



Part I: Project Information

GEF ID

11012

Project Type

MSP

Type of Trust Fund

GET

CBIT/NGI

CBIT No

NGI No

Project Title

Knowledge Generation and Management to support the Implementation of the UNCCD COP15 Abidjan Legacy Program (KGM-LEGAP)

Countries

Global, Cote d'Ivoire

Agency(ies)

IFAD

Other Executing Partner(s)

Global Mechanism

Executing Partner Type

Others

GEF Focal Area

Land Degradation

Sector

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Stakeholders, Capacity, Knowledge and Research

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation

Significant Objective 1

Climate Change Adaptation

Principal Objective 2

Biodiversity

Land Degradation

Submission Date

2/15/2023

Expected Implementation Start

9/30/2023

Expected Completion Date

8/29/2025

Duration

24In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

190,000.00

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
LD-2-5	Create enabling environments to support scaling up and mainstreaming of SLM and LDN	GET	1,000,000.00	1,300,000.00
LD-1-1	Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem services to sustain food production and livelihoods through Sustainable Land Management (SLM)	GET	1,000,000.00	1,300,000.00
Total Project Cost(\$)			2,000,000.00	2,600,000.00

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

To generate and use knowledge products to stimulate investments to support Parties to the UNCCD to successfully implement the Abidjan Legacy Program.

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co- Financing(\$)
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Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 1. Knowledge management, innovation and exchanges to facilitate investments in best practices and learning on inclusive and equitable climate resilient and low emission agricultural value chains, forest and land use	Technical Assistance	1.1. Different stakeholders in Cote d'Ivoire increasingly access knowledge, appropriate tools, innovations, exchange platforms and best practices on climate resilient and low emission agricultural value chains, forest and land use to support their participation in the Abidjan Legacy Program.	<p>1.1.1: Information hub and an open-access knowledge platform developed for targeted investments (in coordination with other existing platforms such as WOCAT with gender experts).</p> <p>1.1.2: A community of practice including with gender experts established and capacities strengthened on targeted climate resilient and low emission agricultural value chains, forest and land use, promoting exchange and cooperation among different stakeholders in Cote d'Ivoire (in collaboration with the UNCCD Knowledge Hub and other initiatives).</p> <p>1.1.3: Communication, outreach and awareness-raising of products and activities produced, and a synthesis of lessons from the "Abidjan Legacy Program's lessons" to highlight good practices and experiences from stakeholders (government agencies, local, international NGOs and private sector), local observer networks in Cote d'Ivoire</p> <p>1.1.4 A south-south cooperation and knowledge exchange feasibility study conducted between Cote</p>	GE T	1,050,000.00	750,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
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d?Ivoire and other countries.[1]

[1] Please, note that at the time of developing this document for CEO endorsement, the government of Ivory Coast has had advanced discussions with the government of Costa Rica as part of the planning process for a south-south cooperation and knowledge exchange. Other ?candidate? countries include those in West Africa, Latin American Countries (Brazil,) and South Asia countries (Indonesia). The exchanges will include virtual tours.

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 2. Investment Tools and incentives are developed to foster sustainable investment into the most suitable value chains	Technical Assistance	2.1 The policy environment and capacity needs are addressed and different stakeholders in Cote d'Ivoire increasingly take up Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) businesses	2.1.1: Best available climate resilient and low emission agricultural value chains, forest and land use and technologies investments, financial models and instrument in Cote d'Ivoire are assessed and documented (including gender gaps in access to climate resilient agric value chains, technologies and investments). 2.1.2. Policy coherence is mapped, and tools, investment criteria and incentives developed, shared and used by relevant stakeholders in Cote d'Ivoire and other countries to foster sustainable investments into the most suitable value chains.	GET	768,222.00	1,610,000.00

Sub Total (\$)	1,818,222.00	2,360,000.00
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Project Management Cost (PMC)

GET	181,778.00	240,000.00
Sub Total(\$)	181,778.00	240,000.00
Total Project Cost(\$)	2,000,000.00	2,600,000.00

Please provide justification

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

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
GEF Agency	IFAD	Grant	Investment mobilized	200,000.00
GEF Agency	IFAD	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	175,000.00
GEF Agency	FAO	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	25,000.00
GEF Agency	FAO	Grant	Investment mobilized	200,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Government of Cote d'Ivoire	Grant	Investment mobilized	2,000,000.00
Total Co-Financing(\$)				2,600,000.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

The mobilized investments have been mainly identified through collaborative initiatives from donor agencies such as FAO. The in-kind contributions refer particularly to the estimated level of financial compensation that would be offered based on the amount of time that these organisations will spend to offer technical and expert support to the project. With regards to the \$2 million, it is the Government of Ivory Coast that has pledged to put the amount on the project.

