces such as GIS layering, screening tools, indicator

building; community features), develop and grow the platform (e.g., data rescue, GIS and screening tools software, development of user-friendly apps and interfaces, IT equipment, webhosting services).

- **Targeted upgrading of climate-related monitoring systems.** This activity will provide improved monitoring systems and data series to support project activities in Chad and Mali (e.g., improve projections of water resources under a changing climate; or agricultural and forest systems - for instance to monitor state and health of forests and pastures for informed management interventions, better emissions inventories and other reporting under international commitments, and identification of areas at risk of extreme climatic events). It will provide for consulting services, non-consulting services, and goods for surveying/ground truthing, equipment for monitoring innovations, and equipment for aggregation, management, and analysis of data in the two countries.
- **Developing methodologies, approaches, and tools to support the use of the knowledge base for decision support.** This activity will include developing climate screening tools for specific sectors, climate impact assessment and management tools, and support for climate-related decision making (e.g., robust-decision making) and development of climate investments (e.g., review of climate strategies and development of investment programs) in Chad and Mali. These approaches and tools will be developed in conjunction with other regional and national programs. The Pan African Agency will be in charge of preparing the program of activities for this sub-component, based on priority needs identified through country consultations.
- **Developing knowledge products,** under a broad range of support such as web portals, mobile apps, publications, specialized analytical work, including periodic publications on trends and indicators in the region for climate as well as environmental and socio-economic impacts; deep dive on climate risks and vulnerability for specific sub-region or sector; strategy papers to inform future orientations in the form of roadmaps, with concrete recommendations on information generation and dissemination, institutional capacity building, policy reform, and investments. Technical experts and communications specialists within the Pan African Agency will be in charge of implementing this sub-component. A comprehensive knowledge management strategy will be developed as part of this sub-component. The priority objectives of this strategy will be to disseminate the key findings and best adaptation actions among program partners. Additionally, the results will be consolidated and made publicly available in both French and English for other uses.
- **Building capacity,** including activities related to training and study tours or engaging young professionals in Chad and Mali via internship programs, as follows:
 - *Distance learning* as well as face-to-face training and discussion sessions and fora. Special hands-on courses (e.g., data sources, using GIS, models, online services) will be designed and delivered on a regular basis using computer training rooms at bilateral/national levels. It is expected that this will help access, and contribute to bilateral good practices, build professional networks, and improve the capacity to mainstream climate change considerations into policy, investment, and livelihood decisions.
 - *Field trips and workshops* for knowledge exchange and cross-learning, with a special focus on cross-sectoral and cross-regional learning (e.g., bringing together technical staff from several countries' agriculture and environment ministries to share lessons from program investments and to discuss common approaches; making available international expertise on a specific topic of interest to a group of countries in the region).
- **Collaboration and coalition building,** including holding an annual Nature-based Solutions and Climate Knowledge Forum and fostering of climate networks. This subcomponent will foster collaboration among the two Sahel countries on transboundary cooperation and landscape restoration, given the critical need to address emerging threats at the bilateral level, including impacts of climate change. The project will finance regional and bilateral exchanges that will allow countries to come together to address challenges, find regional solutions for shared challenges faced by multiple countries, and thus promote global public goods. These exchanges will allow for a two-way dialog between Government and non-governmental actors in the program-supported Sahel countries on

technologies and approaches to landscape restoration and nature-based solutions, including knowledge exchange:

- *Annual Climate Change Forum*, as a continuing annual event for knowledge and experience sharing across a broad cross-section of stakeholders (e.g., government representatives, regional organizations, civil society organizations, national and regional knowledge and learning institutions, and development partners active in the region).
- *Climate Networks*, to catalyze information and knowledge exchange, collaboration around initiatives, and the emergence of action-oriented communities and citizen feedback. This will be facilitated by the web portal, Apps, and other online knowledge networking tools.
- *Design and implementation of an effective communications and public engagement strategy to support knowledge dissemination, public outreach, and coalition building: stakeholder mapping and public opinion research; developing protocols for external and internal communications; providing communications support for the Climate Knowledge Forum and workshops; and engaging with media and building their capacity).*

Component 2. National Capacity Building for Landscape and Climate Resilience. To strengthen the capacity of national institutions in the Sahel in relation to the challenges of landscape restoration and resilience, this component will support national agencies in Chad and Mali in improving their knowledge base by developing resource management plans, improving community investment planning by integrating climate considerations in territorial planning, as well as strengthening national environmental information management systems.

- **Natural resource management planning and monitoring.** The sub-component will support the development of natural resource management plans for forest, pastoral land, and fishery resources, that integrate climate considerations in territorial planning. In addition, it will support the development of forest inventories and monitoring, improving data collection. All management plans will be georeferenced, linked to the national monitoring systems, and developed in synergy with other relevant projects for better coordination and monitoring, and will enable countries to develop natural resource strategies that support improved climate adaptation. These activities will be led by each country's environmental or forestry ministry with the support of consulting services.
- **Climate-informed territorial planning in targeted communities and municipalities.** This sub-component will support the updating of community development plans to better integrate climate adaptation in local planning. It will involve local stakeholders, particularly women, youth and marginal groups. This activity will be led by regional partner institutions, working in collaboration with local authorities and communities. Adaptation planning will ensure the involvement of local stakeholders, mainly women, in this process, as well as foster community cohesion. Proposed activities will help decentralize NDC and develop local NDC implementation plans, including mapping investment opportunities which can drive policy frameworks to unlock available private and public finance and make it easier for the state and its partners to mobilize resources. Pro-poor participatory methodology will be enhanced to increase the access and consultation of all stakeholders including the poor and other vulnerable and marginalized groups (such as transhumant pastoralists) and their involvement in the decision-making process. The process will identify activities aimed at empowering women and girls and distinguish the greater vulnerability of women to the impacts of climate change as well as the difference in the way they are affected in comparison to men and will therefore propose adaptation / mitigation activities that can be implemented by women.

Component 3. National Investments in Landscape Restoration and Communities' Resilience to Climate Impacts. This sub-component will finance investments in Chad and Mali aimed at nature-based solutions, such as restoring land and ecosystem services and improving livelihood and climate resilience to enable communities to adapt to and mitigate climate change. Landscape restoration will use environmental improvements as drivers for socioeconomic regeneration and will enhance and diversify local livelihoods, improve food security, create climate-smart jobs, and increase resilience to the impact of climate change.

