

GEF-8 WORLD BANK APPRAISAL STAGE/ GEF DATA SHEET

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General Project Information

Project Title

Scaling up Nature-Based Solutions for Climate Resilience and Land Restoration across Burundi's fragile colline landscapes

Region

Burundi

GEF Project ID

11397

Country(ies)

Burundi

Type of Project

FSP

GEF Agency(ies)

World Bank

GEF Agency Project ID

Project Executing Entity(s)

Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock of Burundi
(MINEAGRIE)

Project Executing Type

Government

GEF Focal Area (s)

Climate Change

Submission Date

6/4/2024

Type of Trust Fund

LDCF

Project Duration (Months)

60

GEF Project Grant: (a)

18,348,624.00

GEF Project Non-Grant: (b)

0.00

Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)

1,651,376.00

Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d)

0.00

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

20,000,000.00

Total Co-financing

55,000,000.00

PPG Amount: (e)

0.00

PPG Agency Fee(s): (f)

0.00

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

20,000,000.00

Project Tags

CBIT: No NGI: No SGP: No Innovation: No

Project Sector (CCM Only)

Climate Change Adaptation Sector

Rio Markers

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

Project Summary

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

An important driver of Burundi’s fragility stems from climate change risks. Burundi emits less than 0.02 percent of the world’s total greenhouse gases (GHGs) but is being hit disproportionately hard by climate change. The 2021 Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative (ND-GAIN) Index ranked Burundi as the seventh most vulnerable country to climate change in East Africa, the 19th globally, and 172nd in terms of readiness to cope with and adapt to climate impacts.^[1] Key impacts of climate change are already manifesting through an increase in landslides, flooding, extreme rainfall, pest and disease outbreaks, and weather variability with alternating floods and droughts. The intensity and frequency of climate-related disasters have increased, especially in the eastern part of the country.^[2] In 2018–2022 alone, 575 climate-related disasters were recorded, affecting 430,000 people, and displacing another 125,000. In April 2024, El Niño-driven rainfall anomalies hit Burundi, leading to severe flooding around Lake Tanganyika and throughout the country. The torrential rains resulted in floods and landslides that affected over 237,000 people, displaced 42,000 people (57 percent of whom were women), and killed 29 and 175 injured people. Furthermore, more than 19,250 houses, 209 classrooms, and 40,000 hectares of arable land were destroyed.^[3]

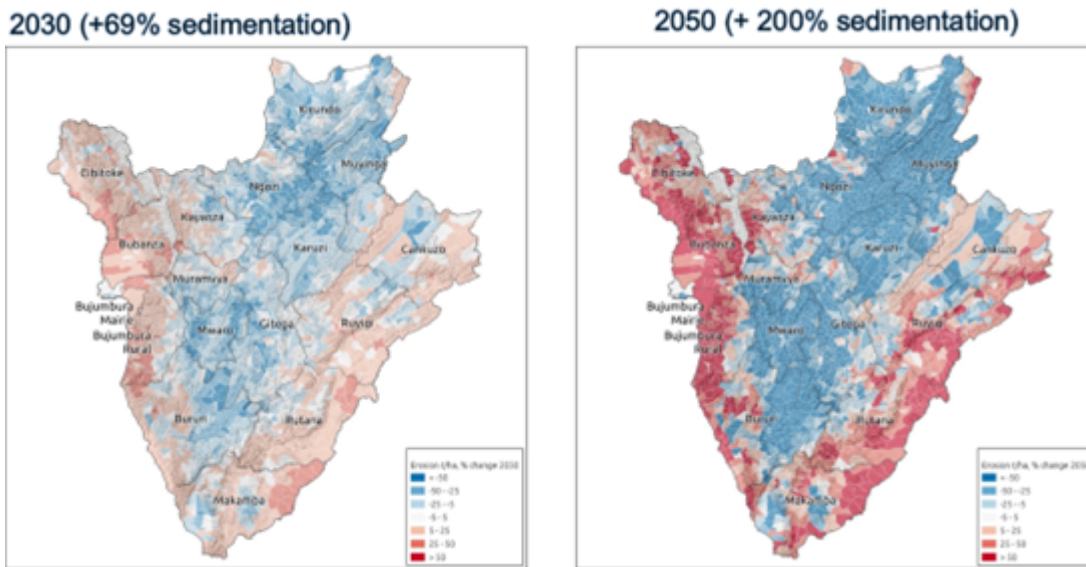
Intensifying climate-related disasters, in turn, exacerbate land and resource degradation and strain the social fabric. Heavy rainfall is usually followed by landslides that degrade scarce lands and create community tensions over access to increasingly smaller plots of arable land. As such, 80–95 percent of ongoing court cases are related to land ownership disputes.^[4] These impacts deepen fragility risk and fray social cohesion in this post-conflict country, where climate change exacerbates the “fragility trap” and serves as a threat multiplier, where *colline* communities are caught in a vicious cycle of fragility and vulnerability. This cycle is especially detrimental for female-headed households and displaced persons, whose land access rights are particularly tenuous.

Climate change impacts on land degradation represent a significant economic and human cost to Burundi’s growth. World Bank analysis from 2017 estimated the cost of soil erosion alone at US\$120 million in 2014, or 3.9 percent of Burundi’s GDP.^[5] Over the past decades, Burundi’s economic growth has been at the expense of a steady depletion of its natural capital, and as a result, the country’s natural resource base has been substantially degraded. Similarly, human-driven deforestation rates are also increasing due to *colline* households’ heavy dependence on forest products for fuelwood, timber, and other uses. Lack of economic diversification and heavy natural resource dependence increase conflict over land and forest resources in Burundi.

Recent World Bank analysis shows severe and worsening land degradation. A PROGREEN-funded World Bank Advisory Services and Analytics (ASA), “*Diagnosing Drivers of Climate and Environmental Fragility in Burundi’s Colline Landscapes*” (P176820) analyzed recent climate-induced land degradation trends. From 2017 to 2020 alone, the analysis finds that an additional 33,000 ha—1.2 percent of Burundi’s land area—experienced acute degradation. This includes 10,800 ha of productive lands. Soil erosion is getting worse and if projected soil erosion trends continue, sediment loss could increase by 69 percent by 2030 from 2020 levels, and by as much as 200 percent by 2050 (Figure 3). Land cover has shifted significantly over the past two decades; large areas have been urbanized or stripped of any vegetation cover,

which makes them more prone to soil erosion. The analysis showed that *collines* in Makamba, Bubanza, Bujumbura Mairie, Bujumbura, Cibitoke, Kirundo and Rumonge communes are at particularly high risk to land degradation caused by landslides, erosion and drought.

Figure 3: Current state and trends in land loss in Burundi (2030 and 2050) in tons/ha by colline



Burundi's rapidly changing climate poses immediate and growing threats to agriculture, making it crucial to intensify efforts to improve climate resilience for food and nutrition security. Poor agricultural practices and pollution have affected soil integrity and fertility and caused the degradation of land and water resources. Considering the predominance of the primary sector in its economy and the high dependency on natural resources, Burundi's vulnerability to environmental hazards and climate change is extremely high. Both crop and livestock production can be made more resilient to rising temperatures and unreliable (and sometimes extreme) precipitation, including through expanding of supplementary irrigation. Much of Burundi is at high risk of landslides (see Annex 2), and there is a significant overlap between communes and *collines* that are at high risk of soil erosion and landslides. Nature-based solutions (NBS) could help protect some of the most imperiled watersheds through progressive terracing, afforestation, and integrated watershed management. Increasing vegetation cover uphill could provide crucial protection from landslides during heavy rains, and it is also essential for preventing erosion and for protection of bare soils during low rain episodes.[\[6\]](#)

Leveraging the opportunity of nature-based solutions would require consolidation of policies and better coordinated institutional actions to manage climate and land risks at the national, watershed, and colline levels. National institutions are fragmented, often with overlapping agendas relevant to climate change and managing its risks and effects (see Annex 1, Box A1). At the same time, local communities and other stakeholders need more knowledge, support, capacity, and resources to address land degradation amid acute poverty. Few sectors have climate action plans in place, and those that exist are not systematically aligned with sectoral plans and strategies or with existing regulations (e.g., zoning), projects and programs, and monitoring and reporting systems.

To more effectively address the challenge of climate change in Burundi, the cross-sectoral and long-term dimensions of adaptation must be considered. These challenges include the loss of arable land, competing demands for existing land, and the need to shift from a reactive to an anticipative approach in managing climate-related disaster risks. There is also a broad need for awareness-raising and capacity

building on these issues at the national, provincial, communal, and *colline* scales. The integrated water resources management at a river basin level (covering watersheds and sub-watersheds) is governed through the 2012 Water Law. However, the law has not yet been implemented. No basin councils have been established within the country, although Burundi participates in several transboundary committees (e.g., for the Ruzizi and Kagera basins). The organization of Water User Associations (WUAs) is governed through the Law on Water User Associations, promulgated in 2023. It encourages the professional and sustainable management, operation, and maintenance of collective water systems. Experiences with developing the WUAs is a new frontier for Burundi.

The GoB acknowledges structural challenges in addressing climate change and land degradation and prioritizes the agenda in several national and sectoral strategies. It recognizes the importance of effective implementation of the policies and the need to strengthen institutional capacity, dialogue, integrated planning, and accountability to derive the full benefits from ongoing and future reforms. Burundi's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution[7] and its update[8] offer an entry point for enhancing climate ambition. Land degradation and climate disaster risk management policies are set out in the government's National Development Plan (2018) and Vision 2025. Watersheds, land management, and agriculture policies were updated in the National Water Strategy 2011–2020, Strategic Guidance Document for Watershed Management and Erosion Control[9], National Drought Control Plan[10], Environmental, Agricultural and Livestock Policy Document[11], and Integrated Farming Plan.[12]

The authorities have taken steps to address climate change and land degradation, but progress is hampered by policy fragmentation, weak capacity within the Ministry of Environment, Agriculture, and Livestock (MINEAGRIE), and limited programmatic planning. These obstacles also limit the delivery and mobilization of finance at scale for tackling the double climate and development crisis of Burundi's *collines*. Despite government efforts, limited access to finance hinders poverty alleviation in rural areas and restoration of the land and natural resource base. It also limits the scale of sustainable management and restoration of watersheds. Investments are urgently needed at the national scale to restore fast-degrading watersheds amid climate change, secure land rights, and restore social cohesion in rural areas. An integrated and inclusive sustainable watershed management process should be adopted to build simultaneously the resilience of fragile communities to intensifying climate-related shocks (landslides, floods, storms, droughts) while injecting much-needed investment into communities. Options for already scoped in Burundi's context by prior World Bank investments include cash-for-work, digital cash payments, and access to alternative revenue-generating livelihoods and new green value chains outside of rain-fed agriculture.

The World Bank has supported watershed-approach interventions to build resilience in rural Burundi since 2018, with interventions reaching 31 *collines* in 2024. Investments include the US\$30 million Burundi Landscape Restoration and Resilience Project (BLRRP, 2018–2024), covering 22 *collines*,[13] and \$6 million in additional financing through the Global Environment Facility (2021–2024) to cover another nine *collines*[14]. There is a clear need to scale up activities to reach the remaining 2,608 *collines* of the country, building on lessons learned from the BLRRP, but significant knowledge and data gaps concerning climate hazards, interactions, and sector-specific impacts, particularly at the local level, thwarted action along with lack of finance. An important lesson learnt from the BLRRP is that it is more effective to plan for land restoration and conservation activities at (sub) watershed level instead of the *colline* level. The PROGREEN-funded ASA closed those gaps, built consensus on priority interventions, and prepared client engagement for a scaled-up investment in climate resilience and watershed restoration nationwide.[15]

Building on previous World Bank engagement in the sector, the proposed operation will target the resilience of rural *colline* populations. Their development challenges must be seen in the context of intersecting vulnerabilities and multi-dimensional fragility as described above. Worsening the situation of *colline* communities are intensifying climate impacts already taking their toll and predicted to continue rising due to global climate change. The project will focus on delivering urgently needed resilience-building

livelihood support to alleviate the suffering of these communities, while sustainably restoring the most at-risk watersheds nationwide and strengthening the underpinning policy and institutional capacity needed to maintain long-term climate risk management and resilience in Burundi.

The project development objective (PDO) is to increase land productivity and climate resilience of fragile communities in targeted collines and refugee settlements. To achieve the PDO, the project will scale up best practices in integrated watershed management^[1] piloted under the BLRRP (P160613), which will be critical for halting and reversing ongoing alarming rates of land degradation and conserving the county's land area. Equally important will be innovating best practices in Burundi for community-led climate adaptation and resilience, engaging climate-vulnerable host communities and refugees to formulate climate action priorities to inform local development plans. Climate resilience is defined for the purposes of the project as strengthened capacity of communities and ecosystems to prepare, withstand, recover from, and adapt to the impacts of climate change, including floods, landslides, droughts, and other key climate threats in Burundi. Using these two interconnected development objectives, the project will address critical constraints to the Government's response to climate change, fragility, and land degradation as follows:

- a. **Lack of integrated policy and coordinated institutional response** – by strengthening the enabling environment for climate resilience through key policy and regulatory reforms, improving inter-agency coordination, modernizing key national/local institutions in charge of climate response and their human resources, capacity, and infrastructure.
- b. **Fragmentation and degradation of watersheds** – by planning and developing integrated watershed management plans and preparedness for climate shocks, restoring degraded land areas under participatory community efforts, engaging *colline* communities into water user associations, diversifying land use rights and promoting gender-responsive investments.
- c. **Limited community-led climate action and access to finance** – by improving inclusive access to finance for local institutions, first of all, *colline* development committees and *colline* communities to scale up sustainable watershed management, restoration of degraded lands, and support community livelihood resilience.

[1] Integrated watershed management is defined as coordinated planning and implementation of land use interventions within a particular watershed. Examples of interventions include land use practices, maintenance of vegetation cover, enhanced soil health, management of surface water and groundwater resources, and socio-economic practices, among others.

[1] Burundi. ND-Gain Index. <https://gain.nd.edu/our-work/country-index/rankings/>

[2] Tall, A., Dampha, N.K., Ndayiragije, N., Von Berg, M., Raina, L. and Manirambona, A. (2022). "Tackling Climate Change, Land Degradation and Fragility – Diagnosing Drivers of Climate and Environmental Fragility in Burundi's Colline Watersheds: Towards a Multi-Sector Investment Plan to Scale up Climate Resilience. A World Bank Advisory Services and Analytics (ASA) Report

[3] UNOCHA April 26th Burundi Flash Update

[4] Most disputes relate to boundary disputes and divisions of land within families based on inheritance (Mbura Kamungi et al.). Other sources of conflict include title and state expropriation. More than half of all persons involved in land disputes bring cases to customary leaders, while nearly half approach local government administrative bodies, and over one-quarter file cases with local courts (Tribunaux de Residence; Prettitore 2007, 18), which exemplifies the divide between regulatory texts and customary practice remote from the capital. This judicial quagmire exposes competition for land and Burundi's inherent fragility. On top of this, tribunals are suspected of frequently taking bribes to influence rulings, which increases distrust in the law. Source: Mbura Kamungi, P., J. Summit Oketch, and C. Huggins. 2005. "Land Access and the Return and Resettlement of IDPS and Refugees in Burundi." ACTS. <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/265748480>.

[5] World Bank Group, 2017, "Burundi Country Environmental Analysis: Understanding the Environment within the Dynamics of a Complex World—Linkages to Fragility, Conflict, and Climate Change." <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/244311510936931800/pdf/121464-CEA-P156727-PUBLIC-BurundiCEAFrenchWebFinal.pdf>

[6] Tall, et al. 2022

[7] INDC, 2015 https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/NDC/2022-06/Burundi_INDC-english%20version.pdf

[8] CDN, July 2021. <https://unfccc.int/documents/497263>

[9] DOSBVLA, March 2022

[10] PNS, July 2020

[11] DOPEAE, July 2020

[12] PIP, 2014

[13] <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/P160613>.

[14] <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/P171745>.

[15] Tall, A., Dampha, N.K., Ndayiragije, N., Von Berg, M., Raina, L. and Manirambona, A. (2022). "Tackling Climate Change, Land Degradation and Fragility – Diagnosing Drivers of Climate and Environmental Fragility in Burundi's Colline Watersheds: Towards a Multi-Sector Investment Plan to Scale up Climate Resilience. A World Bank Advisory Services and Analytics (ASA) Report

Project Description Overview

Project Objective

To increase land productivity and climate resilience of fragile communities in targeted collines.

Project Components

Component 1. Enabling environment for climate resilience

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Component Type | Trust Fund |
| Technical Assistance | LDCF |
| GEF Project Financing (\$) | Co-financing (\$) |
| 2,321,373.00 | 4,490,000.00 |

Outcome:

Strengthened enabling environment for climate resilience.

Subcomponent 1.1. Policy and regulatory framework: Improve policy, regulations, administrative procedures, and institutional capacity at national and local levels

Subcomponent 1.2. Institutional and communities' capacity strengthening: Planning and implementing integrated landscape management and climate resilient practices benefitting socially vulnerable groups (women, youth, and displaced communities).