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

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
IFAD	GE T	Global	Land Degradation	LD Global/Regional Set-Aside	2,000,000	190,000	2,190,000.00
Total Grant Resources(\$)					2,000,000.00	190,000.00	2,190,000.00

E. Non Grant Instrument

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Required **true**

PPG Amount (\$)

50,000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

4,750

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
IFAD	GET	Global	Land Degradation	LD Global/Regional Set-Aside	50,000	4,750	54,750.00
Total Project Costs(\$)					50,000.00	4,750.00	54,750.00

Core Indicators

Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	2,500	15,000		
Male	2,500	15,000		
Total	5000	30000	0	0

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

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

1) The global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed (systems description)

a) Project summary

Approximately one third of the world's arable land is said to have been affected by degradation and desertification to date ? suggesting that the phenomenon of land degradation is widespread, on the rise, and occurring in all land cover types and agro-ecologies, and especially so in dryland. Globally, this leads to an annual colossal loss in ecosystem service values ranging between \$6.3 trillion and \$10.6 trillion - including a loss of ~10% of global GDP. Land degradation is pervasive in production landscapes of the global poor; affecting more than 2.7 billion people in drylands and threatening migration of the active population. The phenomenon is driven by both anthropogenic factors (such as agricultural activities, biofuel production, infrastructure development and other non-productive uses) and natural factors (such as climate variability and extreme weather events). Thus, anthropogenic factors are related to agriculture, forestry and other land use in production landscapes. In largely agrarian countries such as in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and Latin America, there is an intimate link between the extraction of natural resources for survival and maintaining or improving the productive functioning of land so that it can continue supplying the goods and services that underpin local livelihoods and support global environmental benefits.

In C?te d'Ivoire, as human population growth continues on the one hand, so does land degradation on the other, mainly linked to expansion of agricultural land frontiers using unsustainable production systems, other land changes and bush fires. In 2010, C?te d'Ivoire had 13.9 million ha of natural forest, extending over 43% of its land area. In 2020, it lost 248 000 ha of natural forest, equivalent to 143Mt of CO? of emissions. Kabadougou, Poro, Boukani, Iffou, Nawa, Tonkpi, Gb?k? and Sud-Como? are hotspots of land degradation in the country.

Agricultural commodity value chains in Cote d'Ivoire and neighbouring countries (Ghana, Cameroon, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Nigeria?) such as palm oil, cocoa, coffee, cashew and cotton, among others, have important socioeconomic benefits but also environmental costs. These major cash crops are fueling deforestation and land degradation, changing microclimates permanently and reducing productivity and livelihoods.. Cote d'ivoire and many countries are already witnessing the first impact of climate change and are set to continue to experience higher temperatures and levels of evaporation and threating the suitability of major crops in the coming years.[1]

Healthy land therefore, is critical to addressing socioeconomic (food security, jobs, migration etc) and environmental (GHGs emissions, biodiversity loss etc) global challenges. Given the role of land, land degradation has risen on the global political ladder as has been demonstrated through the inclusion of the Sustainable Development Goal 15 and the adoption of the Land Degradation Neutrality by the country Parties to the UNCCD at COP12 in Ankara, Turkey in 2015. Building on this political momentum within the context of the UNCCD COP15 that was held in Abidjan, Ivory Coast from 9 to 20 May 2022 , the proposed project is designed as a cross-cutting knowledge management and learning pillar of the Legacy Program of the COP that will focus on transforming production systems of target value chains (cocoa, coffee, palm oil, cashew and cotton, among others) including making them more resilient to climate change , inclusive and mitigate their contribution to land degradation and deforestation. Development partners pledged US \$2.5 billion to support the Abidjan Legacy Programme at COP 15. The GEF resources under this MSP will ensure socioeconomic benefits that are socially