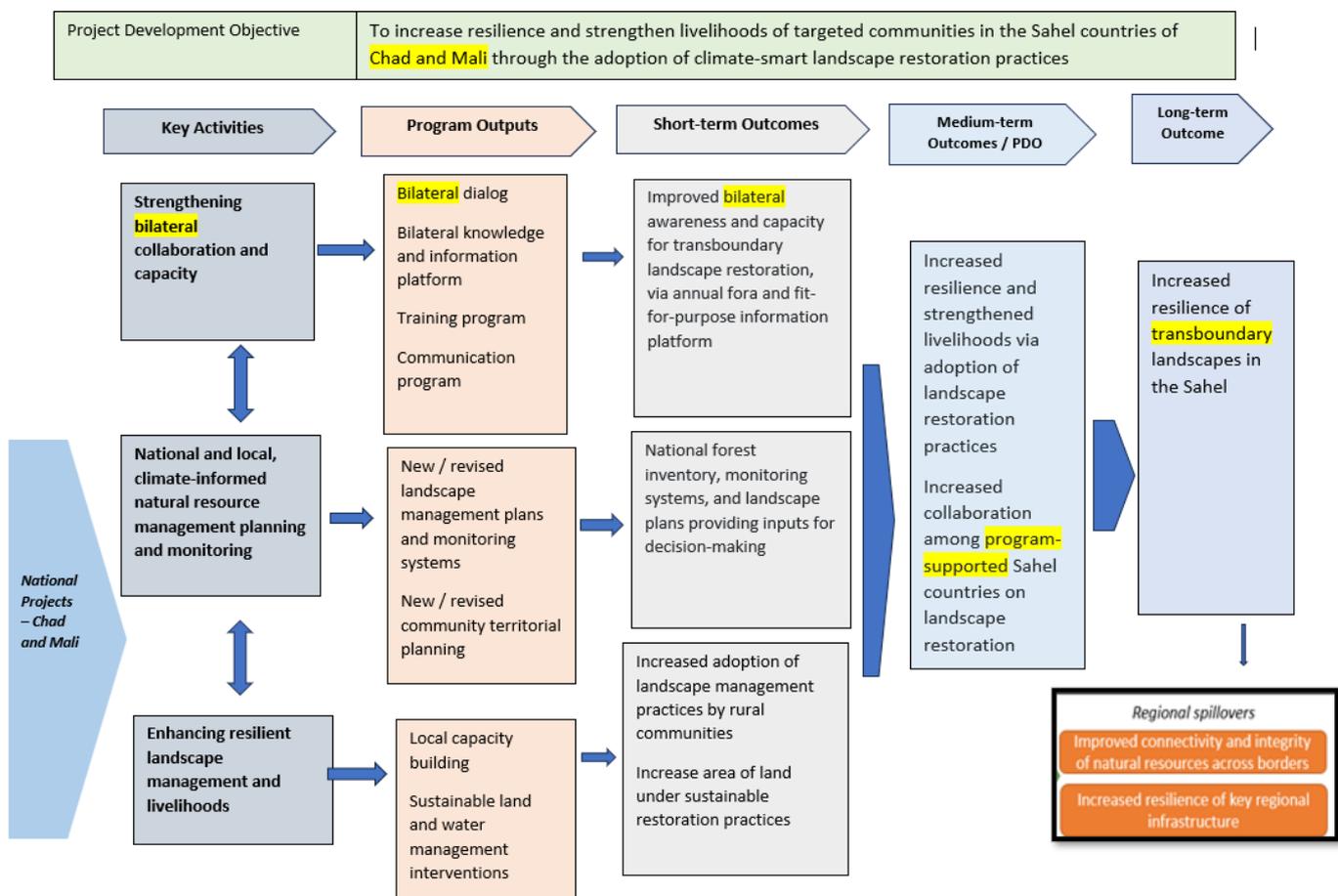
The program will provide rural advisory services, and time-saving technologies so that producers, especially women, can engage in productive activities while building their technical capacity as well as resilience to climate change. Supporting research and encouraging technology transfers between research organizations and agro-sylvo-pastoral actors will be key for the success of the project interventions. Strengthening linkages among actors along the value chains is critical and will be based on building alliances between farmers, producers and vendors. Supporting certification and labelling of NFTP from the agro-forestry sector will maximize opportunities for revenue generation especially for women. The project will also support the normative principles of productive alliances to facilitate access to markets for producer organizations. This includes the identification of private sector partners, buyers and off-takers and matching them with producer organizations and enterprises.

Community investments will include nature-based solutions such as the innovative economic development model of integrated agro-sylvo-pastoral farms (FACIs) to strengthen community beneficiaries' capacities in agro-sylvo-pastoral production systems (forestry and pastoral management, beekeeping, market gardening, fish farming, and small livestock) that will generate income and reduce food insecurity for vulnerable populations, with a focus on women and youth. Activities to promote climate-smart agro-silvo-pastoral practices are better adapted to face the growing hazards of climate change. Sustainable Landscape Management (SLM) practices, combining irrigated agriculture, pastoralism, community agro-forestry and water points for irrigation activated with renewable solar pumps, are a key foundation of FACI. These initiatives contribute to increasing local incomes, improving food and nutritional security for beneficiaries, and reducing migration of young people to urban centers. The preliminary beneficiaries of FACIs are women and youth.

In all activities under this component, the project will safeguard the equal participation of women and encourage the participation of youth, timing capacity-building and awareness-raising to ensure their full participation. The outcome is expected to strengthen resilience to climate change risks, reduce river sedimentation and flood risks, and enable recovery of agricultural lands.

Component 4. Project management, coordination and monitoring. Regional and national project coordination units, under the Pan African Agency, and the Ministries of Environment in Chad and Mali will support day-to-day management, coordination and monitoring activities. It will cover the costs of national agencies strengthening national data platforms, as well as participating in regional climate forums and workshops. This Component includes the GEF LDCF Monitoring and Evaluation, Knowledge Management, and Project Management Costs.