Output:

Subcomponent 1.1. Policy and regulatory framework

(i) inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms established

(ii) early warning services in communities and local institutions strengthened

- (iii) policies, regulations, and by-laws to address gaps in climate action and integrated land and water resources management, including an assessment of gaps in addressing social inclusion, gender disparities and promoting women’s empowerment throughout project activities reviewed and updated
- (iv) Guidelines for implementing the policies on integrated approaches for land use and watershed management developed and disseminated
- (v) community mobilization and partnerships for systematic digitized land certification, including establishment of a national digitized land registry and promotion of women as beneficiaries of land certification
- (vi) monitoring of data on land and climate risks achieved through targeted studies and equipment
- (vii) national database on land degradation and climate risks

Subcomponent 1.2. Institutional and communities’ capacity strengthening

- (i) skills training and knowledge exchange contributing to the project’s objectives and implementation, including with regards to collaborative institutional mechanisms and processes
- (ii) national coordination and technical platforms established for climate resilience and sustainable land and water management at national level
- (iii) integrated decision making through inclusion of all actors in a structured community mobilization and beneficiary selection processes, with social inclusion and gender-specific vulnerabilities and capacities integrated
- (iv) local capacity developed to provide FFBS extension support
- (v) improved climate risk monitoring and early action systems
- (vi) improved grievance redress and conflict mitigation mechanisms
- (vii) improved technical capacity of local stakeholders

Component 2. Sustainable watershed management

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Component Type | Trust Fund |
| Investment | LDCF |
| GEF Project Financing (\$) | Co-financing (\$) |
| 14,686,995.00 | 20,020,000.00 |

Outcome:

Subcomponent 2.1. Watershed management planning:

1. address gaps in coordinated planning of land management interventions
2. reduce the risks of soil erosion
3. restore degraded lands and natural resource base
4. improve longer-term resilience of the watersheds to climate shocks

Subcomponent 2.2. Restoration and integrated watershed management

- (i) sustainable land management practices through local ownership
- (ii) stabilize and restore vegetation on slopes for alleviating landslides and soil erosion
- (iii) reduce flood risks
- (iv) Increase food production
- (v) improve management of protected areas and reserves
- (vi) improve communities access to basic services

Subcomponent 2.3. Improved Management of Protected Areas (PAs) and Reserves:

effective and sustainable development of Burundi's protected area system to conserve biodiversity

Output:

Subcomponent 2.1. Watershed management planning:

1. feasibility studies, plans and guidelines, for 31 integrated sub-watershed management plans with nature-based solutions for the targeted sub-watersheds,
2. operationalization of the sub-watershed management committees as key convening and coordination bodies at local level for sub-watershed planning

Subcomponent 2.2. Restoration and integrated watershed management

- (i) construction of progressive terraces and augmentation of vegetation cover of degraded hillsides
- (ii) acquisition of equipment and goods, works for implementation of the integrated watershed management plans
- (iii) enhancing sustainable management of protected areas, wildlife conservation, prevention of further deforestation of protected areas
- (iv) cash-for-work payments and alternative income generation activities and community-based ecotourism in and around protected areas

Subcomponent 2.3. Improved Management of Protected Areas (PAs) and Reserves

- (i) sustainable management of PAs and reserves
- (ii) promotion of community-based ecotourism in and around Pas
- (iii) improvement of employment and alternative livelihoods for communities living around PAs through the development of IGAs (through the labour-based approach)
- (iv) integration of Batwa communities in PA management activities through communication, education and information on biodiversity, community conservation and PA restoration, including monitoring and surveillance

Component 3. Community livelihood resilience support.

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Component Type | Trust Fund |
| Investment | LDCF |
| GEF Project Financing (\$) | Co-financing (\$) 21,680,000.00 |

Outcome:

Subcomponent 3.1. Improved land productivity:
distribution of livestock through a community solidarity chain
distribution of agricultural inputs to managed colline communities

Subcomponent 3.2. Land certification: improve land security through land tenure and certification at scale in each target watershed and colline

Subcomponent 3.3. Climate resilient agriculture

Subcomponent 3.4. Climate-resilient livelihoods support: support climate-resilient livelihoods for the most climate-vulnerable communities

Output:

Subcomponent 3.1. Improved land productivity

Topsoil protected and soil fertility restored

Intensified agricultural production through sustainable land management practices, including year-round resilient agricultural production

Subcomponent 3.2. Land certification

- (i) technical assistance for communities' engagement
- (ii) support and renovation of land certification offices
- (iii) provision of support for land certification, land identification services provided
- (iv) acquisition of equipment and goods
- (iv) community dialogue for addressing conflict-related grievances established

Subcomponent 3.3. Climate resilient agriculture

- (i) micro-irrigation systems that promote farmer-led irrigation development (FLID), including gravity and solar-based pumping systems for high-value crop production designed and constructed
- (ii) water user associations in the sustainable management of the irrigation systems, use of irrigation practices and market production of crops established and users trained
- (iii) demonstration sites for diffusion of modern irrigation technologies for use in farmer field schools (FFS) established
- (iv) climate-resilient seeds and accompanying agricultural inputs, including fertilizers disseminated to beneficiaries
- (v) introduction of innovations in climate-resilient agricultural and livestock techniques

Subcomponent 3.4. Climate-resilient livelihoods support

- (i) improved household incomes through financing income-generating activities, including those of vulnerable groups such as refugee camps, and training beneficiaries
- (ii) improved cookstoves through vouchers targeting women beneficiaries, promoted and supplied
- (iii) development of income-generating value chains as alternatives to agriculture,
- (iv) supporting vulnerable communities' livelihood resilience and income diversification, and ensuring their integration into the communal development plans (PCDCs)
- (v) public and community infrastructures for disaster risk management and response developed; local early warning system strengthened

M&E

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Component Type | Trust Fund |
| Technical Assistance | LDCF |
| GEF Project Financing (\$) | Co-financing (\$) |
| 700,000.00 | 5,200,000.00 |

Outcome:

Implementation of a knowledge management system

Output:

Inform in real time lessons learnt to develop and scale up integrated landscape management execution plans at the level of each priority watershed.

Lessons from the first set of ILM execution plans serve to inform the subsequent sets, real time data collection using kobo GEMS technologies

Robust M&E plan, baseline data collection and interactive data collection to support iterative planning and needed adjustment in project targets at annual work planning and midterm stage

Component Balances

| Project Components | GEF Project Financing (\$) | Co-financing (\$) |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Component 1. Enabling environment for climate resilience | 2,321,373.00 | 4,490,000.00 |
| Component 2. Sustainable watershed management | 14,686,995.00 | 20,020,000.00 |
| Component 3. Community livelihood resilience support. | | 21,680,000.00 |
| M&E | 700,000.00 | 5,200,000.00 |
| Subtotal | 17,708,368.00 | 51,390,000.00 |
| Project Management Cost (PMC) | 640,256.00 | 3,610,000.00 |
| Total Project Cost (\$) | 18,348,624.00 | 55,000,000.00 |

Please provide Justification

The GEF PMC is well below 5% of the subtotal of the grant. However, the co-financing will cover additional costs incurred through project management as explained in the waiver document attached.

Following the joint review of the World Bank's portfolio in March 2024 (CPPR - Country Portfolio Performance Review), the decision was taken to increase the level of mission expenses and salaries, which would henceforth be coupled with performance contracts, as stipulated in the memorandum of understanding signed after the CPPR by the ministry in charge of finance and the World Bank country manager for Burundi.

Therefore, the April 2024 text provides for a new salary scale, with higher amounts than the previous ministerial order harmonizing the remuneration and operating costs of managers and staff of projects financed by technical and financial partners of 24 November 2020 (see table 1 in the appendix).

To this end, the Burundi Colline Climate Resilience Project (BCCRP), like the other projects, has had to adjust its budget estimates to the new provisions of the above-mentioned ministerial decree. As a result, this led to an increase in staff costs, which in turn affected the total amount of the project's management costs.

PROJECT OUTLINE

A. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

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

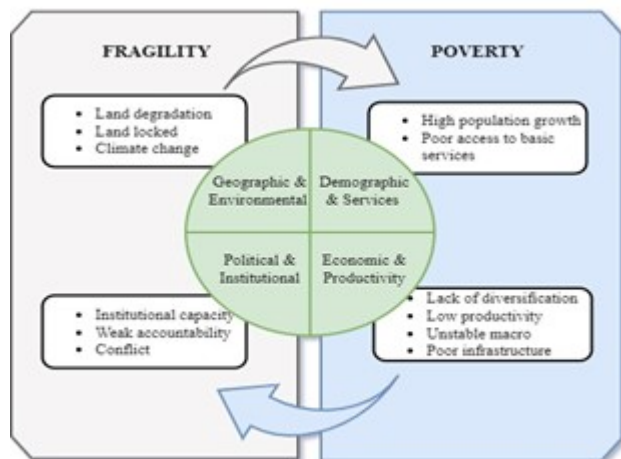
1. Burundi is a low-income country where 87 percent of the population of 11.9 million live below the poverty line. It is the third most densely populated country in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), with an estimated 463 inhabitants per square kilometer. Burundi has the seventh-highest fertility rate in the world (5.5 children per mother) and its population is expected to double by 2040. A growing and young population can be a dynamic force, but the economy currently offers limited opportunities and is characterized by high underemployment (51 to 65 percent depending on the sectors), limited wage jobs, with nearly 90 percent of non-agricultural workers employed in the informal sector, and low levels of foreign investment. On the supply side, 15,000 graduates enter the labor market each year, but in the private sector, there is a lack of low- and medium-level technical and professional skills across all industries. Burundi's economy is showing resilience, with economic growth strengthened in 2023 to at least 2.7 percent.^[1] Economic growth prospects remain strong and is projected to reach 3.8 - 4.8 percent over 2024–2026, sustained by favorable weather conditions, strong agricultural production, an uptick in mining production, productive public investment, and continued reforms under an ongoing IMF program.

2. **Burundi's multidimensional fragility results in political, economic, and security risks for the economy.**^[2] The political crisis of 2015 halted 11 years of growth, and Burundi's real GDP per capita was a mere US\$268 in 2023, the lowest in SSA and in decline since 2016.^[3] A peaceful transfer of power in June 2020, to a new government led by H.E. President Evariste Ndayishimiye, marked a turn toward peace and stability, but many challenges remain. Burundi's exports—mainly gold, coffee, and tea—are limited, valued at just US\$218 million in 2020, against \$912 million in imports.^[4] Burundi's economy has also been challenged by the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the governance situation in Burundi is improving, political and security issues persist, and the inconsistent implementation of the rule of law reinforces perceptions of risk and instability among international investors.^[5]

3. **The key development challenges faced by Burundi are fragility, high population growth, low-equilibrium economic growth, and political and institutional weaknesses.** These interconnected challenges fuel poverty and conflict (Figure 1). ^[6] At the same time, successfully addressing any of these interconnected challenges or negative feedback loops offers opportunities to improve development outcomes for the small landlocked country.

4. **Burundi is overwhelmingly rural, and income inequality is highlighted in the profound rural-urban divide, with 69 percent of the nation's poor residing in rural areas, compared to 31 percent of the poor in urban areas, mainly in the economic capital, Bujumbura.** Only about 14 percent of people live in urban centers, such as Bujumbura, while the remaining 86 percent are spread across the country's 2,692 rural *collines* (or hills, also the country's smallest administrative unit). Many of these *collines* are hubs of vulnerability, with 90 percent of colline inhabitants being women and youth who depend on rain-fed agriculture along increasingly degraded hill slopes.^[7] Rural-urban disparities are mainly driven by significant differences in livelihood assets and economic opportunities. Most nonpoor are themselves close to the poverty line—while most of the poor are far below it.

Figure 1: Burundi's cycle of fragility and poverty.



5. **Burundi's economic and social development has been constrained by the dominance of low productivity agriculture and limited economic diversification.** Agriculture contributes up to 40 percent of GDP but continues to employ 84 percent of the population. Commercial agricultural production (tea, coffee, palm oil, and cotton) is critical for the country's economic competitiveness and generates more than 40 percent of export revenues. However, the bulk of the population is engaged in subsistence farming where livelihoods are increasingly difficult to sustain because of high population growth and increasing land degradation. While 49 percent of Burundi's surface is rainfed cropland (13.2 million ha), only 0.2 million ha is estimated to be potentially under irrigation.[8] The failure of rainfed agriculture exacerbates food insecurity in the country, as agriculture employs around 90 percent of the labor force[9] and climate change impacts are making rainfed agriculture increasingly less predictable and less productive.[10] A nascent industrial sector, consisting mainly of construction, agricultural processing, brewing, and energy, contributes 11 percent to GDP and employs about 2 percent of the population, while the burgeoning tertiary sector accounts for close to half of GDP and employs close to 11 percent of the population in services, and 4 percent in trade.

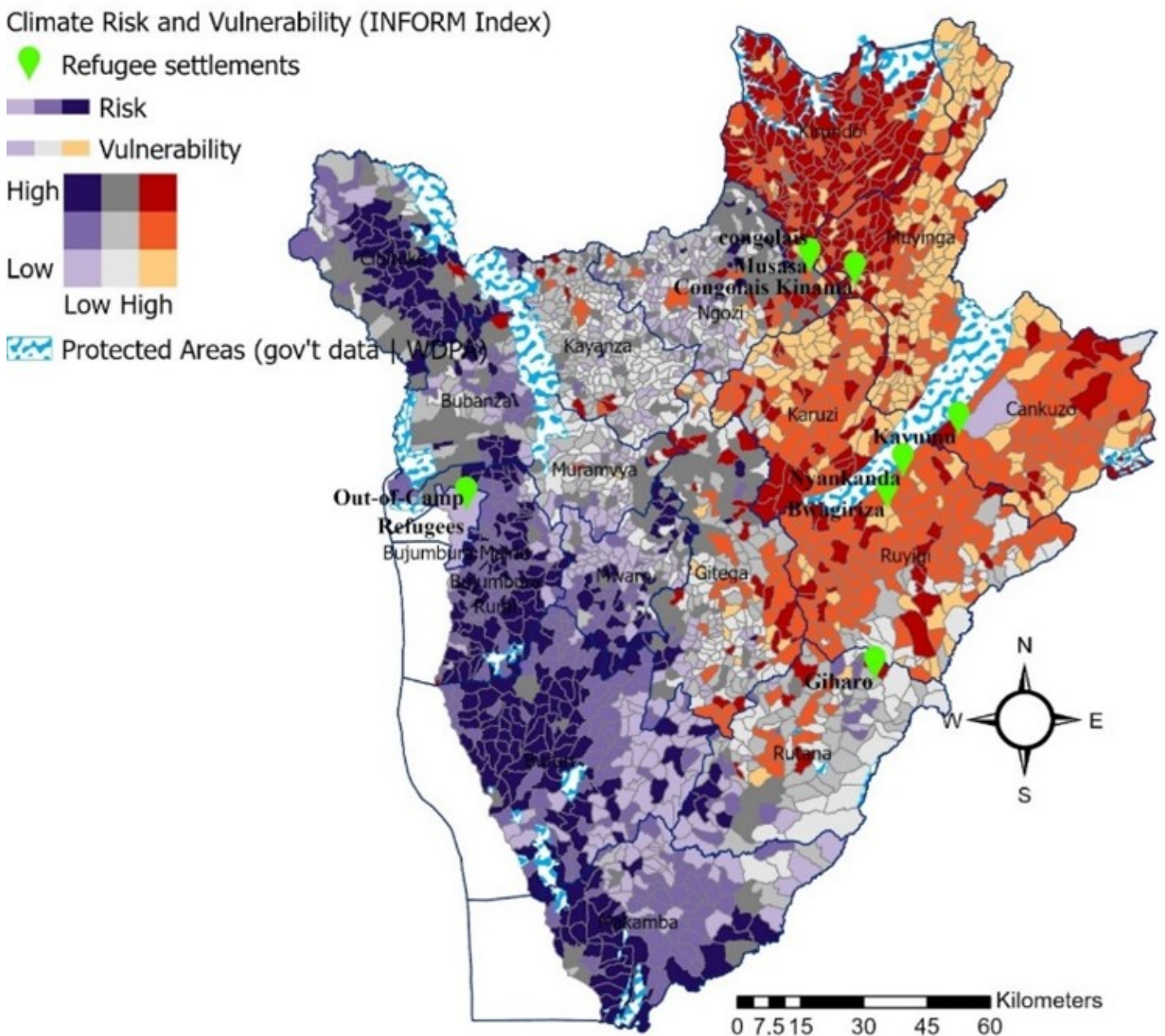
6. **The intersection of legal, cultural, and social factors restricts women's access to land and property rights.** In the absence of a law on inheritance, the legal land tenure system in Burundi is rooted in patriarchal traditions, where male-dominated inheritance is the norm. This leaves women in vulnerable positions, with little to no legal standing to claim ownership of or inherit land. This gap is exacerbated by a lack of educational opportunities and access/dissemination of information. As a result, women are frequently sidelined in land transactions and may not be aware of their rights or the procedures necessary to secure land certificates, with less than 15 percent of land rights currently being registered under women's names.[11] The male-dominated inheritance system perpetuates a cycle of women's land dispossession, making it challenging for women to achieve economic independence and contribute to the country's development.

7. **Burundi's legal and policy framework for refugees and host communities is rooted in its Constitution,** which recognizes litigants' rights for all, including refugees, guarantees the right to asylum, and adherence to international agreements, including the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, the 1969 OAU Refugee Convention, and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. In 2021, Burundi enacted a new Refugee Law and regulations that align with international standards, outlining the rights and responsibilities of refugees, the process for seeking asylum, and the management of refugee camps. The law also emphasizes the need for protection against refoulement, access to public services, and the integration of refugees into local communities. However, challenges remain in fully implementing these instruments due to limited resources and capacity.[12]

8. **As of July 31, 2024, Burundi hosted 89,952 refugees and asylum seekers, with 87,662 identified as refugees and 2,290 as asylum seekers.** A significant portion (72 percent) of refugees are registered in the Biometric Identity Management System (BIMS). The demographic breakdown shows over 53 percent are

under 18 years old, 23 percent are women over 18, and 3 percent are elderly. Refugees are distributed across various locations, with 37 percent in urban areas and the rest in camps such as Kavumu, Nyankanda, Bwagiriza, Musasa, and Kinama. Most of these refugees (98.8 percent) come from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the rest from Rwanda (1.1 percent) and other countries (0.1 percent).^[13] See Figure 2 for locations of refugee camps overlapping with *collines* most vulnerable to climate risks and Annex 3 on refugee characteristics, such as origin, gender, and camp location alongside UNHCR offices.