inclusive without compromising the environmental integrity of production landscapes, key barriers need to be addressed . These are: i) weak institutional capacities to systematically collect and organize informations and data on best practices, technologies and practces on agro forestry substantial production systems to leverage investments; ii) limited knowledge of best practices and learning on climate resilient and low emission agricultural value chains, forest and land use; and iii) limited Investment Tools and incentives to foster sustainable investment into the most suitable value chains.

As a cross-cutting knowledge management and learning pillar of the Legacy Program , the The GEF resources will three following barriers : i) weak institutional capacities; ii) limited knowledge of the practice best practices; and iii) limited investments in the most suitable value chains. The MSP is designed around two components: i) knowledge management, innovation and exchanges to facilitate investments in best practices and learning on climate resilient and low emission agricultural value chains, forest and land use; and ii) investment tools and incentives are developed to foster sustainable investment into the most suitable value chains. The MSP will directly impact 30,000 (of whom 50% will be women) people through capacity development. As a cross-cutting knowledge and learning pillar housed within one hub and working in with other existing initiatives such as WOCAT, UNCCD Knowledge Hub AFR 100, Bonn challenge, GPFLR and others, will: i) create an information hub; ii) strengthen capacities for climate resilient and low emission agricultural value chains and promoting regional exchanges of best practices; iii) raise awareness; iv) assess best available climate resilient and low emission agricultural value chains, forest and land use and technologies investments, financial models and instrument are assessed and documented; and v) develop and share appropriate investment tools and criteria for country parties to foster sustainable investments into the most suitable value chains.

General project context

1. **Land degradation** is increasingly one of the most pressing environmental challenges of our century; a serious concern that is currently affecting more than 2.7 billion people in dryland with potential to trigger migration[2]2. It is estimated that 25% of global total land area is already degraded, affecting about 3.2 billion people, 95% of whom are in developing countries[3]3. Hunger is on the rise, with almost 770 million people undernourished in 2020, close to 160 million more than in 2014, and 118 million more than in 2019[4]4. In Africa, it is estimated that land degradation and desertification affect around 45% of Africa?s land area, with 55% of this area at high or very high risk of further degradation ? the phenomena being detrimental to agricultural ecosystems and crop production and an impediment in achieving food security and improving livelihoods.[5]5

2. Besides the serious threats to human wellbeing, land degradation poses enormous threats to biodiversity and climate change ? all happening simultaneously in an era of land crisis characterised by expansion of agricultural land, the contemporary wave of large-scale land acquisitions, population growth coupled with increased consumption per capita, policy and institutional efficiencies and climate change. Land degradation reduces the resilience of ecosystems and populations particularly in the face of climate change. It also has negative impacts on populations at national/regional level (by reducing the capacity of land to support economic development and negatively affecting the climate and water cycle and ecosystem services), and at global level (greenhouse gases emissions and climate change, biodiversity loss) potentially driving increased poverty, hunger, unemployment, forced migration and conflict.[6]6

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3. Indeed, local to global trends, such as urbanization, industrialization, digitalization, and other cultural and demographic shifts, shape and are shaped by how humans produce, transform, trade, and consume food. At the same time, climate change is impacting agricultural yields[7] ? reinforcing what could be termed as a vicious circle between competing needs for socioeconomic development and the sustainability of resources for food production.