Program Theory of Change:



Monitoring and Evaluation

Describe the approach to program-level Monitoring and Evaluation, including ways to ensure coherence across Child Projects and to allow for adapting to changing conditions, consistent with GEF policies. In addition, please list results indicators that will track the Program Objective, beyond Core Indicators. (Max 1-2 pages).

Component 4. Project management, coordination and monitoring. Regional and national project coordination units, under the Pan African Agency, and the Ministries of Environment in Chad and Mali will support day-to-day management, coordination and monitoring activities. It will cover the costs of national agencies strengthening national data platforms, as well as participating in regional climate forums and workshops. This Component includes the GEF LDCF Monitoring and Evaluation, Knowledge Management, and Project Management Costs.

Coordination and cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Programs.

Is the GEF Agency being asked to play an execution role on this program?

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 (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

Given its mandate to coordinate cooperation to improve the environmental situation in the Sahel Region, the Pan African Agency is expected to serve as the implementing agency for the Program's regional, cross-cutting activities. The Pan African Agency provides a platform for dialogue among the countries of the Sahel, as well as the international community. The agency also plays a crucial role in ensuring integration and execution of various projects under the Great Green Wall initiative across multiple African nations. The Agency will provide overall program coordination in

collaboration with national agencies. The Program's proposed management arrangements will ensure a balance between effective regional and national coordination.

These management arrangements are expected to include: (i) a Regional Coordination Unit to provide general Program oversight, oversee implementation of activities at the regional level, and ensure lessons and results from Program activities are systematically disseminated to support participatory planning processes; and (ii) National Coordination Units (PIUs) in each participating country, responsible for planning and the implementation of adaptation and resilience investments at the national level, as well as ensuring overall national coordination. The National Coordination Units or PIUs will also monitor investment implementation and ensure compliance with Bank safeguards and fiduciary requirements.

The Bank has consulted and coordinated with the UNCCD as well as the GGW Accelerator during preparation of the Sahel RESILAND program. To ensure further synergies, the Bank will also coordinate both regionally and nationally with the GEF- and LDCF-funded UNEP GGW program, ensuring that executing partners are invited to climate fora and events during the Sahel RESILAND program's implementation.

The World Bank brings nearly two decades of expertise on addressing resilient livelihoods and sustainable landscapes in the Sahel. The program will benefit from the lessons learned from the TerrAfrica coalition platform established in 2005, particularly concerning spatial prioritization schemes for restoration interventions, payment for environmental services, and guidelines for best gender practices in landscape management and from the Sahel and West Africa Program in support of the Great Green Wall (SAWAP) (2008–2020) which aimed at halting desertification and land degradation Sahel countries.

The African Sahel region is one of the most vulnerable to climate change and host to only Least Developed Countries (LDCs). The Sahel region is one of the most vulnerable in the world to extreme droughts, floods, heatwaves, and other impacts caused by climate change, with Chad, and Mali ranking among the top seven most vulnerable countries to climate change. Not only is the Sahel region expected to experience temperature increases 1.5 times greater than the world average, but it is also particularly susceptible to land degradation and desertification. The opportunities for resilient development in these countries are significant and can enable the reversal of environmental degradation and maximize the benefits of climate action for the poor. In addition, resilient and inclusive growth is both the best form of adaptation to climate change and the best strategy for meeting development goals in an effective, sustainable, and productive manner.

The proposed project in Chad is part of a regional effort to support the Great Green Wall (GGW) and support climate resilience and adaptation across the Sahel. The Project seeks to build resilience among local populations through investments in sustainable natural resource management and enhancement of the natural capital basis that sustains their livelihoods, with a focus on land, water, wildlife, and flora in Chad. The project aims to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable rural populations in the face of climate change, including the fight against land degradation and desertification, and to support the integrated and inclusive management of natural resources, particularly sustainable access to water resources. The project will support the development of low-carbon, nature-positive, value chains from non-timber forest products (NTFP) for vulnerable populations, particularly women and young people in the Great Green Wall intervention zone and around.

The proposed project will support Chad's efforts towards meeting its 2021 Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) adaptation and mitigation commitments and the objectives under the first National Adaptation Plan (NAP) to Climate Change from 2022. The Chad NDC also recognizes the importance of the NTFP sub-sector to generate benefits and the need to support the production of key crops in the country. The project will build on the successful co-management and integrated **landscapes** approach promoted by the Regional Sahel Pastoralism Support Projects I and II (PRAPS in French) and the second phase of the West Africa regional Food Systems Resilience Program (FSRP-2) which include Chad, currently under implementation.

The proposed project intervention area will mostly coincide with the geographical limits of the GGW intervention area (provinces) but also include areas further south. The provinces potentially targeted include Bahr El Gazal, Batha, Borkou, Ennedi Est, Ennedi Ouest, Guerra, Hadjer Lamis, Kanem, Ouaddai, Sila and Wadi Fira. The precise identification of intervention areas for investment projects (land rehabilitation; irrigation systems; etc.) will be the subject of in-depth studies in consultation with local populations.

In Mali, the program builds on the achievements of the World Bank PGRNCC (P145799) and ongoing PREEFN (P151909), the participatory and decentralized land use planning tools to scale up investments, the World Bank's sustainable agriculture landscape management methodology to capture the quantity of carbon sequestered by each land use, and new information and communication technologies to monitor the actual land use and field practices and calculate the carbon impact. **Climate Change will be detrimental to Niger's development progress, but the World Bank is**

well-placed to work with partners on this issue. The World Bank, leading the Climate Change Working Group of the Sahel Alliance and developing a Country Climate Development Report for the G5 Sahel, brings nearly two decades of experience in promoting resilient livelihoods and sustainable landscapes. The project will leverage insights from the TerrAfrica coalition and SAWAP, focusing on restoration prioritization, environmental service payments, and gender practices in landscape management.

The proposed project will directly build on lessons learned from other past and ongoing projects, mainly Climate Smart Agriculture Support project for Niger (PASEC, P153420) and Niger Community Action Project for Climate Resilience (CAPCR, P125669). The project will strengthen and scale up these project activities and will be aligned and complement other projects currently financed by the World Bank and other partners such as Niger Integrated Water Security Platform Project (IWSP, P174414), Niger Food Systems Resilience Program (FRSP, P172769), Community-Based Recovery and Stabilization Project for the Sahel (PCRSS, P173830), the Family Farming Development Program supported by the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the Project to Strengthen Resilience of Rural Communities to Food and Nutrition Insecurity in Niger with support from the African Development Bank, and the Rural Poles Project by the French Development Agency (Agence Francaise de Développement, AFD).