Figure 2: Refugees and host communities' vulnerability to climate risk in Burundi



Source: Using data and results from the PROGREEN-funded Burundi Multi-Risk Hotspot Analysis (Tall et al., 2022)

9. **Livelihoods of refugees and host communities in Burundi are affected by climatic factors and insecurity in the sub-region.** In the areas surrounding refugee camps, particularly in the north of the country

and parts of the east, refugees and hosts face acute climate vulnerability and share similar livelihood strategies, based mainly on agriculture, livestock, and small income-generating activities. The government of Burundi has put in place several policies and reforms to improve the protection and assistance of refugees in the country, including refugees' right to primary education, increasing the inclusion of refugees in the national social security programme, including employment-focused interventions and registration in the nascent national social register, promoting social integration, and improving the living conditions of refugees.^{[14],[15]} The Burundian government is committed to continued work with technical and financial partners to strengthen the refugee protection system and ensure that refugees in Burundi can live in safety and dignity.^[16]

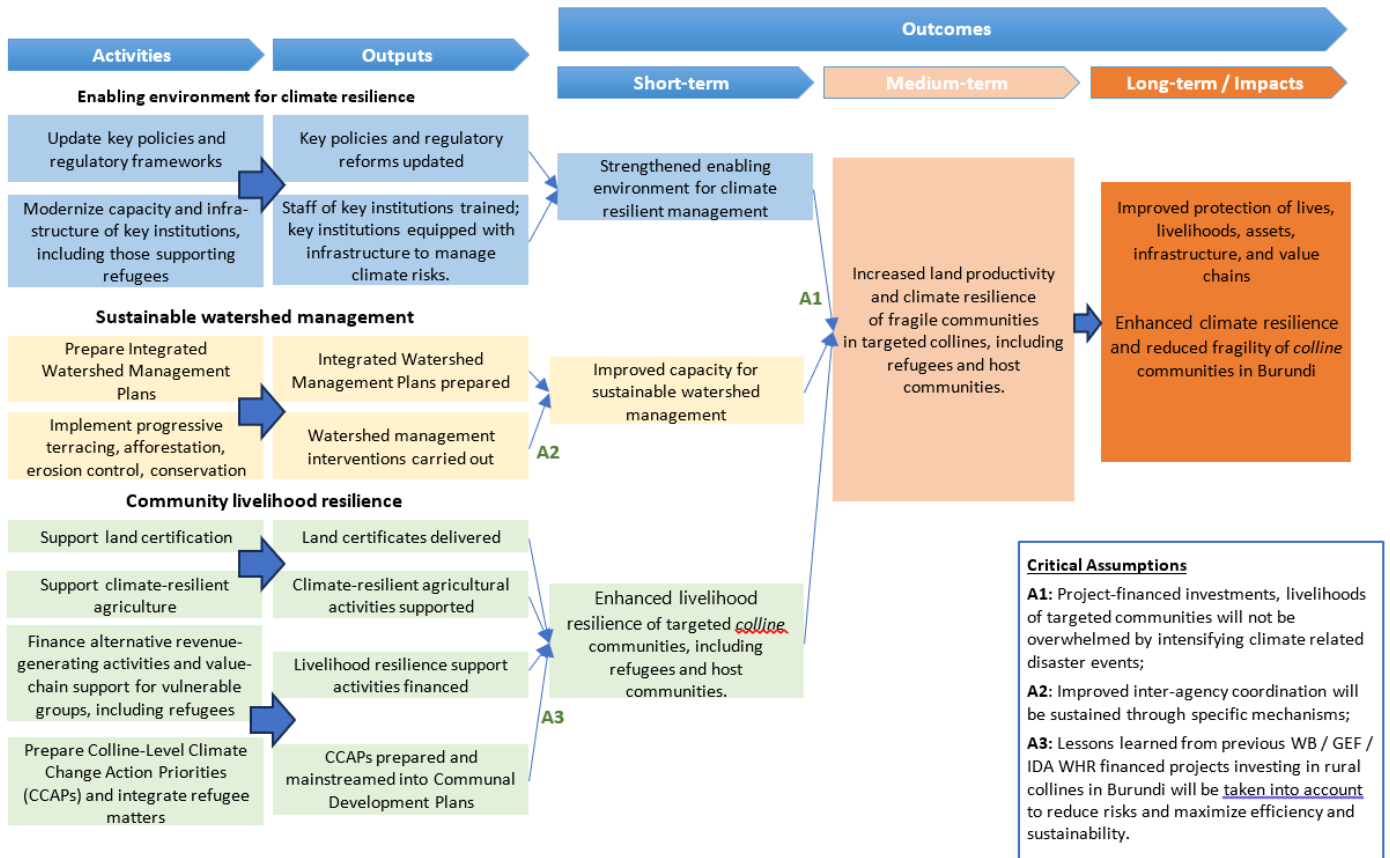
10. The World Bank, in consultation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), confirms that the refugee protection framework remains adequate in Burundi for accessing financing from the 20th International Development Association replenishment (IDA20) Window for Host Communities and Refugees (WHR).^[17] The Government of Burundi remains committed to fulfilling its obligations to protect refugees and to working with national and international actors to find durable solutions to the refugee situation. The management of this situation is hampered by climatic, economic, and political challenges. In 2023, the authorities drew up a Strategic Note on support for host communities, refugees, and returnees, which includes an approach based on sustainable solutions which also takes account of the effects of climate change.^[18] This approach aims to enable refugees to rebuild their lives and integrate sustainably into host communities while reducing pressure on local resources and contributing to community development. The successful implementation of climate aspects will require a multidimensional and contextual approach that is adapted to the specific needs and realities of Burundi. In this regard, it is essential to (i) develop programs and interventions that are adapted to local contexts and that consider the vulnerabilities and capacities of refugees and host communities; (ii) collect in-depth data and analysis on the impacts of climate change on refugees and host communities; and (iii) build the capacity of national and local institutions to manage forced displacement and promote durable solutions.

11. As of June 2024, significant improvements were observed in several developmental areas for refugees in Burundi. In the area of protection, the proportion of adults with national identity cards increased to 76 percent, up from 74 percent in 2023, while the percentage of children with birth certificates rose from 75 percent to 78 percent, primarily due to effective registration campaigns. This reflects a steady improvement in civil documentation. Health initiatives have also seen success, with 81 percent of returnee children vaccinated against measles. Access to safe water remained high, with over 91 percent of households having access to water within two kilometers of their homes. Additionally, the percentage of returnees living in their own homes increased from 28 percent in 2023 to 40 percent in 2024, while those residing in rented houses decreased from 41 percent to 33 percent, mainly in the provinces of Muyinga, Cibitoke, Kirundo, and Ruyigi. Farming among refugees also saw a substantial increase of 154 percent between 2023 and 2024.^{[19],[20]}

12. Despite the progress in several areas, UNHCR operations in Burundi have faced significant challenges in some sectors as of July 2024. In 2024, the enrollment rate of returnee children declined to 43 percent, down from 57 percent in 2022, primarily due to late arrivals and difficulties in adapting to the local education system. Food security remains a critical concern, with 55 percent of returnee households reporting that they eat only once a day, though this is an improvement from 64 percent in 2023. Access to food aid after their initial assistance increased from 76 percent in 2023 to 88 percent in 2024. However, while many households are increasingly using their cash allowance to acquire land, only 33 percent were able to farm due to a lack of seeds and tools, highlighting ongoing struggles with livelihoods and self-sufficiency. Additionally, 60 percent of returnee households still lack health insurance, indicating continued barriers to accessing essential health services. Furthermore, 80 percent of returnee households live on less than US\$1 per month, often relying on temporary labor across the border, although this marks a 9-percentage point improvement from 2023.¹⁶ These challenges underscore the need for this project's support in targeted interventions to address some of these persistent issues. ^{[21],[22]}

13. **The project development objective (PDO) is to increase land productivity and climate resilience of fragile communities in targeted collines and refugee settlements.** To achieve the PDO, the project will scale up best practices in integrated watershed management^[23] piloted under the BLRRP (P160613), which will be critical for halting and reversing ongoing alarming rates of land degradation and conserving the county's land area. Equally important will be innovating best practices in Burundi for community-led climate adaptation and resilience, engaging climate-vulnerable host communities and refugees to formulate climate action priorities to inform local development plans. Climate resilience is defined for the purposes of the project as strengthened capacity of communities and ecosystems to prepare, withstand, recover from, and adapt to the impacts of climate change, including floods, landslides, droughts, and other key climate threats in Burundi. Using these two interconnected development objectives, the project will address critical constraints to the Government's response to climate change, fragility, and land degradation as follows:

- a. **Lack of integrated policy and coordinated institutional response** – by strengthening the enabling environment for climate resilience through key policy and regulatory reforms, improving inter-agency coordination, modernizing key national/local institutions in charge of climate response and their human resources, capacity, and infrastructure.
- b. **Fragmentation and degradation of watersheds** – by planning and developing integrated watershed management plans and preparedness for climate shocks, restoring degraded land areas under participatory community efforts, engaging *colline* communities into water user associations, diversifying land use rights and promoting gender-responsive investments.
- c. **Limited community-led climate action and access to finance** – by improving inclusive access to finance for local institutions, first of all, *colline* development committees and *colline* communities to scale up sustainable watershed management, restoration of degraded lands, and support community livelihood resilience.



14. **The project activities will be organized under three complementary components:** strengthening the enabling environment for climate resilience (Component 1), improving sustainable management of priority at-risk watersheds (Component 2), and enhancing the livelihood resilience of targeted communities (Component 3). The design also includes a project management component (Component 4) and a Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC) (Component 5). The outcomes of these components will enable the institutional setting for integrated watershed management planning and management at national and local scales of action, improved livelihood resilience of communities vulnerable to climate change, and productivity gains in climate-smart agriculture (Figure 4).

Component 1. Enabling environment for climate resilience (US\$ 6.99 million of which US\$ 2.66 million IDA, US\$ 2.32 million GEF and US\$ 2.13 million WHR)

15. **This component will tackle constraints related to the lack of integrated policy and coordinated institutional response to land degradation and livelihoods' resilience including in refugee-hosted collines.** This will be achieved through establishing the needed enabling environment and increased support for building capacity at national, sub-watershed and *colline* levels for effective climate risk management, sustainable watershed management, climate resilience, and integrated water resource management and related extension support, including in protected areas, to strengthen the capacity of national, local institutions and community level institutions, including those supporting host communities and refugees, and equip them to deal with increasing climate and land degradation risks. This component's activities will be structured around two subcomponents as follows.

Subcomponent 1.1. Strengthening Policy and regulatory framework.

16. **This subcomponent will provide support towards policies and capacity at national and local levels for planning and implementing integrated watershed management and climate resilient practices benefitting socially vulnerable groups (women, youth, refugees, and host communities).** The project will support technical assistance, training, goods and operating costs for: (i) the development at MINEAGRIE of a national program and action plan to scale up watershed management and climate resilience to all collines in Burundi; (ii) elaboration and implementation of a strategic plan for ecotourism; (iii) review and updating of national laws, policies, regulations, and by-laws that address gaps in climate action and integrated land and water resources management to achieve improved policy coherence and coordination, (iv) establishment and supporting effective inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms for one-government action on climate and land risks including proactive engagement and mainstreaming via the Ministry of Interior on climate risks management associated with host communities and refugees, (v) establishment of a national platform to bring together the public sector, civil society and the private sector for climate action, (vi) development and dissemination of gender-responsive guidelines for implementing the policies on integrated approaches for land use and watershed management, ensuring the recognition of women's roles in resource management and climate resilience; and (vii) donor roundtables will be organized to present financing priorities emerging from the project and mobilize development partners and bilateral donors around priority climate resilience investment needs for Burundi. At Project Mid-term, following delivery of the project watershed management plans and CCAPs, and establishment of the watershed management committees, the project will assess sustainable financing options to fund CCAPs and Watershed Plans and sustain project realizations towards a national-wide scale-up of project interventions to watersheds and collines of the country.

17. **Subcomponent 1.2. Institutional capacity strengthening at national, watershed, and community levels. This subcomponent will directly support national agencies, provincial and communal administrations including organizations supporting refugees, and host communities to improve planning, implementation, and management of climate and land risks.** Starting with a baseline capacity assessment to evaluate current capacities and gaps to address land degradation and climate risks, the project will finance institutional capacity strengthening for the benefit of key institutions at national and local levels mandated to manage climate and environment risks, including MINEAGRIE and its departments, the National Land Commission, the relevant departments of the Interior Ministry and Justice Ministry, as well as several other line ministries relevant to climate change agenda^[24].

18. **The project will support the University of Burundi** to establish, using goods, consulting services, training, and operating costs: (i) a new national/regional excellence center on climate change and environmental risk management, federating expertise and training opportunities focused on climate, agronomy, health, energy, and economics; (ii) new professional certificates, Master's degree core curriculum and programs on climate and environment risk management and related fields; (iii) modernization of existing research and training capacities for improved climate science research, GIS and environmental risk monitoring within University of Burundi and other academic research institutions in Burundi; (iv) collaborations with international universities and research centers, and participation in relevant regional/global fora to develop innovations in climate-related training and climate-resilient agricultural practices for *colline* resilience. It will also finance a range of important and necessary E&S management capacity-building activities to improve and increase the knowledge and skills of staff, government officials, and ESIA professionals in Burundi through training of a critical mass of new E&S specialists to conduct E&S studies across development-partner financed projects.

19. **National capacities for Early Warning service delivery at *colline*-level will also be enhanced** by establishing and strengthening the missing link between national technical institutions in charge of early warning (IGEBU, ISABU, National Platform for Disaster Risk Management) with local leaders responsible for early action (communal/colline level administrators, extension service, traditional leaders, Red Cross, NGOs/CBOs). Following the baseline capacity needs assessment and in close coordination with other World-Bank financed projects supporting Early Warning System (EWS) in Burundi (Urban Resilience Project and

PRETE), project activities would include: (i) revitalization of community radios and community relays to communicate early warning alerts, in order to improve last mile communication of early warning alerts to last mile users at *colline* level for key climate risks (landslides, flooding, droughts and storms); (ii) support for early action and post-disaster reconstruction for affected households at community-level; (iii) establishment of an Early Warning desk for rural collines at IGEBU and a risk monitoring map room at the National Platform in accordance with the Sendai agreement; (iv) establishment of technical sector working groups (*groupes de travail pluridisciplinaires, GTPs*) bringing together climate forecasters/early warning providers with sector technical experts/early warning users across all key climate-sensitive ministries convened by the project; (v) development/revision of an operational early warning system policy framework with clarification of institutional mandates and coordination mechanisms, and financing options.

20. **At the watershed and *colline* levels, beneficiaries of project capacity-strengthening activities at the local level will include communal administrations in charge of local development planning, extension officers, community-based organizations, and vulnerable communities.** The financed activities include: (i) the creation of sub-watershed management committees, promoting integrated decision-making, with the inclusion of all actors mandated in landscape and watershed management covering the project target sub-watersheds, through structured community mobilization and beneficiary selection processes, ensuring social inclusion and leadership of women within them, (ii) building capacity at national, communal and colline level to manage and facilitate the scaling up of Farmer-Field Schools (through the national extension service *DPAEs*, and community-based facilitators), (iii) improving technical capacity of local commune and provincial leaders in community-led climate action planning, through developing the next-generation commune development plans that integrate climate action priorities from the *colline* level, and (iv) strengthening of the commune land administration, and (v) acquisition of various equipment, community halls, and offices, various equipment.

Component 2. Adaptive capacity for sustainable watershed management (US\$ 34.7 million of which US\$ 17.93 million IDA, US\$ 14.69 million GEF, US\$ 2.09 million WHR)

21. **This component will address constraints of fragmentation and degradation of watersheds,** limited access to sustainable finance to reduce the risks of soil erosion, restore degraded lands and natural resource base, and improve the longer-term resilience of the watersheds to climate shocks. This component will address the gaps through supporting sub-watershed level planning, scaling up landscape restoration, and integrated watershed management (IWM) including management of vulnerable slopes and protected areas management. Specifically, project activities will support 75 sub-watersheds targeted by the project covering 72 collines and 28,370 ha of degraded lands to be restored, structured as follows.

Subcomponent 2.1. Watershed management planning.

22. **This subcomponent will address gaps in coordinated planning of land management interventions.** The subcomponent will finance technical assistance, goods, consulting services, training, and operating costs for (i) preparation of feasibility studies, plans and guidelines, for the development of 75 integrated sub-watershed management plans, including 4 sub-watersheds in refugee-hosted *collines*, identifying suitable nature-based solutions to be implemented in each targeted sub-watershed, (ii) support for operationalization of the sub-watershed management committees as key convening and coordination bodies at local level for sub-watershed planning, and promote women leadership in the committees. A transparent selection process for recruitment of the firms in charge of developing the sub-watershed management plans will be based on: (i) potential to create cost-effective technical solutions; (ii) integration of restoration, soil erosion control, climate-smart agriculture, watersheds management, and biodiversity conservation approaches; (iii) financial and environmental sustainability; and (iv) adoption of public goods, such as inclusion and climate resilience. GEF resources, through the LDCF, will be specifically dedicated to support the establishment of sub-watershed management committees.

Subcomponent 2.2. Sustainable watershed management.

23. **This subcomponent will implement the watershed management plans prepared under sub-component 2.1, and ensure restoration of degraded watersheds and transition of *colline* communities' farming and land use practices towards integrated sustainable land management practices.** This subcomponent's activities will support the implementation of on-the-ground sustainable land management practices in each target project sub-watershed, including 4 refugee-hosted, stabilize and restore vegetation on slopes for alleviating landslides and soil erosion, reduce flood risks, increase food production, stabilise river banks, correct gullies and ravines, improve management of protected areas and reserves, and improve communities access to basic services through local ownership. LDCF resources will be focusing on the piloting and scale-up of nature-based solutions (NBS) interventions in targeted sub-watersheds. This subcomponent will finance works, goods, non-consulting and consulting services, training, and operating costs for (i) technical assistance and inclusive communities' engagement, with a gender-sensitive approach to enable women's participation, (ii) construction of progressive terraces and augmentation of vegetation cover of degraded hillsides, (iii) acquisition of equipment and goods, works for implementation of the integrated watershed management plans. Such works may include restoration activities on degraded lands, leveraging nature-based solutions, tree planting, biophysical and soil bioengineering in gully treatment to reduce soil degradation and hazards related to water erosion, buffer zone protection along rivers and streams, soil fertility enhancement, agroforestry, production of cover and fodder crops, wildlife conservation programs. Small-scale public infrastructure works may include rehabilitation of existing access and local roads to climate-resilient standards, homestays and purchasing of necessary equipment and plant seedlings for slopes stabilization, soil erosion control, sanitation, solar and grid electricity reforestation and assisted natural regeneration of vegetation, fencing, and check dams.

24. **The subcomponent will benefit from LDCF resources dedicated to supporting the application of innovative NBS, co-designed with the involvement of local communities, including women and socially vulnerable groups, to enhance the climate resilience of ecosystems and livelihoods, and sustainable land management.** The approach may include the deployment of innovative financial instruments, with full engagement and participation of communities, including youth and women. LDCF resources will enable us to take advantage of the potential of NBS in providing socio-economic benefits, while mitigating climate change and improving ecosystem resilience through a participatory approach that enables the identification of communities', in particular rural women's, needs to address financial constraints and barriers.

Subcomponent 2.3. Improved Management of Protected Areas (PAs) and Reserves.

25. **The activities of this sub-component will support the effective and sustainable development of Burundi's protected area system to conserve biodiversity,** including chimpanzees, other wildlife species, and ecosystem services for the well-being of the population, with a particular focus on the Batwa, who depend on forests for their livelihoods. A target of four Protected Areas will be financed by the project (see Annex 1). This subcomponent will finance goods, works, non-consulting and consulting services, training, and operating costs for (i) sustainable management and wildlife conservation programs of PAs and reserves, (ii) promotion of community-based ecotourism in and around PAs, (iii) improvement of employment and alternative livelihoods for communities living around PAs through the development of IGAs (through the labor-based approach), (iv) integration of Batwa communities in PA management activities through culturally-appropriated communication, education and information on biodiversity, community conservation and PA restoration, including monitoring and surveillance.

Component 3. Community livelihood resilience support (US\$ 21.8 million of which US\$ 15.9 million IDA and US\$ 5.78 million WHR)

26. **This component will address constraints related to limited access to finance and lack of integrated response to communities' needs for livelihoods resilience in the face of rising climate and land risks.** This component's activities will be structured around three sub-components as follows.

Subcomponent 3.1. Climate-resilience planning.