Landscape restoration approaches have succeeded in Niger. The experiences of the CAPCR, PASEC, and the other projects quoted show that restoration investments must be combined with deep consultations and participation of local communities to ensure ownership and sustainability. The proposed project will not only scale up these projects' experience in the use of delegated contract management but will also strengthen the contracts to improve staffing and incentive alignment and will support the PMU in its contract management with hands-on implementation support.

Table On Core Indicators

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

META INFORMATION – LDCF

LDCF true	SCCF-B (Window B) on technology transfer false	SCCF-A (Window-A) on climate Change adaptation false
Is this project LDCF SCCF challenge program? false		
This Project involves at least one small island developing State(SIDS). false		
This Project involves at least one fragile and conflict affected state. true		
This Project will provide direct adaptation benefits to the private sector. false		
This Project is explicitly related to the formulation and/or implementation of national adaptation plans (NAPs). true		
This project will collaborate with activities begin supported by other adaptation funds. If yes, please select below		
Green Climate Fund false	Adaptation Fund false	Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR) false
This Project has an urban focus. false		

This project will directly engage local communities in project design and implementation

true

This project will support South-South knowledge exchange

true

This Project covers the following sector(s)[the total should be 100%]: *

Agriculture	30.00%
Nature-based management	45.00%
Climate information services	15.00%
Coastal zone management	0.00%
Water resources management	10.00%
Disaster risk management	0.00%
Other infrastructure	0.00%
Tourism	0.00%
Health	0.00%
Other (Please specify comments)	0.00%
Total	100.00%

This Project targets the following Climate change Exacerbated/introduced challenges:*

Sea level rise false	Change in mean temperature true	Increased climatic variability true	Natural hazards false
Land degradation true	Coastal and/or Coral reef degradation false	Groundwater quality/quantity false	

CORE INDICATORS – LDCF

	Total	Male	Female	% for Women
CORE INDICATOR 1 Total number of direct beneficiaries	2,969,334	1,573,747.00	1,395,587.00	47.00%
CORE INDICATOR 2 (a) Area of land managed for climate resilience (ha) (b) Coastal and marine area managed for climate resilience (ha)	454,000.00 0.00			
CORE INDICATOR 3 Number of policies/plans/ frameworks/institutions for to strengthen climate adaptation	5.00			
CORE INDICATOR 4 Number of people trained or with awareness raised	2,078,534	1,101,623.00	976,911.00	47.00%
CORE INDICATOR 5 Number of private sector enterprises engaged in climate change adaptation and resilience action	8.00			

Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	High	The impacts of climate change including desertification, extreme heat waves, less frequent and more intense rainfall, along with changes in ecosystems and migration patterns are a great risk to the program as they will continue to affect the beneficiaries and the sustainability and effectiveness of project interventions. The program design will mitigate these by providing targeted support for climate change adaptation and resilience, including through technical assistance, capacity building, key investments, and restoration of land and ecosystems, tapping into co-financing support from ongoing landscape operations in the Sahel region and larger-scale initiatives such as the GGW. A climate risk screening will be performed, and additional more specific mitigation measures will be incorporated during project preparation.
Environmental and Social	Substantial	Increased pressures on land and water, as well as insecurity and displacement, drive not only landscape degradation, but also social conflict--and rivalry between communities. Though the program is expected to deliver significantly positive environmental and social outcomes, the components to address the sustainable management and landscapes restoration could lead to a restriction of people's access to land use and/or natural resources, as well as to the loss or the disruption of income or livelihood activities on individuals and groups of people. To mitigate these risks, program activities are supported by specialized partners institutions and implemented following a well thought conflict mitigation strategy. In addition, the program includes activities that allow people deprived of access to natural resources to benefit from productive investments, all of which are designed and agreed upon by the affected people through a highly participatory and inclusive approach that contributes to limiting its social risks.
Political and Governance	High	This is due to the regional political situation and context that remains complex and uncertain in many of the Sahel countries. Weak institutional capacity, centralization, and likely governance changes with new governments, including relevant agencies for the program, represents a high risk that may affect the program's implementation. The program will help mitigate risks by engaging with regional and sub-regional actors in the Sahel countries and by supporting the capacity of targeted communities and regions, ensuring strong buy-in by a diverse range of stakeholders (i.e., government, civil society organizations, other development partners in the Sahel, as well as other World Bank projects directly targeted at supporting governance and refugees). As poverty reduction measures in transboundary areas are critical and as climate and conflict risks often transcend national borders, the program's regionally coordinated approach, with the support of the Pan African Agency and regional platform, will help to further mitigate risks.

INNOVATION

Institutional and Policy	Substantial	<p>The risk in establishing a regional platform and addressing transboundary resilience risks in the Sahel is Substantial, given the institutional capacity required at multiple levels for implementation and sustainability as well as the fiduciary and technical capacities needed to sustain interventions across scales, stakeholders, and sectors. Competing interests among ministries and authorities can undermine service delivery, policy development and implementation, and program performance. However, countries will establish inter-ministerial working groups and Steering Committees to support project preparation that will facilitate coordination across sectors and support an integrated approach. Risks will be further managed at the project level through (a) focused capacity development; (b) implementation and financial mechanisms tested in previous projects; (c) contracted international expertise, (d) focus within agreed landscapes with government and donor agencies; and (e) documenting and promoting of benefits that arise through project M&E, impact assessments, and strategic communication.</p>
Technological	Moderate	<p>The program builds on analytical studies undertaken by the World Bank (for example, landscape restoration opportunity assessment), Government (for example, sectoral analyses to inform NDC revision), and other partners. The program design is based on a large portfolio of landscape projects financed by the World Bank (that is, Ethiopia Climate Action through Landscape Management Program for Results, Burundi Landscape Restoration and Resilience Project, among others), regional programs (that is, Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Program for Aral Sea Basin, Central Asia Resiland Program, and Sahel and West Africa Program in Support of the Great Green Wall), and experiences in implementing landscape management projects in the Sahel, and other World Bank- and donor-funded projects on agriculture, climate, and forestry</p>
Financial and Business Model	Substantial	<p>While the program builds on successful WB and regional / national experience for successful business models, the establishment of productive alliances and design and implementation of community micro-projects is still new and adequate technical support will be required. To ensure adequate support and capacity building is provided to communities in the design and implementation of community micro-projects, national project units, under the program's child projects, will contract partner institutions to provide technical coordination and support for the preparation and implementation of these micro-projects in close collaboration with the private sector. Facilitating the development of sustainable businesses is key, and the project will provide technical and investment support to businesses to address business constraints and unlock and enable private financing. It will also facilitate linkages between incipient businesses with private sector companies, which could lead to increased sustainable private finance (crowding in) in the longer term</p>