27. **This sub-component will support elaboration of the Colline-level Climate Action Priorities (or CCAPs),** defining priority climate-resilient investment packages to strengthen vulnerable communities' livelihood resilience and income diversification, including refugees' needs and priorities. Using consulting services and operating costs, this sub-component will contract a firm to implement a pre-developed detailed methodology for elaborating the CCAPs in every target *colline* of the project, identifying the *colline* action investment priorities through an extensive process of community mobilization using best practice participatory approaches for community-led climate adaptation planning. The project will also support the integration of the CCAPs into the communal development plans (*Plans Communaux de Développement Communautaire, PCDCs*) for successful locally-led climate adaptation planning that takes into consideration the needs of the most vulnerable, including women, Batwa, IDPs and other socially vulnerable groups in Burundi.

28. **The project will closely coordinate with the Communes authorities (*Administrateur and Conseil communal*)** to ensure the Colline-level Climate Action Priorities (or CCAPs), identified through the roll out of the above-mentioned methodology, are integrated into the PCDC. The project will also collaborate with the Ministry of Interior to enhance the existing PCDC methodology by strengthening its climate change module so that CCAPs can become in the future an integral part of the PCDC process (without the need to adopt an ad hoc methodology for the CCAPs purpose only).

Subcomponent 3.2. Climate-resilient agriculture and livelihoods.

29. **This sub-component will support implementation of the CCAPs with the objective to enhance climate-resilient livelihoods and climate-smart agriculture for the most fragile *colline*, including refugees and their host communities.** Using goods, small works, consulting services, cash-for-work, community works, training, technical assistance, and operating costs, this sub-component will support the implementation of the CCAP-identified priorities and package of interventions. Envisaged livelihood interventions (to be defined within the CCAPs) would include: (i) financial inclusion and improvement in household incomes by supporting the development of climate-resilient income-generating value chains, including garden farming, mushroom cultivation and honeybee keeping, as alternatives to agriculture, prioritizing women beneficiaries and other socially vulnerable groups such as refugees, climate-displaced communities and host communities, and training of beneficiaries to sustain their new livelihoods, (ii) 74,945 women-led households across 72 collines will be provided access to financing and vouchers to purchase improved cookstoves using recycled charcoal products, providing an alternative to tree-cutting; (iii) support development and incubation of local social entrepreneurs to produce improved cookstove-adapted charcoal products^[25] for commercialization within target project collines, working in close collaboration with the World Bank-financed Burundi Jobs and Economic Transformation project (PRETE, P177688) and Solar Energy in Local Communities Project (SOLEIL-Nyakiriza, P164435) projects, and other donor-funded and private-sector led projects in Burundi; and (iv) enable pre-requisite legislation and investments to scale up cookstove value chain development, including research & development for improved product viability and product certification.

30. **Envisaged climate-resilient agriculture-related interventions include:** (i) design and construction of micro-irrigation systems that promote farmer-led irrigation development (FLID), including gravity and solar-based pumping systems for high-value crop production, (ii) support to establish and train water user associations in the sustainable management of irrigation systems, use of irrigation practices and market production of crops, (iii) distribution of livestock through a community solidarity chain support and

establishment of a farrowing center at ISABU through the supply of improved piglets, (iv) dissemination of climate-resilient seeds and accompanying agricultural inputs, including fertilizers, agricultural tools and equipment and, (v) introduction of innovations in climate-resilient agricultural, irrigation and livestock techniques through FFBS facilities by local extension officers and community-based facilitators trained by the project. Finally, as not all needed support can be envisaged at this stage, additional financial resources (a minimum of \$15,000 per target *colline*) will be availed by the project in uncommitted financing to support priority *colline* climate actions identified in the CCAPs.

Subcomponent 3.3. Land certification.

31. **This subcomponent will improve land security through systematic land certification in each project target *colline*, including specific target collines hosting refugee camps, as an enabling condition for land security access to financing and climate-resilient livelihood investments.** This sub-component will use technical assistance, goods, works, consulting services, cash-for-work, training, and operating costs to finance: (i) systematic land certification operations in each target *colline* to deliver a total of 195,000 new land certificates by 2030, including outreach, as defined in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), specific support to women and marginalized groups to access land certificates to enhance social inclusion, land identification services, and providing a safe and inclusive space for community dialogue for addressing conflict-related grievances over land, of particular importance to enhance social cohesion and defuel land-related conflicts in target project rural collines, (ii) inventory of state-owned lands, including measuring, demarcating and registering state-owned lands across project target sites, and (iii) upgrading and renovation of land certification bureaus, including acquisition of equipment and goods.

32. **To support women's access to land certificates, the project will deploy targeted activities focusing on both procedural support and outreach.** Specialized programs will be established to educate and assist vulnerable women, including single mothers, household heads, widows, disabled, and those from indigenous communities, in understanding their rights and the steps to obtain land certificates. Legal aid and support services will be provided to ease the complexities of land registration. The land information system will be utilized to gather gender-disaggregated data. Outreach strategies will be guided by the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), which includes collaboration with traditional and community leaders, local women-led NGOs, and the recruitment of local women for outreach activities. Tailored approaches for single mothers and female-headed households will involve flexible scheduling and focus groups, among others. To change societal attitudes, a communications campaign will target men, highlighting the family-wide benefits of women's land rights, and key stakeholders such as judges and land professionals will be educated on women's land rights.

Component 4. Project Management (\$USD 9.8 million of which US\$ 8.5 million IDA and US\$ 1.3 million GEF)

33. This component will finance activities related to project management, coordination, communication, monitoring, and evaluation (M&E) as well as the management of environmental and social risks (ESF). The project will be managed through a project implementation unit (PIU) hosted by MINEAGRIE. The same PIU that managed the Burundi Landscape Restoration and Resilience Project was selected to serve as PIU to ensure continuity and build on existing fiduciary capacities. This arrangement is aligned with MINEAGRIE's mandate to improve the sustainability and cost-effectiveness of project management. This component will use goods, works, consulting services, training, and operating costs to finance: (i) project coordination and management, including salaries; (ii) M&E of project activities and outcomes; (iii) communication, media products, including social media, TV, radio and other means for effective communication of project activities and real-time results to different stakeholders ; (iv) management of fiduciary functions, (v) knowledge management, organization of workshops, citizen engagement, including refugees, training, internships, and

stakeholder coordination; (v) conducting baseline studies and implementing the project's monitoring & evaluation plan and related learning and evaluation activities, and (vi) preparing all safeguard instruments for the effective management of project environmental and social risks.

Subcomponent 4.1. Project coordination

34. Under sub-component 4.1, LDCF funds will be used to support the operating costs of the Project Management Unit. Specifically, this subcomponent will initially finance the development of procedural manuals, the preparation of an exit plan, and audits of the project accounts. Subsequently, it will finance the purchase of equipment and office supplies for the project and its operation, including staff costs.

Subcomponent 4.2 Communication and knowledge management

35. Through dedicated LDCF funding, this component will finance the implementation of a knowledge management system that will provide real-time information on lessons learned for the development and scaling up of integrated watershed management plans at the level of each targeted sub-watershed. To this end, the sub-component will ensure a smooth flow of information both within the project team and with external stakeholders by developing an appropriate communication strategy and ensuring visibility of the project through various channels and events. Particular attention will be paid to documenting and disseminating the project's good practices, results and impacts to maximize their uptake and dissemination. In addition, knowledge management will focus on identifying, organizing and sharing the knowledge generated, while setting up secure archiving systems to ensure transparency and traceability of data. These actions will promote a culture of continuous learning and optimize the project's overall impact.

Subcomponent 4.3 Safeguard instruments and M&E

36. This sub-component will focus on developing the necessary instruments to ensure the environmental and social safeguards of the project. It will develop specific management frameworks; stakeholder engagement plans and environmental and social impact assessments. It will also prepare the functional frameworks required for the smooth operation of the project, with a focus on gender-based violence prevention and ensuring adequate planning for Indigenous peoples. At the same time, with funding from the LDCF, this sub-component will ensure the ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the project using real-time digital data collection technologies such as GEMS (Geo Enabling Initiative for Monitoring and Supervision). It will establish an initial baseline and develop a detailed monitoring and evaluation plan. A methodological monitoring system and reporting tools will be put in place, emphasizing data digitization. Results-oriented reports will be produced regularly, and mid-term and final evaluations, as well as other necessary assessments, will be done to ensure the project's transparency and effectiveness.

Component 5. Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC, US\$0 million)

37. **A Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC) is included in the project in accordance with the Investment Project Financing (IPF) Policy, paragraph 12, for Situations of Urgent Need of Assistance and Capacity Constraints.** This will allow for rapid reallocation of uncommitted funds in the event of an eligible crisis or emergency as defined in OP 8.00.^[26] A CERC Operations Manual will be prepared by the GoB and will provide detailed guidelines and instructions on triggering the CERC and use funds (including activation criteria, eligible expenditures, and specific implementation arrangements as well as required staffing for the Coordinating Authority). Any WHR resources that are moved to the CERC will only be used to benefit refugee and host communities.

[1] The World Bank in Burundi. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/burundi/overview>

[2] As per the CEM, Burundi's fragility is multidimensional: economic (limited economic diversification and growth); demographic (high population growth and density); geographic and environmental (landlocked, land scarce, and subject to climatic shocks); and political and institutional (political instability, poor governance, and inadequate institutions). These factors sustain high poverty rates and low levels of human capital. World Bank Burundi Country Economic Memorandum (2022). Republic of Burundi - Country Economic Memorandum (CEM): the challenge of achieving stable and shared growth (English). Washington, D.C.: World Bank

[3] For comparison, GDP per capita for Sub-Saharan Africa was US\$1,502 in 2020. Burundi's real GDP per capita was higher in 2015: \$305.50. In purchasing power parity (PPP) terms, or current international dollars, Burundi's per capita GDP in 2020 was \$771, while the region's was \$3,909—a roughly fivefold difference

[4] UNCTAD. 2022. "General Profile: Burundi." General Information for 2020. Geneva: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/CountryProfile/GeneralProfile/en-GB/108/GeneralProfile108.pdf>.

[5] World Bank. 2021. Country Economic Memorandum. Washington, DC: World Bank.

[6] AfDB (African Development Bank). 2020. African Economic Outlook (AEO) 2020: Developing Africa's Workforce for the Future. Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire: AfDB.

[7] DESA. 2018. "World Urbanization Prospects 2018." New York: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. <http://esa.un.org/unpd/wup/>.

[8] FAO WaPOR LCC, 2022

[9] International Monetary Fund, 2022. Burundi. IMF Staff Country Reports 2022, 1. <https://doi.org/10.5089/9798400219238.002>

[10] Tall, A., Dampha, N.K., Ndayiragije, N., Von Berg, M., Raina, L. and Manirambona, A. (2022). "Tackling Climate Change, Land Degradation and Fragility – Diagnosing Drivers of Climate and Environmental Fragility in Burundi's Colline Landscapes: Towards a Multi-Sector Investment Plan to Scale up Climate Resilience. A World Bank Advisory Services and Analytics (ASA) Report.

[11] Per the Land Governance Assessment Framework (LGAF) conducted in 2017, less than 15 percent of the land rights that are recorded in the Ministry of Justice's Land Registry are under the name of women, while as little as 6 percent of the land certificates recently delivered were issued under the names of women. See World Bank. 2021. Burundi Urbanization Review: Investing in Resilient and Inclusive Growth. Washington, D.C.: World Bank Group. <https://documentsinternal.worldbank.org/search/33158555>

[12] Burundi: Refugee Policy Review Framework Country Summary as at 30 June 2023. https://reliefweb.int/report/burundi/burundi-refugee-policy-review-framework-country-summary-30-june-2023?gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjwllG2BhC4ARIsADBgpVS-0mTYo0Pvh3QC0758YqfEiChcWJeQP5m01irDOWkLerZVokNmsU8aAlwNEALw_wcB

[13] Burundi Operational Overview - 31 July 2024. <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/110501>

[14] Burundi: Refugee Policy Review Framework Country Summary as at 30 June 2023. https://reliefweb.int/report/burundi/burundi-refugee-policy-review-framework-country-summary-30-june-2023?gad_source=1&gclid=Cj0KCQjwllG2BhC4ARIsADBgpVS-0mTYo0Pvh3QC0758YqfEiChcWJeQP5m01irDOWkLerZVokNmsU8aAlwNEALw_wcB

[15] Burundi Refugee Act (2012) and Burundi National Refugee Protection Strategy (2014-2018)

[16] Report published in August 2023 entitled 'UNHCR Operations in Burundi, Overview'.

[17] National action plan for the protection of refugees in Burundi 2017-2020. https://reporting.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/Burundi%202020%20RRRP%20-%20February%202020_0.pdf

[18] Cadre d'analyse des solutions durables pour les personnes déplacées

[19] Burundi Operational Overview - 29 February 2024. <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/107168>

[20] Burundi Operational Overview - 31 July 2024. <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/110501>

[21] Burundi Operational Overview - 29 February 2024. <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/107168>

[22] Burundi Operational Overview - 31 July 2024. <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/110501>

[23] Integrated watershed management is defined as coordinated planning and implementation of land use interventions within a particular watershed. Examples of interventions include land use practices, maintenance of vegetation cover, enhanced soil health, management of surface water and groundwater resources, and socio-economic practices, among others.

[24] Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Infrastructure and Equipment, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of National Solidarity

[25] Such as the innovative recycled briquette products developed by KAGE in Burundi.

[26] *An eligible emergency is defined as an event that has caused, or is likely to imminently cause, a major adverse economic and/or social impact associated with natural or manmade crises or disasters. Such events include a disease outbreak.*

Institutional Arrangement and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Please describe the Institutional Arrangements for the execution of this project, including financial management and procurement. If possible, please summarize the flow of funds (diagram), accountabilities for project management and financial reporting (organogram), including audit, and staffing plans. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

1. **The PIU hosted by MINEAGRIE will be responsible for overseeing the planning and implementation of the project activities, including fiduciary functions, and coordinating day-to-day operations between agencies, project beneficiaries, and the Ministry of Finance, Budget, and Economic Planning (MoF).** The PIU has been established since 2018 for the management of the BLRRP and its GEF Additional Financing subsequently approved in 2020 (P160613 & P171745), and it is already implementing the Project Preparation Advance (PPA) for this new Burundi Collines project of US\$2.5 million approved in July 2023. The PPA enabled the GoB to support the project preparation and ensure implementation readiness, including technical studies and capacity strengthening. MINEAGRIE will host the Secretariat of the Inter-Ministerial Project Steering Committee (PSC) and will ensure regular communication and coordination with the Ministry of Finance, PSC, the Technical Committee (TC), and the PIU. The PIU will also work with the National Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons (ONPRA) under the Ministry of Interior. ONPRA is the government body tasked with the management and protection of refugees, including the implementation of refugee-related laws and policies. It works in coordination with various international organizations, particularly the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), to provide assistance and ensure the rights and well-being of refugees in the country. The recruitment of key PIU staff has already been finalized under the PPA, and the project team is already in place ready to implement the new project. Financial management and procurement reviews concluded that the PIU has knowledge of World Bank procurement procedures and the capacity to manage the project. At the local level, sub-watershed management committees will need to be established to support on-the-ground implementation by bringing together multiple stakeholders in charge of water, agriculture, and landscape management at the commune level to oversee the scaling up of integrated watershed management at the local level. By project close, the PIU will seek to transfer all its fiduciary and project coordination capacities to MINEAGRIE with a goal to sustainability. See Annex 1 for further information.

Rationale for Bank Involvement and Role of Partners

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2. **The World Bank is well-positioned to support Burundi's integrated sustainable landscape management and climate resilience agenda, given ongoing operational engagement, past analytical foundational work, and track record of implementing similar operations in Burundi, in the region, and globally.** The operation builds ongoing projects across multiple development sectors that contribute to climate resilience and will scale up climate resilience outcomes across the portfolio. The World Bank has a track-record of implementing similar climate adaptation operations in the region and worldwide, leveraging global expertise in areas spanning rural development, resilience, business climate support, inclusive finance with digital financial services, and value chains. The World Bank is also in a unique position for supporting Burundi as an IDA FCV eligible country. The Bank's technical advantage and excellent client dialogue with

MINEAGRIE have led it to assist with landscape programs in Burundi since 2018, leveraging expertise across the world, in many cases linking across multiple sectors, and mobilizing additional multilateral/bilateral donor funding such as the GEF (LDCF). To ensure the implementation of a scaled-up approach, World Bank engagement will build on already produced excellent results from the Burundi Landscape Restoration and Resilience Project nationally and in other countries. The World Bank has also established partnerships with the client country in areas such as transportation, energy, disaster management, agriculture, and public health, with excellent sector dialogue across each of these counterpart ministries that will underpin the whole-of-government climate action approach that will be promoted in the BCRP. Direct and indirect synergies flowing from such collaboration are expected to contribute to the success of the proposed project.

3. **This project adds an important contribution to the portfolio in support of government objectives for Burundi’s economic transformation and climate resilience as the largest rural development investment to date in Burundi’s collines.** It will scale up the good practices of the BLRRP (2018–2024), which transformed 22 *collines*^[1], and the additional financing through the Global Environment Facility (2021–2024) which scaled up landscape management in another nine *collines*. There is a demonstrated need and client demand to scale up activities to reach the remaining 2,608 collines nation-wide. The project further incorporates the analytical study funded by PROGREEN Trust Fund that helped to close the gaps in identifying the key risk factors and determine priority collines for restoration, build consensus on priority interventions, and prepare client engagement for a scaled-up investment in climate resilience and landscape restoration nationwide. The project is designed to maximize synergies with other climate resilience and landscape management interventions supported by other donors convened under the GSADER (sectoral group of development partners in support of Agriculture, Environment and Disaster Reduction in Burundi) convened by MINEAGRIE.

4. **The rationale for public sector financing is the lack of viable investment opportunities for the private sector combined with a regulatory environment that is not suitable to attract private sector investments.** With the externalities associated with environmental threats and climate-related disasters, large-scale private funding for erosion control or environmental protection is impractical. However, the proposed project aims at contributing to facilitating increased private investment in the future. Foundational investments in climate change capacity building, early warning system support and monitoring of hydroclimatic and environmental risks at national level, land certification processes, improved land productivity and property rights security, resilient landscapes, sustainable energy solutions, climate resilience livelihood support and climate-smart agriculture practices on degraded landscapes, incubation and capacity development support to local entrepreneurs to develop and sustain climate-resilient agriculture value-chains, sustainable energy solutions (such as recycled charcoal briquettes developed from agricultural waste as an alternative to wood-chopping) and associated SMEs from extension services are expected to emerge as a result of the project, with private-capital investments to follow once the market conditions are in place to sustain project investments.