EXECUTION

Capacity	Substantial	<p>There is limited and weak technical capacity in the target countries at both central and local levels, particularly on specialized technical themes.</p>
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		Moreover, potential changes in governments following recent elections and/or staff turnover have the risk of removing existing personnel with relevant capacity. Capacity weaknesses at the national and province levels will be remedied through a well-designed and diversified capacity-building program as well as technical assistance to support implementation. As an additional mitigation measure, strong Project Management Units have been established and/or are being established, which will receive hands on support from the World Bank team. Capacity risks will be mitigated with technical support to regional and national coordination units.
Fiduciary	Substantial	Considering the program design and the country context, fiduciary risk is rated as substantial. Proposed mitigation measures include the recruitment of experienced fiduciary experts familiar with World Bank fiduciary procedures (FM, Procurement, internal and external auditor, and M&E), the installation of an accounting software for the project and training of users and the elaboration of the project implementation manuals including financial, administrative, and accounting procedures.
Stakeholder	Substantial	Due to the inherent design of the program, stakeholders participation and buy in is critical for successful implementation of activities. The weak structuring of famers' organizations, potential conflicts in the region, and the high climatic risks could affect stakeholders' capacities to participate in the project activities. Moreover, neighboring wars and conflict are affecting local security of the countries and driving refugees to the area. Although program activities are designed with a view toward improving business enabling conditions, strengthening the capacities of stakeholders, maintaining social cohesion, and mitigating potential conflicts, many factors within and outside of the program could affect stakeholders' performance. To mitigate these risks, the program will provide a robust technical assistance at all levels. A communication strategy and transparent selection criteria of beneficiaries will be essential. Some program intervention areas are also prone to risks related to gender equity and GBV, which the program will mitigate through community-awareness and information campaigns.
Other		
Overall Risk Rating	Substantial	The overall risk at Concept stage is rated Substantial. the broad context linked to the refugees and humanitarian challenges, the limited institutional capacity to implement investments on a large scale given the size of the country and the struggling macro-economic situation puts the project in an overall substantial risk rating.

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 that any country policies that might contradict with intended outcomes of the project have been identified.
(approximately 2-3 pages)

The Program is well aligned with the GEF-8 programming strategies for LDCF/SCCF. In particular, it is aligned with Theme 1 : Agriculture, Food Security and Health and Theme 3. Nature Based Solutions of the GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF and SCCF for the GEF-8 themes. The project will also contribute to the implementation of the GEF Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF 2022-2026 Priority Area 1: Scaling up Finance, Priority Area 2: Strengthening Innovation and Private Sector Engagement, and Priority Area 3: Fostering Partnership for Inclusion and Whole-of-Society Approach.

The project is aligned with theme 3 nature-based solutions, since its major focus areas include: (a) developing stakeholders' capacities for landscape restoration and climate resilience; (b) restoring degraded landscapes to adapt and mitigate climate change; and (c) improving access to markets for some key natural-resource management products. In keeping with these focus areas, the two components of the project are: (1) national capacity building for landscape and climate resilience, and (2) national investments in landscape restoration and communities' resilience to climate impacts. The project also aligns with theme 3, agriculture, food security and health through community investments towards integrated agro-sylvo-pastoral farms (FACIs) to strengthen community beneficiaries' capacities in agro-sylvo-pastoral production systems such as forestry and pastoral management, beekeeping, market gardening, fish farming, and small livestock. It is expected that this will generate income and reduce food insecurity for vulnerable populations, with a focus on women and youth.

Contributing to the three priority areas outlined in the GEF-8 Programming Strategy, the project will scale up finance for nature-based solutions like landscape restoration and agro-sylvo-pastoral systems with a view to enable resilient landscapes and improved livelihoods. It will prioritize private sector engagement to mobilize finance and strengthen the implementation of nature-based solutions. It will contribute to fostering partnership for inclusion and whole-of-society approach through supporting community labor-intensive activities in investments linked to the restoration and resilience of communities and the landscape. Community labor-intensive activities can enable greater citizen participation in public investments, social cohesion in the creation of local expertise and the promotion of employment, legitimation, and strengthening of the action capacities of local institutions.

D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

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

Yes

Stakeholder Engagement

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

Yes

Were the following stakeholders consulted during PFD preparation phase:

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities:

Civil Society Organizations :

Private Sector :

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

Gender equality and women's empowerment

Women in the Sahel face stark inequalities that can enhance their vulnerability in an FCV and climate-vulnerable context. The Sahel countries rank low on the Gender Inequality Index which measures three important aspects of human development—reproductive health, empowerment, and economic status. In the agro-sylvo-pastoral system, women and men work together, but they typically cultivate separate crops or care for different livestock. As they are more likely to experience poverty and have less socioeconomic power than men, women are disproportionately vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and face greater difficulty recovering from disasters and adapting to shifting climatic conditions. Compared to men, women have fewer economic opportunities and skills especially in forestry and conservation activities. They are more likely to experience poverty and their income sources are often more dependent on climate-sensitive natural resources or exposed to shocks often as a result of patriarchal gender norms that limit their ownership of land and access to resources that support coping and adaptation.

The main occupations of women in rural areas are household chores, field work, processing of agricultural products, breeding of small ruminants, and small trade, which are practiced informally. They work in very difficult conditions without any formal social assistance and often women are not paid for their work in rural communities. Therefore, rural women who are important economic players can find themselves without assets.

Women are also responsible for the harvesting and use of NTFPs. Women are generally well represented in sectors related to NTFPs, however, they are more clustered in the lower value chain. Women perform a variety of functions at different stages of the NTFPs value chains, but their roles tend to be poorly visible and inadequately acknowledged, largely because they are either operating in the informal sector, are part-time employees, or carry out their activities at home between family responsibilities. The collection methods and processing of NTFPs have become obsolete and unsustainable, resulting in loss of forest cover, higher CO2 emissions and reduced income potential with greater health risks in particular for women. Women are often restricted to collecting and processing NTFPs and do not optimally market their products which is done by men. Women have inadequate access to finance, information, (on agroforestry techniques, sustainable forest management practices etc.) less access to natural resource management trainings due to household chores, social norms, mobility restrictions, lack of business development skills, less linkages to markets etc. In addition, women's rights to access and collect the resource are not secure, which hinders investments. Low-income opportunities for women who are engaged in unsustainable collection and processing of NTFPs for their livelihoods is thus seen as a significant barrier for greater women empowerment.

The Program aims to increase women's participation in the NTFP and fishery products to ensure access to income-earning opportunities and enable access to productive assets by providing technical and financial support to women led income generating initiatives such as forestry and pastoral management, beekeeping, arabic gum, baobab extract, balanites syrup, jujube tree fruit tamarind fruit, gardening, fish farming, setting up community shops etc. based on market assessment. Via the development of a Gender Action Plan during Program development, the Program will give extra attention to ensure initiatives led by women have proper financial (access to matching grants etc.) and technical support (vocational training, capacity building activities, training in adoption of technologies, help with business licenses, etc.). The Program will also monitor the progress of closing the gender gap in women's access to income opportunities. In addition, the child projects under the program will adopt several measures and mechanisms to support women's active participation more broadly, including selecting service providers with proven capacity in working with women; separate sessions with women to ascertain their opinions and needs; access to childcare during training hours; preferential access for women to appropriate activities on a demand-driven basis etc.

A gender action plan will be developed under the child projects, in line with government national priorities as well as World Bank Gender Strategy pillars (endowment, jobs, assets, agency), in particular Pillar 2: removing barriers to more and better jobs. Under these gender action plans, the program will: (i) map and fortify initiatives

led by women and women entrepreneurship in targeted communes; (ii) provide technical and financial support to women in rural communities; (iii) promote women's ownership of the land in rural communities; (iv) reduce vulnerability and exposure to gender-based violence; and (v) promote gender equity as a core dimension for tackling climate change issues and sustainable land management. Strengthening of women's local associations, cooperatives, and other organizations and groups will enable connections with transnational gender networks, fortifying civil society organizations (CSOs) and non-government organization (NGOs) operations. On the other hand, offering targeted technical training based on local women's needs, such as business plan and product design training, while strengthening women's access to financial resources, promoting digital inclusion for women and girls and women's access to natural resources and land are main strategies for achieving women's engagement in community labor-intensive activities women's autonomy in a sustainable economy. Technical packages/tools may also include basic consumption support; coaching for associations/cooperatives formation and savings groups; workshops on aspirations and social norms, micro-entrepreneurship training, and cash grants. Other relevant actions involve providing circumstances for including women in economic activities, such as: curative nutrition interventions for pregnant women; mobile and community-based daycares; basic early childhood development services to young children; interventions targeting school-aged girls for improving educational outcomes; etc. In addition, since women tend to be concentrated in small businesses, gender neutral policies aimed at assisting small firms will have a positive impact for women in business. The financial institutions to which rural women have access through relevant stakeholders and women's groups (loans granted by savings and credit funds) must be fortified. Also, in face of financial inequalities, mobile banking represents a promising opportunity to reach unbanked women, particularly in rural areas that have mobile phone connectivity.

The program's regional component will ensure that lessons learned and knowledge gained from supporting women's participation throughout the program's child projects are systematically shared, under Component 1, among program stakeholders at climate fora, roundtables and other learning events, as well as knowledge products. Gender action plans will also budget for monitoring and reporting of gender-specific results to ensure these lessons and knowledge can be shared broadly.

Stakeholder Engagement

The Program is designed to foster stakeholder engagement at both the regional and national levels. At the regional level, the Pan African Agency will collaborate with national program agencies, as well as the broader international community. An annual Climate Knowledge Forum will be held to share knowledge and experiences across a broad cross-section of stakeholders (e.g., government, regional organizations, civil society organizations, national and regional knowledge and learning institutions, and development partners active in the region). Climate Networks will catalyze information and knowledge exchange, as well as foster collaboration around initiatives This will also be facilitated by the web portal, Apps, and other online knowledge networking tools. At the regional level, there will also be an effective communications and public engagement strategy developed to support knowledge dissemination, public outreach, and coalition building. At the national level, project management and coordination activities will fully support communication and stakeholder engagement within the Sahel countries. The platform will allow for a two-way dialog between the Government and non-governmental actors in the Sahel on technologies and approaches to landscape restoration, including knowledge exchange. Each country project also anticipates the development of a project communication strategy and action plan and facilitation support for a collaborative approach to meet the results of the project.

The Sahel RESILAND program has a citizen engagement-oriented design and will benefit from feedback monitoring throughout implementation. During preparation, each child project will carry out stakeholder consultations with civil society, academia, and other relevant stakeholders, and their feedback will be duly incorporated into the program design. Program implementation will include mechanisms to engage citizens, beneficiaries, and stakeholders. The program will carry out meaningful stakeholder consultations through focus groups and surveys; employ monitoring mechanisms such as satisfaction surveys, GRMs, and multi-stakeholder forums; and deploy tools for remote consultations and, where appropriate, organize socially distanced

gatherings. There will also be close work with the gender and social specialist to ensure that the existing consultation plans have been designed with stakeholder engagement in mind and in the development of stakeholder citizen engagement plan. According to best practices, this will also be reflected in the scope of the activities in the program.

Ensuring engagement across different levels and sectors will continue to be important in the Sahel RESILAND program, particularly given the focus on landscapes in which there are multiple and often competing land uses. Local empowerment and engagement is particularly important. The program aims at empowering local institutions and private actors and train them with more inclusive governance arrangements and climate-friendly strategic orientations. The actors adopting those approaches will benefit more from the program and will acquire experience and benefits from this new governance of natural resources. It is therefore expected that they would be able to replicate those fundamental principles after the end of the program, and especially with other partners or other financing sources.