Lessons Learned and Reflected in the Project Design

5. **The design of interventions is informed by the lessons from the BLRRP and its AF, the underlying analytics and feasibility study funded by the PROGREEN Trust Fund, and international experiences.** Lessons learned include the importance of designing with flexibility with simple implementation arrangements. The operational context in Burundi is challenging due to significant capacity constraints: projects need to be designed with simple implementation arrangements, small but high-impact components, involve a limited number of contracted firms due to procurement bottlenecks and build on existing local/government capacities to enable ownership and sustainability of project results. Previous projects in Burundi have demonstrated the difficulty of operating complex projects building on foreign expertise, the BLRRP has had to operate during COVID travel bans building on local partnerships with universities and centers of expertise which contributed to project sustainability and ownership. Previous agricultural interventions have also demonstrated the importance of fostering a private sector-led approach to MSME

support for commercial viability and resilience of climate-smart agricultural practices. MSME support under this project incorporates criteria validated by the Independent Evaluation Group and other World Bank reviews, analytical work, and operational projects. The design draws on the lessons from the Local Development for Jobs Project for Burundi (PDLE, P155060) and recent analytical work on firm capabilities and the jobs and economic transformation (JET) agenda.

6. **The project complements and builds on the lessons of multiple other rural/national scale investments in the World Bank Burundi portfolio including those targeting refugees:** (i) the Integrated Community Development Project (Turikumwe, P169315) aimed at improving nutrition, access to basic services and economic opportunities for host communities and refugees, including US\$15 million in funding from the Refugees and Host Communities (RSW) sub-component; (ii) the 'Skills for Jobs: Women and Youth Project (P164416) to improve skills development training and entrepreneurship opportunities for young people (and in particular women and refugees) with funding of US\$20 million from the WHR; (iii) the 'Cash for Jobs' project (P175327) aimed at increasing the inclusion of refugees in the national social security programme, including employment-focused interventions and registration in the nascent national social register, with funding of US\$20 million from the WHR and (iv) the Project for Employment and Economic Transformation (PRETE- P177688) to support entrepreneurship opportunities for refugees and host communities with funding of US\$20 million from the Refugee Window. Other projects without a refugee window but also indirectly benefit both refugees and host communities include (v) the Great Lakes Regional Integrated Agriculture Development Project (P161781; US\$75 million), which increases agricultural productivity and commercialization, including developing WUA-managed irrigation systems; (vi) the Solar Energy in Local Communities Project (P164435), which expands access to energy, and (vii) the Urban Resilience project (P177146), which complements this project's support in urban centers with a focus on early-warning systems, disaster risk management, and flood protection with focus on greater Bujumbura. Additionally, the human capital project (P180925) earmarked for the FY25 pipeline will also improve refugees' and host communities' access to health and education, with US\$ 30 million. BCCRP and all these projects target youth, women, and refugees, aiming to enhance climate resilience and reduce vulnerability in host communities and refugees' settlements.

7. **Finally, the project builds on the lessons from the PLR of the World Bank Group's FY19-23 Country Partnership Framework for the Republic of Burundi, which underscores the economy's reliance on agricultural land productivity.** It also addresses the impact of land degradation and climate change on domestic growth, livelihoods, and overall development. By advocating for market-based approaches, the project fosters the development of value chains and agro-processing. It aims to facilitate access to finance for farmers and agribusinesses, bolster entrepreneurship, and establish connections between producers and both local and international markets. These goals are in line with the objectives of the IFC's ongoing SME Linkages project in Burundi (PID 608591). In partnership with the IFC, the project weaves climate resilience into its strategies by promoting the development of climate-smart agricultural practices, local entrepreneurship incubation, and infrastructure development capable of withstanding climate-related shocks and stresses. This approach is underscored by the IFC's Deep Dive currently underway in the tea and coffee sectors.

[1] See <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/project-detail/P160613>.

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

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

Agency is not expected to play an execution role in this project. the project will be executed by the Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture, and Livestock (MINEAGRIE).

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)

MINEAGRIE the project’s counterpart line ministry, has an overall policy and institutional mandate over climate, rural lands, and rural development, integrating water, agriculture, livestock, and environmental technical departments. These departments within MINEAGRIE include: (i) the National Hydrometeorological Service (Institut Géographique du Burundi, IGEBU), overseeing data collection, monitoring, and early warnings for observed climate and weather risks; (ii) the Extension Service (Bureaux Provinciaux de l’Environnement de l’Agriculture et de l’Elevage, BPEAE), providing extension services (research tools, techniques, seeds, and fertilizer) to rural farmers, with a dense network of extension agents based in every colline; (iii) the Office Burundais de la Protection de l’Environnement (OBPE), in charge of Environmental Monitoring, National Parks, Protected Areas and Climate funds management; and (iv) the Direction Générale de l’Aménagement, de l’Irrigation et de la Protection du Patrimoine Foncier (DGPATI, in charge of rural land administration).

Furthermore, the Prime Minister’s Office is home to the Secretariat Permanent de la Commission Foncière Nationale (SP/CFN), the national land commission; the Interior Ministry is hosting the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction; the Justice Ministry is overseeing the Direction Nationale des Titres Fonciers, national directorate of land titles, while the Ministry of Finance is overseeing the national Directorate of Planning. Several other line ministries across climate-sensitive development sectors, include the Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Infrastructure and Equipment, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of National Solidarity.

Summary of the current World Bank Portfolio of Cross-Sector Investments in Burundi & Other Development Partners’ interventions related to Climate Resilience and Land Certification in Burundi is presented in the table below.

Current World Bank Portfolio of Cross-Sector Investments in Burundi & Other Development Partners’ interventions related to Climate Resilience and Land Certification in Burundi

| Sector | World Bank Project Name | Area Covered | Synergies with the proposed project |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Social Protection, Jobs and Inclusion | <p>Cash for Jobs Project (P175327, USD \$150M)</p> <p><i>Approval:</i> December 14, 2021</p> <p><i>Closing:</i> December 31, 2026</p> <p><i>PDO:</i> Strengthen management capacity, scale up safety net programs, and promote productive inclusion and access to jobs.</p> <p>Burundi Integrated Community Development Project (P169315, USD \$ 60 M)</p> | All collines of the country except the 247 collines covered by the Pilot project | <p>Building on Merakabandi I successes in 4 provinces, new project scales cash-for-work nation-wide to all collines in first 4 provinces, 6 additional provinces and 3 final provinces from Feb 2024. Provision of bi-monthly cash transfers (\$18/beneficiary every other month for 24months), targeting the poorest colline households. Beneficiaries also provided with accompanying measures for 12 more months providing productive inclusion and livelihood support to escape extreme poverty. Targeting 140,000 direct beneficiaries (household heads), or 1 million indirect beneficiaries (assuming 5 household members touched).</p> <p><u>Synergies with BCRRP:</u></p> <p>Led by MERAKABANDI II (\$150 M)</p> |

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| | <p><i>Approval:</i> February 28, 2020</p> <p><i>Closing:</i> March 1, 2026</p> <p><i>PDO:</i> The Project Development Objective is to improve nutrition, access to basic services and economic opportunities in the targeted areas.</p> <p>Local Development for Jobs Project (P155060, USD \$51M)</p> <p><i>Approval:</i> August 22, 2017</p> <p><i>Closing:</i> June 30, 2023</p> <p><i>PDO:</i> The project development objective is to create income generating opportunities for individuals and businesses and improve access to basic infrastructure in selected regions, targeting vulnerable populations and MSMEs in selected value chains.</p> | <p>Geographic co-location: Ensure cash transfers MERABANKI II are also delivered in BCCRP target collines;</p> <p>Support for climate-resilient productive inclusion at \$200/beneficiary (inclusion of climate modules in training & technical assistance for entrepreneurship for alternative revenue-generating activities chosen by individual beneficiaries, with support of NGOs), BCCRP ensuring that beneficiary-selected activities are climate-resilient and inputs to Operations Manual on climate-resilient criteria.</p> <p>Support to response to climate-related shocks under COVID-19 support envelope.</p> <p>Coordination through the SEP/CNPS: Secretariat Exécutif de la Commission Nationale de Protection Sociale – interministerial platform, underpinned by national strategy on social protection (already approved), including establishment of climate-responsive social protection systems, national guidelines for cash-for-work and establishment of a unique national social registry.</p> <p>Joint client engagement and advocacy for climate resilience components integration into social protection programs.</p> <p>Led by BCCRP (\$100 M)</p> <p>Cash-for-work under BCCRP can touch other vulnerable populations (i.e. on waitlist under social registry) non benefitting from cash transfers, with community validation building on MERABANDI II social vulnerability registry.</p> <p>Building on Merakabandi II Digital payments to promote financial/digital inclusion: buy cell phones for BCCRP cash-for-work beneficiaries (%3.75 transaction cost), build on lessons from MERAKANDI on bank digital payments and expand operator digital payment system to BCCRP targeted cash for work beneficiaries, building on Merakabandi lessons on sustainability of project activities while avoid overlaps (avoid payment bunching during same target periods);</p> <p>Climate-responsive social protection strategy, a key component of Burundi’s Climate Act and under inter-ministerial climate coordination platform.</p> <p>Portfolio-level engagement (Turikumwe, Merakabandi II, BCCRP, mamans lumiere, land certification committees): ensuring same colline entry points and capacity strengthening of existing local committees (with adequate remuneration), for portfolio-wide engagement outlining clear add-value</p> |
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| | | | of each project and synergies across them for integrated local development (i.e. through the PCDCs). |
| Governance and Digital Development | <p>Burundi Digital Foundations Project (P176396; USD \$54 M)</p> <p><i>Approval:</i> June 22; 2022</p> <p><i>Closing:</i> August 30; 2027</p> <p><i>PDO:</i> To increase broadband internet access, especially to underserved communities, and improve government's capacity to deliver public services digitally.</p> | | <p>Investment Guide > Risk Management Components</p> <p>PIMA (Green PIM)—climate-sensitive public investment system</p> <p>Support to feasibility studies > climate risk identification and management</p> <p>Technical assistance and capacity building in integral climate risk management</p> <p>Update Burundi Emerging Country Plan 2030 and Burundi Developed Country Plan 2060 > integration of NDC/NAP</p> |
| Health | <p>Health System Support Project (KIRA) (P156012; USD \$108M)</p> <p><i>Approval:</i> February 24; 2017</p> <p><i>Closing:</i> Jun 30; 2023</p> <p><i>PDO:</i> To increase the use of quality Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Child and Adolescent Health services, and, in the event of an Eligible Crisis or Emergency, to provide immediate and effective response to said Eligible Crisis or Emergency</p> <p>Burundi COVID19 Preparedness and Response Project (P173845; USD \$65 M)</p> <p><i>Approval:</i> April;10 2020</p> <p><i>Closing:</i> September;30 2024</p> <p><i>PDO:</i> To prevent, detect and respond to the threat posed by COVID-19 and strengthen national systems for public health preparedness in Burundi.</p> <p>Investing in Early Years and Fertility in Burundi (NKURIZA) (P165253; USD \$30 M)</p> | All collines of the country | <p>Micronutrient powder distribution to prevent malnutrition in climate worst affected provinces.</p> <p>Support for cholera outbreak management</p> <p>Promotion of the dietary change by using local products in areas where food insecurity is most an issue.</p> <p>Strengthen health systems to address all health issues especially diseases more linked to climate change (malaria, diarrhoea, respiratory diseases...) and to</p> <p>Enhance preparedness of the country to respond epidemics/pandemics.</p> <p>Promotion of FP, especially by using auto-injectable contraceptive (SAYANA PRESS) in provinces with high density of population that put pressure on natural resources and accentuate the risks of climate deterioration.</p> <p>Biomedical waste management and destruction by building incinerators and training health</p> |

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| | <p><i>Approval:</i> September;5 2019</p> <p><i>Closing:</i> June;30-2024</p> <p><i>PDO:</i> Increase the coverage of community-based nutrition interventions among women of reproductive age and children under two and to increase utilization of family planning services in targeted area</p> | | |
| Education | <p>Burundi skills for jobs: youth and Women Project (P164416; USD \$ 82 M)</p> <p><i>Approval:</i> December 10; 2021</p> <p><i>Closing:</i> October 30; 2026</p> <p><i>PDO:</i> The project development objective (PDO) is to improve access and market relevance of supported skills development training and entrepreneurship opportunities for youth, particularly for women and refugees</p> <p>Burundi Early Grade Learning Project (P161600; USD \$42 M)</p> <p><i>Approval:</i> September 28; 2018</p> <p><i>Closing:</i> September 15; 2023</p> <p><i>PDO:</i> The objective of the Project is to improve student learning and progression in early grades in Burundi and, in the event of an Eligible Crisis or</p> <p>Emergency, to provide immediate and effective response to said Eligible Crisis or Emergency.</p> | All collines of the country | <p>Strengthen and develop climate change content in university modules.</p> <p>Investing in online learning is a climate change adaptation activity because the installed capacity to deliver content through this format can be used also in the case of climate change-induced emergencies that make attendance physically impossible. The learning format will be designed to ensure continuity during climate related crises or events</p> <p>Support the Environment Department in developing modules on social and environmental safeguards in the academic field</p> <p>Ambitious CCB target for the new human capital project in the pipeline, which will include a large component on school construction.</p> |
| Environment | <p>Burundi Landscape Restoration and Resilience Project (P160613; USD \$30M) &</p> | <p>BUJUMBURA RURAL</p> <p>KAYANZA</p> | <p>Scaling up of the parent project's successes in landscape restoration, community climate resilience and land certification to wider set of <i>collines</i> nation-wide.</p> |

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| | <p><i>Approval:</i> April 11; 2018</p> <p><i>Closing:</i> March 31; 2024</p> <p><i>PDO:</i> The Project Development Objective is to restore land productivity in targeted degraded landscapes and, in the event of an eligible crisis or emergency, to provide immediate and effective response to said eligible crisis or emergency.</p> <p>GEF additional financing (P 171745; USD \$6M)</p> <p><i>Approval:</i> May 13; 2021</p> <p><i>Closing:</i> March 31; 2024</p> | <p>MUYINGA</p> <p>KIBIRA& RUVUBU national park.</p> | |
| Agriculture | <p>Great Lakes Regional Integrated Agriculture Development Project (P161781; \$75 million)</p> <p><i>Approval:</i> November 15, 2017</p> <p><i>Closing:</i> November 29, 2024</p> <p><i>PDO:</i> i) to increase agricultural productivity and commercialization in targeted areas in the territory of the recipient and improve agricultural regional integration; and (ii) to provide immediate and effective response in the event of an eligible crisis or emergency.</p> | <p>CIBITOKÉ</p> <p>BUBANZA</p> <p>BUJUMBURA</p> <p>RUMONGE</p> <p>MAKAMBA</p> <p>CIBITOKÉ</p> <p>BUJUMBURA</p> <p>RUMONGE</p> | <p>Strengthen GoB's capacity to organize a donor meeting—mobilize more funds for climate smart agriculture (drought resistant crop varieties, improved agricultural value chain, etc.)</p> <p>Promote integrated watershed management for flood, drought, and landslide risk reduction.</p> <p>Engage GoB to help prepare new WB framed project (possibly using exciting OPS/and request PPA)</p> |
| Disaster Risk Management | <p>Burundi Urban Resilience Project (P177146),</p> <p><i>under preparation</i></p> | | <p>Through the CWES fund: diagnose and develop an investment plan for emergency preparedness and response, Identify how to improve the early warning system and hydrometeorological services. Use of cell phones distributed under the cash-for-work program for the local community's early warning system</p> |
| Transport | <p>Burundi Transport Resilience Project (P172988, US \$ 120M)</p> <p><i>Approval:</i> September 30; 2022</p> <p><i>Closing:</i> December 31;2027</p> | <p>ROAD RN3.</p> <p>Bujumbura-Rumonge</p> | <p>Establishment a Climate Resilient Transportation System for the RN3 segment as well as social infrastructure using NBS to protect riverine communities from increasing climate (flood) risks</p> |

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| | <p><i>Approval:</i> December 2; 2022</p> <p><i>Closing:</i> June 30; 2028</p> <p><i>PDO:</i> The development objective of the project is to facilitate trade and enhance the commercialization of selected value chains primarily targeting small scale and women traders in the borderlands of the Great Lakes Region.</p> | | <p>agriculture to build their technical capacity to access FIGA grant.</p> <p>Improve the local community's ability to access sustainable green energy by developing a market-driven value chain.</p> |
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Core Indicators

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

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). false | | |
| 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 false | | |
| This Project covers the following sector(s)[the total should be 100%]: * | | |
| Agriculture | 10.00% | |
| Nature-based management | 40.00% | |
| Climate information services | 25.00% | |
| Coastal zone management | 0.00% | |
| Water resources management | 0.00% | |
| Disaster risk management | 25.00% | |
| Other infrastructure | 0.00% | |
| Tourism | 0.00% | |
| Health | 0.00% | |
| Other (Please specify comments) | 0.00% | |

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|---|---|---|---------------------------------|
| 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 | 250,000 | 125,000.00 | 125,000.00 | 50.00% |
| CORE INDICATOR 2 (a) Area of land managed for climate resilience (ha) (b) Coastal and marine area managed for climate resilience (ha) | 203,000.00 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 | 19,097 | 7,639.00 | 11,458.00 | 60.00% |
| CORE INDICATOR 5 Number of private sector enterprises engaged in climate change adaptation and resilience action | 1.00 | | | |

SUB INDICATOR 1

| | Total | Male | Female |
|--|-------|------|--------|
| 1.1 Number of direct beneficiaries from more resilient physical and natural assets | 0 | | |
| 1.2 Number of direct beneficiaries with diversified and strengthened livelihoods and sources of income | 0 | | |
| 1.3 Number of direct beneficiaries from the new or improved climate information services including early warning systems | 0 | | |
| 1.4 Number of youth (15 to 24 years of age) benefiting from the project | 0 | | |
| 1.5 Number of elderly (over 60 years of age) benefiting from the project | 0 | | |
| 1.6 Increased income, or avoided decrease in income (per capita in \$ across all relevant beneficiaries) | | | |

SUB-INDICATOR 2

- 2.1 Hectares of agricultural land
- 2.2 Hectares of urban landscape
- 2.3 Hectares of rural landscape
- 2.4 Hectares of forests
- 2.5 Hectares of marine area
- 2.6 Hectares of freshwater area
- 2.7 Number of residential houses
- 2.8 Number of public buildings
- 2.9 Number of irrigation or water structures
- 2.10 Number of fishery or aquaculture ponds or cages
- 2.11 Number of ports or landing sites
- 2.12 Km of road
- 2.13 Km of riverbank
- 2.14 Km of coast
- 2.15 Km of stormwater drainage
- 2.16 Number of new adaptation technologies supported

SUB INDICATOR 3

- 3.1 Number of policies/plans developed and strengthened that will mainstream climate resilience
- 3.2 Number of systems and frameworks established for continuous monitoring, reporting and review of climate adaptation impacts
- 3.3 Number of national climate policies and plans enabled, including national adaptation planning processes
- 3.4 Number of institutional partnerships or coordination mechanisms established or strengthened
- 3.5 Number of institutions with increased capacity to plan, implement, monitor, and report for climate adaptation
- 3.6 Number of institutions with increased capacity to attract, and manage climate adaptation finance
- 3.7 Number of local community organizations benefitting from and/or engaged in institution strengthening, partnerships, or financing
- 3.8. Number of climate risk and vulnerability assessments conducted

SUB INDICATOR 4

| 4.1 Number of people trained or made aware of climate change impacts and appropriate adaptation responses | Total | Male | Female |
|---|-------|------|--------|
| a) National government | 0 | | |
| b) Local government | 0 | | |
| c) Local community organizations | 0 | | |
| d) Extension services | 0 | | |

| | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| e) Hydromet and disaster risk management agencies | 0 | | |
| f) School children, university students, and teachers | 0 | | |
| g) Youth | 0 | | |

SUB INDICATOR 5

| | Total | Male | Female |
|---|-------|------|--------|
| 5.1 Amount of investment mobilized (US\$) from private sector sources | | | |
| 5.2 Number of entrepreneurs supported for climate adaptation or resilience | 0 | | |
| 5.3 Total financial value of lines of credit and/or investment funds | | | |
| 5.4 Number of MSMEs incubated/accelerated with technical assistance, financial matchmaking, and/or direct financing | | | |

Key Risks

| | Rating | Explanation of risk and mitigation measures |
|---------|-------------|--|
| CONTEXT | | |
| Climate | Substantial | Climate risks are rated Substantial. Burundi is highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, with floods, droughts, landslides, increased rainfall variability and extreme heat presenting the greatest threats to people, livelihoods, and the economy. The project beneficiaries are particularly vulnerable to climate-related impacts due to the heavy reliance on rainfed agriculture and climate-exacerbated land degradation. The climate risks are rated as substantial as there is a risk that project-financed investments may be overwhelmed by intensifying climate-related disasters and that the livelihoods of target communities strengthened by the operation will be set back by climate-related shocks and their enhanced resilience will be eroded. The operation itself is aiming to address these risks through climate-informed integrated landscape management, institutional strengthening to enable stronger climate governance, and investment in climate-resilient livelihoods, including climate-smart agriculture and livelihood diversification. Each of these investments aims to build resilience to the impacts of climate |

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|---|
| | | change and therefore, reduce the risk of further degradation and erosion of resilience. |
| Environmental and Social | Substantial | <p>The E&S risks are rated Substantial. In addition to the risks identified under the project activities and addressed in the ESA instruments, other risks could arise from the capacity of recipients, which include the PIU, contractors, communities to manage the risks and impacts of project activities in line with ESS objectives. To mitigate potential E&S risks and impacts, the client has adopted a framework approach (ESMF, RFP, IPPF, etc.) and several training courses will be provided to project beneficiaries to build their capacity in E&S risk management. 2. The project is expected to have positive environmental and social impacts restoring and sustainably managing the watersheds and investing in climate-resilient livelihoods. Negative risks and impacts may include: (i) exclusion of key vulnerable populations, including women and girls from benefits of the project; (ii) risks to community and occupational health and safety; (iii) contribute to or exacerbate GBV/SEA/SH on women and girls including other vulnerable groups; (iv) child labor and/or forced labor as a result of the community works or through suppliers of solar equipment; (v) road safety risks ; (vi) cumulative water pollution, hazardous waste from consumable accessories for livestock vaccines; (vii) temporary local disturbances to biodiversity, habitats, and living natural resources; (viii) involuntary physical and economic resettlement or restriction on access to resources; and (ix) temporary construction-related air or water pollution, waste generation and wastewater. In addition, other risks could arise from the low capacity of the Client, including implementation actors, which include the PIU, contractors, and the communities to manage the risks and impacts of project activities in line with ESS objectives. To mitigate potential E&S risks and impacts, the Borrower has prepared the following environmental and social assessments and instruments: Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF); Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF); Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF), Process Framework, Labor Management Procedures, Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) and Environment and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP). These ESAs will be disclosed in the country and on the World Bank website prior to completing appraisal (ESMF, RPF) and by appraisal (ESCP and SEP) . During project implementation, several trainings will be provided to project beneficiaries to build their capacity in E&S risk management, as well as recruitments of key E&S staff. Annex 1 of the PAD provides additional E&S risk management information.</p> |
| Political and Governance | Substantial | <p>Political and governance risks are rated Substantial. Despite its fragile institutions, Burundi witnessed peaceful elections and a peaceful transition of power in 2020. The project lies at the heart of the PND 2018–27, which calls for protecting the environment, adapting to climate change, improving land use planning, and for transformation that creates</p> |

| | | |
|------------------------------|-------------|---|
| | | decent jobs for all. A continued strong collaborative partnership with the Ministry of Finance and the presidency will be essential to ensure the project's sustainability. Internal and periodic third-party monitoring will be crucial risk mitigation strategies to ensure effective project implementation. The project also proposes close engagement with private sector beneficiaries, communities, and civil society |
| INNOVATION | | |
| Institutional and Policy | | N/A |
| Technological | | N/A |
| Financial and Business Model | | N/A |
| EXECUTION | | |
| Capacity | Substantial | Institutional capacity for implementation and sustainability is rated Substantial. Implementation arrangements represent a substantial risk to the achievement of the PDO, due to the time, cross-sectoral coordination, specialized skills, and some technical and procurement challenges involved in the watersheds planning and management. Delays may occur because of prolonged time required for cross-sectoral coordination of planning and implementation, unspecified clearance process and arrangements. These risks are mitigated through clarified and adopted PIM that specified responsibilities and timelines for the activities' cycle of preparation and planning, internal and WB clearances, implementation, M&E and reporting. Risks related to activities' implementation in the targeted communities would be facilitated and mitigated through the established Sub-Watershed and Commune / Colline Development Committees. |
| Fiduciary | Substantial | Fiduciary risks are rated Substantial. Given the inherent fiduciary risk at the country level, the number of players involved in project activities, including communities, the implementation will face transparency challenges that in turn cause risks in financial management and procurement. The proposed risk mitigation measures focus on the training and quality of personnel, prioritization and streamlining of funds flow to go directly to beneficiaries, and application of best procurement, internal control, audit, and third-party monitoring practices, specified responsibilities and timelines for preparation and conducting the procurement activities. The project procurement risk before the mitigation measures is High. The risk will be reduced to a residual rating of Substantial upon considering successful implementation of mitigation measures outlined in the FM Annex |
| Stakeholder | Substantial | The project is expected to have positive social impacts, as it will support investments in sustainable watershed management and planning, community-based tourism, climate-resilient livelihoods support, |

technical assistance for communities' engagement through a multi-stakeholder planning process. A bulk of these activities will be designed and managed primarily by communities, farmers, and resource user groups. Climate-resilient investment packages will have positive social impacts for target vulnerable communities and income diversification. Issues of social inclusion are challenging, and the key project interventions will require extended consultation between local communities, government bodies and other project actors. The project could also have adverse social impacts, including: (i) exclusion of key vulnerable populations from benefits of the project and potential conflicts in beneficiary selection and/or support to women taking part in land certification process, (ii) physical and economic reinstatement due to land acquisitions, (iii) GBV/SEA/SH on vulnerable groups including women and girls, potential negative impacts related to exclusion on IP/SSAHUTLC rights and livelihoods, (iv) risks related to child and forced labor in the watersheds management and including access to land and natural resources, and (v) conflicts that may arise between agricultural development and conservation needs. The project will finance small public infrastructures, including protected areas, roads, agroforestry, and small irrigation construction works, which may cause minor economic and resettlement impacts, as well as restrictions on land use and access to natural resources that cause a community or groups within a community to lose access to resource usage, including legally designated protected areas, forests, or biodiversity areas to be restored in connection with the project. To mitigate potential stakeholder risks and impacts, the Borrower has prepared a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP). During project implementation, several trainings will be provided to project beneficiaries to build their capacity in E&S risk management, as well as recruitments of key E&S staff. The PCU will have with three provincial Branches: the first Branch comprising the provinces of Kirundo and Muyinga, with headquarter in Muyinga; the second Branch comprising the provinces of Kayanza, Bujumbura and Cibitoke, with headquarter in Isare; and the third Branch comprising the provinces of Gitega, Bururi and Rumonge, with headquarter in Gitega. The PCU will coordinate and manage the day-to-day operations of the three interprovincial Branches. Each Branch will be led by a branch coordinator and staffed by up to four technical and community specialists, financed by the project's operational costs. The interprovincial Branches' main tasks will be to ensure (i) engagement of the beneficiaries and supervision of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan's (SEP) implementation, (ii) operational planning and preparation of the project activities and their bidding documentation, and (iii) supervision of the project activities implemented by service providers and communities, and (iv) M&E and reporting functions as guided by the PIU.

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------|-----|
| Other | | N/A |
| Overall Risk Rating | Substantial | |

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

Explain 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.

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

Confirm if any country policies that might contradict with intended outcomes of the project have been identified, and how the project will address this. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

The proposed project is consistent with the World Bank Group (WBG) Burundi Country Partnership Framework (CPF) (FY19-FY23), and the WBG Strategy for Africa to create sustainable and inclusive growth, strengthen human capital, and build resilience to fragility and climate change. The project is also aligned with the objectives and priorities of the Least Development Countries Fund (LDCF) of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), as per the Programming Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change for the period 2022 to 2026. The project furthermore supports the achievement of the World Bank’s goal of ending extreme poverty on a livable planet and is in line with the Evolution Roadmap. The project is aligned with the World Bank’s sectoral, regional, country, and gender strategies and will directly contribute to:

- **The current Country Partnership Framework (CPF FY19-FY23)**, particularly to **Focus Area I**, in its objective to expand social protection and economic inclusion for the poor, women, and other vulnerable groups, and to **Focus Area II**, in its objective to build sustainable food systems for nutrition and jobs.
- **The Systematic Country Diagnostic of the Republic of Burundi 2018**, addressing the country’s core constraints identified by the diagnostic – the institutional fragility, the demographic challenge, environmental degradation, and climate change. The project, among other issues, will address improve the resilience of households and individuals, and the landscapes through interventions that mitigate the impact of poverty and risks, increase household productivity, and improve community and productive infrastructure.
 - The **World Bank’s Africa Regional Strategy**^[1] that identifies economic transformation as a mechanism for creating sustainable and inclusive growth in the region.
 - **The WBG’S Climate Change Action Plan 2021-25**, which aims to advance low-carbon and climate-resilient development planning across all World Bank client countries **as well as the Africa Climate Business Plan**; this project is in direct contribution to the attainment of this goal in Burundi through its focus on institutional capacity support for climate-resilient development planning and direct investments in local climate resilience.

- **The WBG’s current *Gender Strategy*** (FY16 - FY23) objectives and the new Concept of the Gender Strategy 2024-30 focusing on: (i) building and protecting human capital; (ii) creating more and better jobs; (iii) expanding ownership, control, and management of assets; and (iv) enhancing women’s leadership, voice, and agency.
- **The Jobs and Economic Transformation (JET)** agenda via job creation and income diversification in rural Burundi.

In addition, the design of this operation is informed by Burundi’s Country Economic Memorandum (CEM) and Country Private Sector Diagnostic (CPSD), which identify structural reforms to drivers of private sector growth (state-owned enterprises, foreign direct investments, and small and medium enterprises) and sectoral reforms in several agribusiness value chains, especially cash crops (coffee, tea, cotton, and palm oil), horticulture, cereals, sugar cane, and animal proteins. It thus supports the International Finance Corporation (IFC)’s re-engagement in Burundi in the areas of food security, market-based approaches in agribusiness, land management improvement, responsible use of natural resources and technology, and strengthening property rights. The project’s design builds on lessons from the BLRRP (P160613) and strongly aligns with the World Bank Climate Change Adaptation Action Priorities (CCAP) while paving the way for operationalization of the forthcoming Burundi Country Climate Development Report (CCDR, P180994).

The Project is aligned with national strategies to address climate change. The project will help Burundi achieve its updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC, 2021)^[2] and will contribute to its climate change adaptation efforts as outlined in the National Adaptation Plan (NAP, 2023).^[3] Burundi’s NAP calls for several specific measures, including (i) increase irrigation and diversify climate-resilient, high-yield crop varieties in agriculture, (ii) reforest degraded lands and floodplain protection for ecosystems and watersheds, (iii) expand integrated watershed management and rainwater harvesting, (iv) invest in hydroelectric and solar power, biogas and improved cooking stoves in the energy area, (v) rehabilitate existing road networks, and (vi) collect environmental health data. The project is consistent with mitigation and adaptation goals of the national policies as the operation aims to enhance the enabling environment for climate resilience action, strengthen integrated watershed management, and enhance community-level climate resilience. The operation’s investments to strengthen the policy and regulatory environment to address land degradation and livelihood resilience under Component 1 will establish the foundation through which the country can then tackle key climate issues more effectively. The operation contributes directly to the NAP’s goal of reforestation/restoration of degraded lands and expanded integrated watershed management via comprehensive watershed management planning, restoration of degraded watersheds and sustainable land management, and additional investments under Component 2. The operation also directly contributes to the goal of improving irrigation and diversifying climate-resilient crop varieties by investing in climate-resilient infrastructure and practices, including disseminating climate-resilient seeds and designing and constructing micro-irrigation systems, among other investments under Component 3.

The Project is aligned with the GoB’s National Development Plan (NDP) and Vision 2040-2060^[4]. The project aligns with the NDP priority of tackling land degradation and climate disaster risks. The project will directly support Strategic Direction 3 “Protecting the Environment, Adapting to Climate Change and Improving Land Use Planning”, which is one of the three Strategic Directions of Challenge 1: Sustained and

inclusive growth for economic resilience and sustainable development of the PND^[5]. GoB aims at promoting climate-resilient development through “structural, sectoral and institutional reforms that the Government will undertake over the 2018-2027 decade in terms of environmental protection, water security, adaptation to climate change and the improvement of land use planning.” The project’s focus on the empowerment of women including through land tenure will also contribute to Burundi’s National Gender Policy.

The project is well aligned with the GEF-8 programming strategies for LDCF/SCCF. Through focusing on creating an enabling environment for climate resilience, the project will improve policy, regulations, administrative procedures, and institutional capacity. The project will contribute to the implementation of the GEF Programming Strategic on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF 2022-2026 priority area 1: Scaling Up Finance & Priority Area 3: Fostering Partnership for Inclusion and Whole-of-Society Approach 1. Reduce Vulnerability and Increase Resilience through Innovation and Technology Transfer for Climate Change Adaptation and Objective 2. Mainstream Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience for Systemic Impact of the GEF Programming Strategic on Adaptation to Climate Change for the LDCF 2018-2022. In alignment with Objective 1 the project will support a whole-of-society climate and land governance approach and cross-sector collaboration among key stakeholders. This will be achieved through country-level technical assistance and capacity building, and a focus on creating an enabling environment for climate resilience through improved policy. The project will additionally contribute to the priority area 1 on enhancing Nature-based solutions. (NBS), by contributing to sustainable land management at the watershed level through NBS, integrated and community centered approaches.

[1] World Bank Group. 2019. Supporting Africa’s Transformation: World Bank Africa Strategy for 2019–2023. Washington, DC: World Bank Group. <https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/485321579731572916-0010022020/original/AFRECStrategyTrifoldBrochure.pdf>

[2] Burundi Nationally Determined Contribution, 2021. Available at: <https://unfccc.int/documents/497263>

[3] Burundi National Adaptation Plan, 2023. Available at : <https://unfccc.int/documents/635430>

[4] République du Burundi (2018): Plan National de Développement 2018-2027. The PND is being updated to align it with the Vision 2040-2060.

[5] Plan National de Développement du Burundi (National Development Plan of Burundi), 2018-2027.

C. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment

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

Yes

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

Yes

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

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

Yes

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

Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services for women.

Yes

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

Yes

Stakeholder Engagement

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

Yes

Select what role civil society will play in the Project

Consulted only; **Yes**

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

Co-financier;

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

Executor or co-executor;

Other (Please explain)

Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

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

Yes

Environmental and Social Safeguards

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

Yes

Please provide overall Project/Program Risk Classification

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

| PIF | CEO Endorsement/Approval | MTR | TE |
|---------------------|--------------------------|-----|----|
| High or Substantial | High or Substantial | | |

D. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge management

We confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been developed during Project Preparation and is clearly described in the agency's Project Document.

Yes

Socio-economic Benefits

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

Yes. The project has additionally prepared an Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) which is included in the project roadmap.

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

GEF Financing Table

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

| GEF Agency | Trust Fund | Country/ Regional/ Global | Focal Area | Programming of Funds | Grant / Non-Grant | GEF Project Grant(\$) | Agency Fee(\$) | Total GEF Financing (\$) |
|---------------------------------|------------|---------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| World Bank | LDCF | Burundi | Climate Change | LDCF Country allocation | Grant | 18,348,624.00 | 1,651,376.00 | 20,000,000.00 |
| Total GEF Resources (\$) | | | | | | 18,348,624.00 | 1,651,376.00 | 20,000,000.00 |

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Was a Project Preparation Grant requested?

false

PPG Amount (\$)

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

| 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 |

Please provide Justification

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 |

Focal Area Elements

| Programming Directions | Trust Fund | GEF Project Financing(\$) | Co-financing(\$) |
|---------------------------|------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| CCA-1-1 | LDCF | 18,348,624.00 | 55,000,000.00 |
| Total Project Cost | | 18,348,624.00 | 55,000,000.00 |

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

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

| Sources of Co-financing | Name of Co-financier | Type of Co-financing | Investment Mobilized | Amount(\$) |
|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| GEF Agency | World Bank | Grant | Investment mobilized | 55,000,000.00 |
| Total Co-financing | | | | 55,000,000.00 |

Please describe the investment mobilized portion of the co-financing

The GEF financing is fully blended with the World Bank IDA Grant "Burundi Colline Climate Resilience Project (P180864)." The IDA grant to Burundi of US\$50 million will support the government of Burundi to strengthen its capacity to anticipate, monitor, and act on intensifying climate change and land degradation risks while enhancing livelihood opportunities for vulnerable people. The IDA

financing is provided through 2 sub windows as indicated in the PAD datasheet: 1) Window for Host Communities and Refugees (WHR) - US \$ 10 million; and the National Performance-Based Allocations (PBA) - US \$ 45 million

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

| GEF Agency Type | Date | Project Contact Person | Phone | Email |
|------------------------|----------|------------------------|-------|----------------------|
| GEF Agency Coordinator | 6/4/2024 | Arame Tall | | atall2@worldbank.org |

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

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

| Name of GEF OFP | Position | Ministry | Date (MM/DD/YYYY) |
|-----------------|----------|----------|-------------------|
| | | | |

ANNEX C: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Please indicate the page number in the Project Document where the project results and M&E frameworks can be found. Please also paste below the Project Results Framework from the Agency document.