Private Sector

The Program is designed to increase the role of the private sector in rural areas of the Sahel. Each national project anticipates direct support to communities to increase resilience and improve livelihoods, via matching grant schemes that are based on approved business plans. The selection criteria for matching grants will include: (a) a clear economic rationale; (b) legal registration and identity of implementing producer groups; and (c) demonstrated benefits to target areas. Eligible activities under the matching grants will include: (a) consolidation of organizational, managerial, processing, and commercialization capacities of local organizations and associations and local producers; (b) purchase of equipment (such as tools and machines needed for the collection or processing of products and construction packaging centers, warehouses, and cold chain facilities); (c) rehabilitation of existing infrastructure and equipment; (d) advisory services regarding access to financial services, business management, market and marketing skills, quality and standard certification services; and (e) training in technical and / or managerial skills. Business plans should consider climate risks, and construction or rehabilitation of infrastructure should incorporate climate-resilient and energy-efficient measures where possible. The project will also support the normative principles of productive alliances to facilitate access to markets for producer organizations. This includes the identification of private sector partners, buyers and off-takers and matching them with producer organizations and enterprises.

In addition, some national projects (e.g., Chad) envision support to artisanal fisheries products, where the project will support the normative principles of productive alliances to strengthen collaboration between the public and the private sector and facilitate the access of associated fishermen to markets. The technical capacity of producers will be built, including adapting to climate-induced impacts on fisheries, and incorporating climate-resilient fishing. These activities will also strengthen the participation of women in the fishing sub-sector, where they are responsible for activities downstream of fishing, such as fish processing and trading, essential for the profitability of this activity.

To ensure adequate support and capacity building is provided to communities in the design and implementation of community micro-projects, national project units, under the program's child projects, will contract partner institutions to provide technical coordination and support for the preparation and implementation of these micro-projects in close collaboration with the private sector. Facilitating the development of sustainable businesses is key, and the project will provide technical and investment support to businesses to address business constraints and unlock and enable private financing. It will also facilitate linkages between incipient businesses with private sector companies, which could lead to increased sustainable private finance (crowding in) in the longer term.

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

Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the program?

Yes

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

Yes

Environmental and Social Safeguards

We confirm that we have provided indicative information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed 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
High or Substantial			

E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge management

We confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been clearly described in the Program 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	GEF Program Financing (\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total GEF Financing (\$)
World Bank	LDCF	Chad	Climate Change	LDCF Country allocation	9,300,137.00	837,012.00	10,137,149.00
World Bank	LDCF	Regional	Climate Change	LDCF Global/Regional support	1,450,964.00	130,586.00	1,581,550.00
World Bank	LDCF	Mali	Climate Change	LDCF Country allocation	8,050,000.00	720,000.00	8,770,000.00
Total GEF Resources (\$)						1,687,598.00	20,488,699.00

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	PPG(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total PPG Funding(\$)
Total PPG Amount (\$)					0.00	0.00	0.00

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

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

Indicative Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Co-financing(\$)
CCA-1-1	LDCF	5,578,987.00	85,000,000.00
CCA-1-3	LDCF	931,000.00	5,000,000.00
CCA-1-4	LDCF	2,790,150.00	10,000,000.00
CCA-1-1	LDCF	360,702.00	42,130,435.00
CCA-1-2	LDCF	144,505.00	28,086,956.00
CCA-1-3	LDCF	360,702.00	42,130,435.00
CCA-1-4	LDCF	585,055.00	49,152,174.00
CCA-1-1	LDCF	4,830,000.00	85,000,000.00
CCA-1-3	LDCF	805,000.00	15,000,000.00
CCA-1-4	LDCF	2,415,000.00	50,000,000.00
Total Project Cost		18,801,101.00	411,500,000.00

Indicative Co-financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
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GEF Agency	World Bank	Grant	Investment mobilized	100,000,000.00
GEF Agency	World Bank	Grant	Investment mobilized	10,500,000.00
GEF Agency	World Bank	Grant	Investment mobilized	1,000,000.00
GEF Agency	World Bank	Grant	Investment mobilized	150,000,000.00
GEF Agency	World Bank	Grant	Investment mobilized	150,000,000.00
Total Co-financing				411,500,000.00

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Type	Name	Date	Project Contact Person	phone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator	Elif Kiratli				ekiratli@worldbank.org
Project Coordinator	Angela Armstrong				aarmstrong@worldbank.org

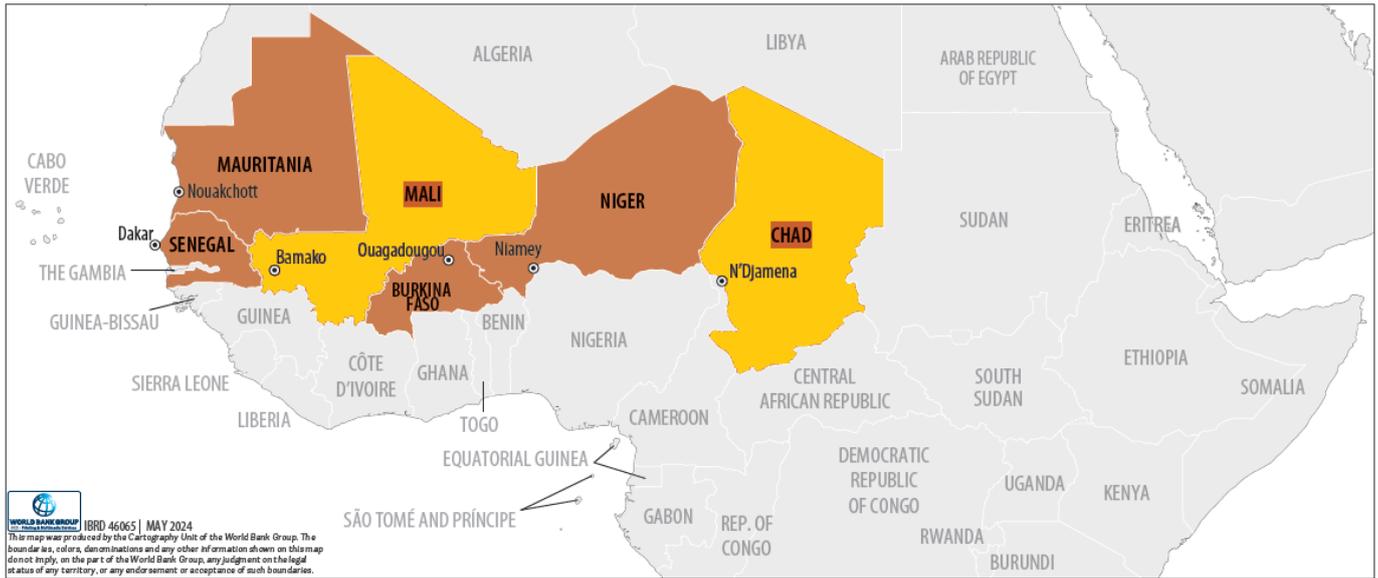
Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s):

Name	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Oumar Gadj Soumaila	Climate Change Director	Ministry of Environment, Fisheries and Sustainable	9/17/2024
Amidou Goita	Chef Section Donnees sur l'Environnement	Agence de l'Environnement et du Development Durable	9/17/2024

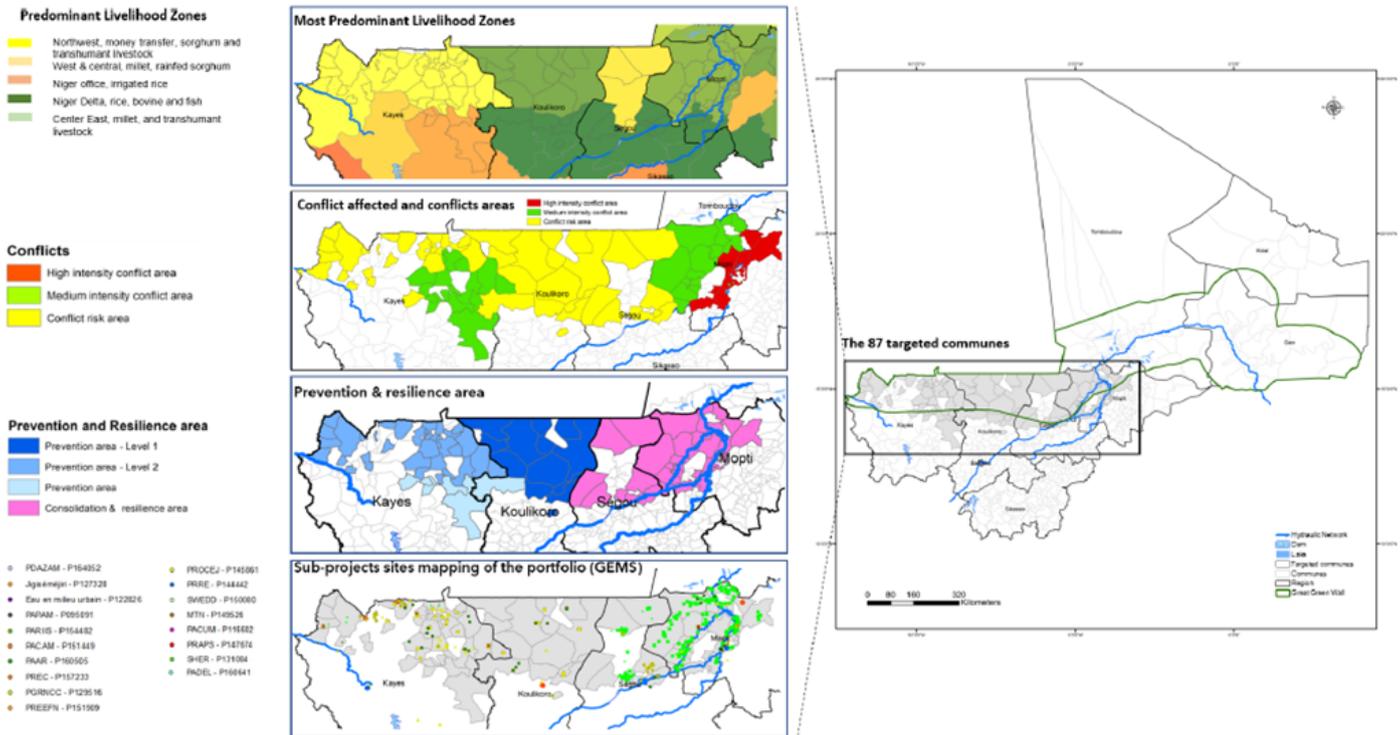
ANNEX C: PROGRAM LOCATION

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

The program intends to work on transboundary areas in the Sahel countries. Sahel Regional Map - Countries Covered: Chad and Mali



Target Areas in Mali:



ANNEX D: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING

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

Title

Mali c-ESRS

ESR-RESILAND-Draft 1-18092024

ANNEX E: RIO MARKERS

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Decertification
No Contribution 0	Principal Objective 2	No Contribution 0	No Contribution 0

ANNEX F: TAXONOMY WORKSHEET

Please see taxonomy selection in the PIF submission

ANNEX H : CHILD PROJECT INFORMATION

Title

ANNEX II - Child Projects_Final (Nov 2024)

ANNEX II - Child Projects_Final_Clean

ANNEX II - Child Projects_Final - track changes

ANNEX II - Child Projects_Final

ANNEX II - Child Projects_Final

Child Projects under the Program

Country	Project Title	GEF Agency	GEF Amount (\$) PROJECT FINANCING	Agency Fees(\$)	Total(\$)
	FSPs				
Chad	RESILAND: Restoring Degraded Land and Strengthening Resilience	World Bank	9,300,137.00	837,012.00	10,137,149.00

Mali	Landscape Restoration Scale Up	World Bank	8,050,000.00	720,000.00	8,770,000.00
	Subtotal (\$)		17,350,137.00	1,557,012.00	18,907,149.00
	MSPs				
Regional	Sahel Bilateral Capacity Building, Coordination and Climate Services	World Bank	1,450,964.00	130,586.00	1,581,550.00
	Subtotal (\$)		1,450,964.00	130,586.00	1,581,550.00
	Grant Total (\$)		18,801,101.00	1,687,598.00	20,488,699.00