VII. RESULTS FRAMEWORK AND MONITORING

PDO Indicators by PDO Outcomes

| Baseline | Closing Period |
|--|----------------|
| Scaled-up integrated landscape management | |
| Land productivity in targeted degraded landscapes (Percentage) | |
| Jun/2024 | Jun/2030 |
| 20 | 30 |
| Millions of hectares of terrestrial areas under enhanced conservation and management (Hectare(Ha)) | |
| Jun/2024 | Jun/2030 |
| 14700 | 43070 |
| Enhanced livelihood resilience of fragile communities | |
| Millions of people with enhanced resilience to climate-risks (number, disaggregated by gender, most vulnerable subgroups) (Projects with over 20% of climate co-benefits are expected to report on this) (Number of people) | |
| Jun/2024 | Jun/2030 |
| 361827 | 980852 |

Intermediate Indicators by Components

| Baseline | Closing Period |
|--|----------------|
| Enabling environment for climate resilience | |

| | |
|---|----------|
| New or revised climate resilience related policies adopted (Number) | |
| Jun/2024 | Jun/2030 |
| 0 | 3 |
| Public institutions for climate resilience enhanced according to adopted capacity building plans (Number) | |
| Jun/2024 | Jun/2030 |
| 3 | 10 |
| Sustainable landscape management | |
| Integrated Watershed Management Plans prepared (Number) | |
| Jun/2024 | Jun/2030 |
| 0 | 71 |
| Sub-watersheds restored according to integrated watershed management plans (Number) | |
| Jun/2024 | Jun/2030 |
| 36 | 107 |
| Community livelihood resilience | |
| Colline Climate Change Action Plans prepared (Number) | |
| Jun/2024 | Jun/2030 |
| 0 | 65 |
| Beneficiaries of Colline climate-resilient livelihood support program (Number, cumulative) (Number) | |
| Jun/2024 | Jun/2030 |
| 41749 | 197379 |
| Land certificates issued (number, cumulative, disaggregated by gender) (Number) | |
| Jun/2024 | Jun/2030 |
| 103525 | 298525 |
| > Land certificates delivered, of which bear the woman's name (Percentage) | |
| Jun/2024 | Jun/2030 |
| 76 | 75 |
| Million of displaced people and people in host communities provided with services and livelihoods (Number of people) | |
| Jun/2024 | Jun/2030 |
| 0 | 48309 |
| Millions of new or better jobs (Number) | |
| Jun/2024 | Jun/2030 |
| 21562 | 74503 |
| Share of project of beneficiaries with rating 'Satisfied' or above on project interventions (Percentage) | |
| Jun/2024 | Jun/2030 |
| 91 | 95 |
| Project Implementation Support | |
| CERC | |

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

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

| Project Preparation Activities Implemented | GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$) | | |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| | Budgeted Amount | Amount Spent To date | Amount Committed |
| Total | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

ANNEX E: PROJECT MAP AND COORDINATES

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

| Location Name | Latitude | Longitude | GeoName ID |
|----------------------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Gitohera, Murwi, Cibitoke, | -2.90965 | 29.1785 | |

Location Description:

Activity Description:

| Location Name | Latitude | Longitude | GeoName ID |
|---------------------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Mugongo, Busoni, Kirundo, | -2.45587 | 30.29617 | |

Location Description:

Activity Description:

| Location Name | Latitude | Longitude | GeoName ID |
|-------------------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Buzigo, Gitobe, Kirundo | -2.62618 | 30.21768 | |

Location Description:

Activity Description:

| Location Name | Latitude | Longitude | GeoName ID |
|--------------------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Kinyovu, Muruta, Kayanza | -3.02383 | 29.52434 | |

Location Description:

Activity Description:

| Location Name | Latitude | Longitude | GeoName ID |
|-----------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Murago, Bururi, | -3.92331 | 29.61951 | |

Location Description:

Activity Description:

| Location Name | Latitude | Longitude | GeoName ID |
|-------------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Mwumba, Muramvya, | -3.39226 | 29.55736 | |

Location Description:

Activity Description:

| Location Name | Latitude | Longitude | GeoName ID |
|--------------------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Bugendana, Gitega, | -3.26123 | 29.95006 | |

Location Description:

Activity Description:

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

Please see maps attached below:

Component 2. 31 Worst Degraded Sub-watersheds covering 112 High-Risk Collines

INFORM (112 collines)

 Lowest

 Low


 Moderate

 High

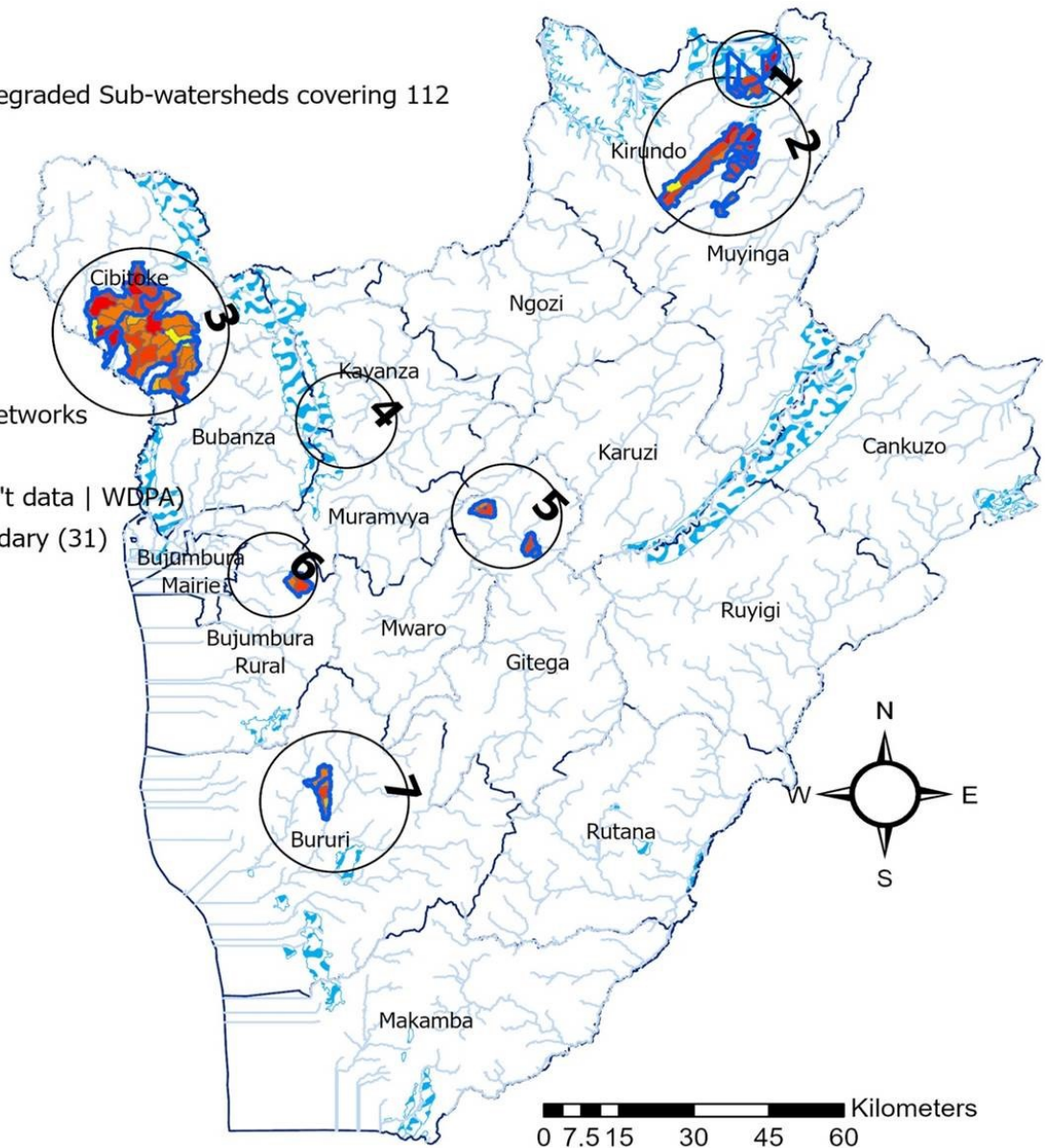
 Highest

 Rivers and Stream Networks

 Project Zones

 Protected Areas (gov't data | WDPA)

 Sub-watershed Boundary (31)



ANNEX F: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS DOCUMENTS INCLUDING RATING

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

Title

Appraisal Environmental and Social Review Summary (ESRS)

ANNEX G: BUDGET TABLE

Please upload the budget table here.

Project Budget

| Expenditure Category | Detailed Description | Component (USDeq.) | | | | | | Total (USDeq.) | Responsible Entity (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency)[1] |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|------------|--|----------------|--|
| | | Component 1: Enabling environment for climate resilience | | Component 2: Sustainable watershed management | | Sub-Total | M&E + Communication and knowledge management | | |
| | | Subcomponent 1.1: Policy and regulatory framework | Subcomponent 1.2: Institutional and communities' capacity strengthening | Subcomponent 2.1: Watershed management planning | Subcomponent 2.2: Restoration and sustainable watershed management | | | | |
| Goods & Services | Support NBS interventions in 30 target sub-watersheds : 12709,8623 Ha | | - | | 12,074,369 | 12,074,369 | | 12,074,369 | Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock of Burundi |
| Contractual Services – Individual/ Company; International /Local Consultants | Review of existing policy, plans, legal frameworks for enhanced climate resilience, both at the national and local level [policies, guidelines, regulations, plans, programs | 71,985 | | - | - | 71,985 | | 71,985 | Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock of Burundi |
| | Technical assistance to relevant institutions to mainstream NBS into policy and institutions for systemic uptake in national and community adaptation, mitigation and | 43,570 | 1,309,216 | | | 1,352,787 | | 1,352,787 | Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock of Burundi |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|-----------|--|-----------|---------|---------|-----------|---|
| | management of climate change impacts and sustainable land management. | | | | | | | | | |
| | Facilitating organization/s service provider for work with communities | | | 1,500,000 | | 1,500,000 | | | 1,500,000 | Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock of Burundi |
| | Feasibility studies to support NBS interventions in sub-watersheds | | - | | | - | | | - | Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock of Burundi |
| | Supervision of activities for the implementation of NBS execution plans | | | 862,626 | | 862,626 | | | 862,626 | Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock of Burundi |
| | Technical assistance to support the set up of sub-watershed management committees | | - | 250,000 | | 250,000 | | | 250,000 | Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock of Burundi |
| Salary and benefits / Staff costs | Project Manager, Project technical specialists including: Land restoration specialist, communication and knowledge management specialist, Monitoring and evaluation specialist | | - | - | | - | | 640,256 | 640,256 | Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock of Burundi |
| Monitoring & Evaluation + communication and Knowledge management | Project M&E : Developpement a robust monitoring and evaluation | | | | | | 495,000 | | 495,000 | Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--------|---------|---|---|---------|---------|--|---------|---|
| | system, including the establishment of a baseline, data collection tools and mid-term and final evaluations | | | | | | | | | k of Burundi |
| | Communication : communication within and outside the project, implementation of a communication strategy | | - | - | - | - | 165,000 | | 165,000 | Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock of Burundi |
| | Knowledge management : knowledge products and tools | | | | | | 40,000 | | 40,000 | Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock of Burundi |
| Trainings, Workshops, Meetings | Technical assistance and capacity building workshops, including knowledge products and tools, awareness campaigns (for public and private sector agencies/entities, communities and NGOs/civil society). Capacity building through the National University (University of Burundi) by setting up a center of excellency on climate change and environmental management and organizing training of a critical mass of new E&S | 29,002 | 867,600 | - | - | 896,602 | | | 896,602 | Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock of Burundi |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|--|---------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|---------|---------|------------|---|
| | specialists to conduct E&S studies across development-partner financed projects. | | | | | | | | | |
| Travel | International and Domestic travel and transportation (air, terrestrial, and fluvial), as needed, directly related to the major activities. | | - | - | | - | | | - | Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock of Burundi |
| Other Operating Costs | Operating costs associated with project operation on a day-to-day basis related to technical and M&E activities and administrative management, among others. | | - | - | | - | | | - | Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock of Burundi |
| Grand Total | | 144,557 | 2,176,816 | 2,612,626 | 12,074,369 | 17,008,368 | 700,000 | 640,256 | 18,348,624 | |

Please explain any aspects of the budget as needed here

| Expenditure Category | Detailed Description | Component (USDeq.) | | | | | Total (USDeq.) | Responsible Entity |
|----------------------|----------------------|--|---|-----------|--|------|----------------|--|
| | | Component 1: Enabling environment for climate resilience | Component 2: Sustainable watershed management | Sub-Total | M&E + Communication and knowledge management | PMC* | | |
| | | | | | | | | (Executing Entity receiving funds from the GEF Agency) [1] |

| | | <i>Subcomponent 1.1: Policy and regulatory framework</i> | <i>Subcomponent 1.2: Institutional and communities' capacity strengthening</i> | <i>Subcomponent 2.1: Watershed management planning</i> | <i>Subcomponent 2.2: Restoration and sustainable watershed management</i> | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|--|---|----------------|--|-----------|---|---|
| Goods & Services | Support NBS interventions in 30 target sub-watersheds : 12709,8623 Ha | | - | | 1 2,074,369 | 1 2,074,369 | | | 1 2,074,369 | Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock of Burundi |
| Contractual Services – Individual/Company; International/Local Consultants | Review of existing policy, plans, legal frameworks for enhanced climate resilience, both at the national and local level [policies, guidelines, regulations, plans, programs | 71,985 | - | - | 71,985 | | | 71,985 | Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock of Burundi | |
| | Technical assistance to relevant institutions to mainstream NBS into policy and institutions for systemic uptake in national and community adaptation, mitigation and management of climate change impacts and sustainable land management. | 43,570 | 1,309,216 | | 1,352,787 | | | 1,352,787 | Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock of Burundi | |
| | Facilitating organization/service provider for work with communities | | | 1,500,000 | 1,500,000 | | | 1,500,000 | Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock of Burundi | |
| | Feasibility studies to support NBS interventions in sub-watersheds | | - | | - | | | - | Ministry of Environment | |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|---------|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---|
| | | | | | | | | | | nt, Agric ulture and Lives tock of Buru ndi |
| | Supervision of activities for the implementation of NBS execution plans | | | 862,626 | | 862,626 | | | 862,626 | Minis try of Envir onme nt, Agric ulture and Lives tock of Buru ndi |
| | Technical assistance to support the set up of sub-watershed management committees | | - | 250,000 | | 250,000 | | | 250,000 | Minis try of Envir onme nt, Agric ulture and Lives tock of Buru ndi |
| Salary and benefits / Staff costs | Project Manager, Project technical specialists including: Land restoration specialist, communication and knowledge management specialist, Monitoring and evaluation specialist | | - | - | | - | | 640,256 | 640,256 | Minis try of Envir onme nt, Agric ulture and Lives tock of Buru ndi |
| Monitoring & Evaluation + communication and Knowledge management | Project M&E : Developpement a robust monitoring and evaluation system, including the establishment of a baseline, data collection tools and mid-term and final evaluations | | | | | | 495,000 | | 495,000 | Minis try of Envir onme nt, Agric ulture and Lives tock of Buru ndi |
| | Communication : communication within and outside the project, implementation of a communication strategy | | - | - | | - | 165,000 | | 165,000 | Minis try of Envir onme nt, Agric ulture |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|------------|-------------|---|---|-------------|------------|--|-------------|---|
| | | | | | | | | | | and Lives tock of Buru ndi |
| | Knowledge management : knowledge products and tools | | | | | | 40,0 00 | | 40,0 00 | Minis try of Envir onme nt, Agric ulture and Lives tock of Buru ndi |
| Trainin gs, Worksh ops, Meeting s | Technical assistance and capacity building workshops, includng knowledge products and tools, awareness campaigns (for public and private sector agencies/entities, communities and NGOs/civil society). Capacity building through the National University (University of Burundi) by setting up a center of excellency on climate change and environmental management and organizing training of a critical mass of new E&S specialists to conduct E&S studies across development-partner financed projects. | 29,0 02 | 867,60 0 | - | - | 896,6 02 | | | 896,6 02 | Minis try of Envir onme nt, Agric ulture and Lives tock of Buru ndi |
| Travel | International and Domestic travel and transportation (air, terrestrial, and fluvial), as needed, directly related to the major activities. | | - | - | - | - | | | - | Minis try of Envir onme nt, Agric ulture and Lives tock of Buru ndi |
| Other Operati ng Costs | Operating costs associated with project operation on a day-to-day basis related to technical and M&E activities and administrative management, among others. | | - | - | - | - | | | - | Minis try of Envir onme nt, Agric ulture and Lives tock of |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|--|---------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|---------|---------|------------|---------|
| | | | | | | | | | | Burundi |
| Grand Total | | 144,557 | 2,176,816 | 2,612,626 | 12,074,369 | 17,008,368 | 700,000 | 640,256 | 18,348,624 | |

ANNEX I: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS

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

STAP Comments – Response Matrix

A. Matrix of Comments and Responses

| | COMMENTS | RESPONSES |
|---|---|--|
| Summary of STAP's views of the project | | |
| 1 | <p>STAP acknowledges the “Scaling up Nature-Based Solutions for Climate Resilience and Land Restoration across Burundi’s fragile colline landscapes” project. The project clearly documents a significant land degradation challenge that compromises the well-being of vulnerable, rural communities beset by conflict and fragility. However, while the technical design of the project is sound in many respects, importantly, it does not make a clear connection between land degradation and climate change. Such a connection is critical to ensure that project interventions address both current climate drivers of degradation and any future drivers that might emerge as the climate changes. The project, therefore, requires significant revision.</p> <p>STAP suggests that project designers 1) conduct an in-depth review of future climate trends in relation to land degradation and rural populations in targeted sites; 2) make clear connections between climate drivers and land degradation, and 3) consult STAP’s decision tree for adaptation rationale to ensure that selected interventions are appropriate (i.e. not maladaptive). Having a clear and compelling climate rationale will help improve project quality and durability.</p> <p>STAP has communicated its concerns about the project to the GEF Secretariat and efforts are being made to address the concerns, and this will continue as the project is developed further at the PPG</p> | <p>The team have acknowledged the constructive comment and addressed the various recommendations while developing and finalizing the project document for the Decision Review Meeting.</p> |

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| | phase. STAP is available to engage on improving the project design as needed. | |
| | 2. Project rationale, and project description - are they sound? | |
| 2 | <p>The proposed project seeks to scale up landscape management and enhance the livelihood resilience of communities threatened by intensifying climate and land degradation risks across the country. STAP finds that the PIF/PID clearly articulates the multidimensional, systemic character of the linked land degradation/climate change adaptation challenge the project seeks to address.</p> <p>The core challenge for Burundi is described as “The current lack of coordination, capacity, resources, awareness, expertise, and integrated management of land and climate risks in Burundi adversely affect the livelihoods and resilience of rural communities affected by climate change.” While the theory of change (ToC) responds to these challenges, each of the causal pathways are not clearly reflected in the diagram in terms of connecting the barriers to the proposed components. Rather, they are implicit. Furthermore, while several assumptions are included in the ToC diagram, risks to the project are not. In fact, a risk table appears to be missing from the PIF and from the PID.</p> | Thanks for the useful guidance. The team has strengthened the Theory of Change, and added one entire section on Risks, as required per PAD preparation guidelines. |
| 3 | Importantly, while there is a clear discussion of the current climate situation (i.e. the past 3-5 years) in the PID that clearly identifies current stresses, neither the PIF nor the PID clearly connect the climate stress to processes of land degradation. | Thanks for the important point. The team has added Annex 5 to clarify the connection between climate stress and the process of land degradation. |
| 4 | <p>Further, neither document offers any discussion of climate futures or potential future trends in nearly all of the dimensions of the land degradation challenge discussed in the PIF/PID (the one exception being a discussion of potential future trends in land degradation itself in the PID). Understanding potential future trends is critical to identifying the need for climate change adaptation and appropriate intervention points that might address climate stresses that drive the land degradation problem.</p> <p>While the discussion of future land degradation trends is useful, it does not clarify the principal drivers of that trend: to what extent is land degradation a function of different drivers such as a growing population, reduced swidden time, extensification, or changes in rainfall amount and distribution? This will clarify the extent to which the proposed project is a land degradation project or requires an adaptation component. Based on data from the World Bank Climate Change Knowledge Portal (CCKN), between 2040 and 2060, Burundi is likely to see declines in total precipitation relative to the present in its southern and western provinces, with very little change in the rest of the country. Average maximum temperatures could increase by 1.3 degrees C across</p> | <p>Thanks for the important point. The team has added Annex 5 to integrate climate projections and statistical trends analysis to forecast future erosion and landslide risks.</p> <p>In addition, Annex 5 of the PAD outlines the application of STAP decision tree, confirming the suitability of the project for adaptation funding and identifying the beneficiaries, non-beneficiaries, and potentially affected groups. By aligning with the goals of GEF's adaptation funding and leveraging the World Bank's expertise, the project aims to address climate-related challenges effectively.</p> |

the country in the same period, speeding evaporation. Further, there is no indication that the precipitation that falls will do so in more intense, concentrated events. Overall, this suggests less available precipitation and groundwater, which might be a countervailing force in the degradation trends and could indicate that human behavior on the land is the principal driver of the challenges laid out in the PIF/PID, not climate change (this is based on RCP 4.5, currently the most plausible future scenario, though the variance is not large across scenarios).

A clear understanding of future trends, should they indicate the need for adaptation, can help improve adaptation efficacy and justify the value of the proposed project. Adapting to only the current context, particularly in a country seeing 3% annual rates of economic growth and a population growth rate of just under 3%, presents a significant risk of maladaptation. STAP guidance calls for the development of at least two, and ideally more future narratives that take the baseline scenario and extend it into the future. These narratives can adopt different climate futures (i.e. different trends emerging from different RCP scenarios), different assumptions about population growth, economic growth, political stability, etc., to create a range of plausible futures to which this project will contribute. That range of plausible futures becomes a means of managing future uncertainty in project design, as interventions and initiatives that deliver benefits under all of these future narratives are more robust to future uncertainty than those that might work under only one future narrative.

In this sense, the PIF and PID do not make the case for an adaptation investment as much as they do a land degradation investment, and it is difficult to assess the potential efficacy of the proposed project and its interventions without an understanding of the trends they are supposed to change. Additional efforts to examine climate trends and land degradation in Burundi may be helpful for uncovering these linkages in order to clarify the climate rationale for this project and also support selected interventions. Another helpful resource is STAP's decision tree for climate adaptation rationale, which helps ensure that proposed interventions meet a need that is recognized by people facing the hazard, complements existing efforts, and maximizes synergies and minimizes the trade-offs between adaptation benefits and the achievement of global environmental benefits.

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| 5 | <p>The summary of the current World Bank portfolio of cross-sector investments in Burundi is interesting - particularly information on the ongoing WB-GEF project on landscape restoration. However, STAP notes that while it is mentioned that project successes will be scaled up, it is not clear what those successes were specifically, and how they will be</p> | <p>Thanks for the recommendation. Drawing from lessons learned from past GEP projects, Annex 5 of the PAD identifies key insights such as embracing grassroots initiatives, prioritizing simplicity in project design, strengthening local capacity, ensuring institutional continuity, and navigating fragile contexts. These insights are integrated into the project's design and</p> |
|---|---|--|

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|---|--|--|
| | <p>scaled. STAP recommends developing a separate causal pathway on scaling as part of the ToC that incorporates lessons learned from this project as well as the multiple other GEF-funded projects in Burundi that were not mentioned but which should be consulted given cross-cutting themes (see, for example GEF ID 9178, GEF ID 8010, GEF ID 4990, and GEF ID 3701).</p> | <p>implementation to mitigate risks and maximize efficiency and sustainability.</p> |
| 6 | <p>STAP appreciates the inclusion of the maps of Burundi in Annex C. However, it is unclear how these areas have been prioritized (or will be) - in particular given the lack of climate data but it is also curious that the maps would not include a digital elevation model (DEM) since the project is targeting collines. It would be interesting to see how these factors intersect (collines, degradation, climate, population, conflict, other?) to prioritize target areas for intervention.</p> | <p>The multi-risk map in annex C was created using a comprehensive methodology that integrated various data sources, including climate variables temperature and daily precipitation, evapotranspiration, digital elevation model (DEM) land use land cover, rainfall erosivity layer (reflecting the intensity and duration of rainfall in the area of interest), map of soil erodibility (the susceptibility of soil particles to detachment and transport by rainfall and runoff), and modeling techniques to assess the compounded risks from climate change, land degradation, and conflict in Burundi (see table 1 attached with more details on data layers used, their sources, and resolutions, etc). Here is an overview of how the hotspot multi-risk analysis was conducted in the report:</p> <p>Data Collection, Modeling Techniques, and Integration:</p> <p>The analysis utilized the latest available national, regional, and global scientific data on climate change, environmental degradation, and conflict risks in Burundi.</p> <p>Data from multiple sources were integrated to assess exposure to climate hazards, vulnerability, and coping capacity in different geographic areas of Burundi.</p> <p>The analysis employed advanced modeling techniques to assess temperature and precipitation trends, land conflict risks, land degradation risks, and flood risks at the national level.</p> <p>Four complementary layers of technical modeling were conducted to evaluate different aspects of multi-risk hotspots, including temperature and precipitation trends, land conflict risks, soil erosion risks, and flood risks.</p> <p>INFORM Index</p> |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | | <p>The analysis utilized an enhanced version of the INFORM index developed by the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission to assess compound risks in Burundi.</p> <p>The INFORM index incorporates indicators related to exposure, vulnerability, and coping capacity to provide a comprehensive assessment of multi-risk hotspots in the country.</p> <p>The analysis focused on identifying collines (hills) in Burundi that are most vulnerable to multiple, compounded, and cascading risks from climate change, land degradation, and conflict risks.</p> <p>Community-Level Validation</p> <p>A community-level validation mission was conducted to cross-validate the findings of the national-level hotspot assessment at the colline level.</p> <p>5 collines from different geographic regions were consulted to cross-validate the results and develop their own colline-level climate action plan (happy to share sample CCAP if needed).</p> <p>The validation exercise aimed to confirm the ranking of collines based on compound risks and develop sample costed colline-level climate action plans for high-risk areas.</p> |
| 7 | <p>Finally, while the conflict/fragility aspect of this project is well understood and articulated, STAP recommends that project designers consult the recently published STAP document on achieving durable global environmental benefits in FCS to learn more about specific entry points for incorporating FCS concerns into GEF projects, informed in part by the World Bank Defueling Conflict publication. On that note, STAP was pleased to see the integration of IDPs and other vulnerable populations into the project's design.</p> | <p>Thanks for the comment. The team takes good note of the recommendation regarding the recently published STAP document on achieving durable global environmental benefits in FCS.</p> |
| <p>Specific points to be addressed, and suggestions</p> | | |
| <p>As a preliminary step, STAP met with the GEF Secretariat to convey key concerns outlined above. To further clarify the need for an adaptation investment and to make explicit the potential value of the proposed project and its interventions, STAP recommends the following:</p> | | |
| 8 | <p>1) Clearly account for the role of climate change in the land degradation trends depicted in the PIF/PFD, and illustrate clearly how a changing climate will contribute to changes in those trends. At this time, it is not clear that the climate is a driver of change for this challenge.</p> | <p>Land degradation, as defined in the PROGREEN climate and conflict risks analysis – technical report 2, refers to the deterioration of the land's quality and productivity due to various factors such as erosion, loss of vegetation cover, soil compaction, and other forms of land misuse (p.16). In the context of this</p> |

study (Tall et al., 2022), land degradation is assessed through the analysis of land cover changes, erosion trends, and landslide hazards in Burundi's Colline landscapes. By examining indicators of land degradation, such as changes in vegetation cover, soil erosion rates, and landslide susceptibility, the report aims to identify hotspots of degradation and assess the associated risks to the environment and human activities now and in the future using two different scenarios RCP 4.5 and 8.5 by 2050.

Based on the PROGREEN climate and conflict risks analysis, the role of climate change on land degradation has been clearly illustrated. In Burundi, we discovered that climate change exacerbates pre-existing risks through increased temperature and rainfall variability, which are projected to worsen by 2030-2050 and more severe under RCP 8.5 than 4.5 (p.5). Rising temperatures are exacerbating land degradation in Burundi, affecting soil quality and agricultural productivity. While intense pluvial and fluvial flooding caused by climate change is damaging public infrastructure, private properties, and leading to forced displacement of vulnerable populations in Burundi (Tall et al., 2022).

The changing climate is expected to influence erosion and landslide hazards by altering rainfall patterns, increasing rainfall intensity, and affecting soil erosion dynamics. Besides, climate change, we also found that population growth will intensify the scarcity of land, leading to reduced productivity and improper land use practices. Factors like deforestation without erosion control will increase the risk of flooding and other hazards, emphasizing the need for climate-proof and smart land use practices (Tall et al., 2022 - Technical Report 1 2022 p.65).

To account for the role of climate change in land degradation trends, our study utilizes ecosystem services modeling to identify soil erosion risk (using the InVEST Sediment Delivery Ratio (SDR) model) and estimates of landslide hazard using factor of safety (Selby, 1993) and gravitational process path (Wichmann, 2017) approaches, that identify areas of high, medium, and low landslide risk under 2020 conditions. Changes in both soil erosion and landslide risks are influenced by climate variables (rainfall and evapotranspiration), soil properties, topography, and vegetation cover. By analyzing

| | |
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| | <p>historical land cover data from 2000 to 2020 at the colline level, the report aims to understand trends in land degradation, erosion, and landslide hazards, considering the influence of changing climatic conditions on these processes (Tall et al., 2022. - Technical Report 2 p.5).</p> |
| <p>2) Assuming that climate change is, in fact, a significant driver of those trends, develop two or more future narratives, as discussed above. These narratives should account for the current drivers of degradation and human well-being outcomes described in both the PIF and PID, and offer different plausible projections of this system in the medium term (i.e. to perhaps 2050). This will further justify the need for an adaptation investment, while allowing project designers to assess which interventions might be most robust across a range of possible future scenarios in Burundi.</p> | <p>Our analysis further integrates two climate projections (RCP 4.5. and 8.5) and conducted a statistical trends analysis to forecast future erosion and landslide risks for the years 2030 and 2050. This forward-looking approach allows for the assessment of how a changing climate will contribute to alterations in land degradation trends, erosion patterns, and landslide hazards over time in Burundi’s colline watersheds(Tall et al., 2022. - Technical Report 2 p.5). By considering the evolving climate conditions, we recommend colline and sub-watershed level interventions to address current and projected impacts of climate change on land degradation in Burundi’s Colline landscapes as mentioned in the PAD.</p> <p>We also undercovers the impacts of land degradation on Burundi’s productive sectors. Among others, land degradation in Burundi is leading to increased sedimentation, increased runoff, reduced water quality, reduced crop yield. These impacts according to our local consultation contribute to the out-migration of men from poor rural villages to neighboring countries in search of economic opportunities, leaving women and children to fend for themselves in most cases. Ultimately, Burundi’s land degradation is also affecting biodiversity and ecosystem services benefits from nature.</p> <p>Our analysis evaluates the potential for investments in improving vegetation cover, such as nature-based solutions (NBS) for, to offset landslide and erosion hazards effectively. It identifies collines and sub-watersheds in Burundi where gains in vegetation cover can mitigate land degradation hazards and emphasizes the importance of preventing further loss of vegetation cover to avoid amplifying landslide and soil erosion hazards. By promoting ecosystem restoration, sustainable land management practices, and green infrastructure, NBS can help mitigate the impacts of climate change on land degradation, improve community resilience, and contribute to sustainable land use practices (Tall et al., 2022. Technical Report 2 p5).</p> |

3) To ensure that the overall project and selected interventions are as effective as possible and to avoid maladaptation, STAP recommends that project designers consult the decision tree for climate adaptation rationale.

We have applied the GEP decision tree for climate adaptation rationale to strengthen the case for why this project requires funding (presence of worsening climate hazards, either now or in the future), who benefits, who doesn't benefit and who could be potentially affected if not well managed (maladaptation), and the role of effective monitoring, evaluation, and learning. The Decision Tree Analytics is broken down into the three sections as outlined by GEP-STAP. In summary, takes a comprehensive approach to addressing climate impacts, adaptation, future risks, non-climate vulnerabilities, existing adaptation efforts, and global environmental benefits.

Section 1. Is the project suitable for adaptation funding?

Yes. This project aims to restore land productivity in targeted degraded landscapes and enhance climate resilience in Burundi's priority fragile colline hotspots. It addresses environmental and social risks related to climate change, land degradation, and socio-economic vulnerability by including activities such as strengthening climate resilience livelihood support, land certification, promoting climate-smart agriculture practices, and supporting sustainable energy solutions. These initiatives align with the goals of GEF's adaptation funding, which aims to help countries adapt to the impacts of climate change and build resilience to future challenges.

Additionally, the World Bank supporting this project with a track record of implementing similar operations in similar FCS context has expertise in areas such as rural development, resilience, and climate adaptation. The Bank's technical assistance will further enhance the project's effectiveness in addressing climate-related challenges in Burundi.

Section 2. Who wants adaptation?

Some, but all Burundians. Our comprehensive consultative process undertaken for the Burundi Landscape Restoration and Resilience Project aimed to develop Community-Level Climate Action Plans (CCAPs) to address climate and non-climate challenges and enhance resilience at the colline level. This process involved:

1. **Community Workshops:** Facilitating dialogue, knowledge sharing, and consensus-

building among diverse stakeholders through participatory sessions to ensure inclusive decision-making. These sessions engaged diverse stakeholders, including community members, leaders, women's groups, youth representatives, and marginalized populations.

2. **Vulnerability Assessment:** Identifying and prioritizing climate-related hazards and risks, assessing colline vulnerabilities, and mapping existing coping capacities within the community through data analysis and stakeholder validation.
3. **Visioning and Priority Setting:** Developing a shared vision for resilience building and prioritizing specific climate adaptation actions and livelihood strengthening activities through participatory consultations.

The project's beneficiaries include local communities, smallholder farmers, micro-entrepreneurs, and MSMEs, as well as youth and women groups, who benefit from improved livelihoods, resilience, and access to resources. Non-beneficiaries such as large corporations and urban dwellers may indirectly benefit, while potentially adversely affected groups like landless laborers and vulnerable ecosystems are addressed through mechanisms like cash-for-work and sustainable management practices.

We recognize the importance of understanding different groups' dynamics for inclusive, sustainable, and equitable outcomes, in emphasizing stakeholder engagement, consideration of diverse perspectives, and mitigation of potential negative impacts through effective planning and implementation strategies. Measures to mitigate environmental risks are also outlined in Annex 4 of the project documentation.

Section 3. Does the project build on current adaptation efforts?

Yes, the Burundi Landscape Restoration and Resilience Project enhances current adaptation efforts through several key strategies. These include strengthening local communities and institutions to anticipate, monitor, and respond to escalating climate change and land degradation risks. The project also adopts an integrated approach and collaborative planning process, integrating local

knowledge and practices related to climate adaptation. Moreover, it addresses policy fragmentation and coordination challenges by establishing a national climate investment coordination platform. Additionally, the project empowers local stakeholders through training and capacity-building activities, integrating local knowledge into sustainable landscape restoration efforts. It advocates for a multi-sectoral approach to climate resilience, combining climate-smart agriculture, sustainable natural resources management, and disaster prevention within existing adaptation strategies.

4) Include barriers and risks in the causal pathways depicted by the ToC and if possible, include a separate pathway for scaling that is informed by lessons learned from the current WB project in Burundi and potentially other relevant GEF and non-GEF projects.

Annex 4 highlights the environmental and social risks associated with the current project and presents mitigation measures to address these risks. Drawing from lessons learned from past GEP projects, we have identified the following key insights:

1. **Embracing 'Small is Beautiful':** The most effective project activities have often revolved around grassroots initiatives such as colline-level land title registration and cash transfer payments to local communities for land restoration works. We will scale-up these types of initiatives especially under component 3.
2. **Prioritizing Simplicity:** A lean and efficient design is crucial for successful implementation, particularly in complex FCC contexts like in Burundi, where streamlined processes are essential. Thus, simplifying the project design and reducing complex bureaucratic redtaps.
3. **Strengthening Local Capacity:** Investing in local expertise and reducing reliance on external service providers, especially in times of external disruptions like the COVID-19 pandemic, is essential for project sustainability. The pipeline project will engage and build existing capacity.
4. **Ensuring Institutional Continuity:** Leveraging existing Project Implementation Unit (PIU) and institutional memory helps in achieving efficiency gains over the course of project implementation, ensuring continuity and effectiveness. The pipeline project will be implemented by the same PIU from the parent project.
5. **Navigating Fragile and Conflict-Affected Contexts:** Recognizing and accounting for

challenges such as inflation, fluctuating fuel prices, and forex depreciation specific to contexts like Burundi is critical in project design and cost estimation to mitigate risks effectively.

This is addressed in the PAD by adding critical assumption “*A3. Lessons learned from previous WB/GEF and other projects will be taken into account to reduce risks and maximize efficiency and sustainability.*”