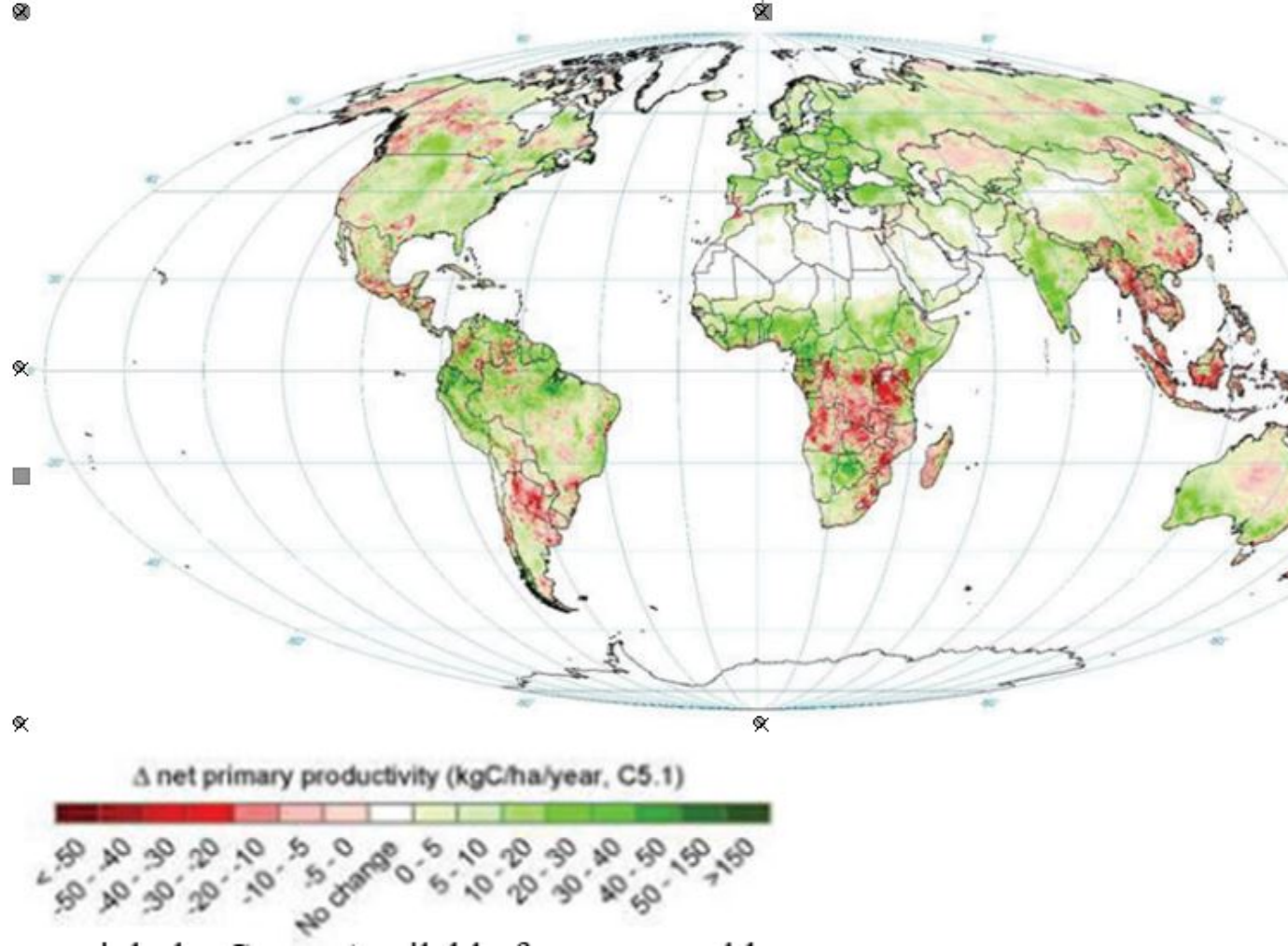


Figure 1 showing level of global land degradation in terms of change in net primary production (1981-2006)

4. Pressures driving land degradation globally are bifurcated into anthropogenic and natural factors. Anthropogenic factors include commercial agriculture to feed the growing population; and biofuel production, infrastructure development and other non-productive uses. Natural factors include climate variability and extreme weather events. Land is a limited resource, and its continued degradation has placed it on global policy map as agricultural land for production shrinks in many parts of the world[8]. Today, 40% of the global population is already directly impacted by land degradation and the global economy is set to lose USD23 trillion by 2050 through land degradation, desertification and

drought.[9]9 20% of global lands are degraded causing a loss of 10% of global GDP annually. Agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU) and energy sectors are responsible for just under a quarter of anthropogenic GHG emissions generated mainly by deforestation (wood and clearing land for agriculture), livestock raising, soil and nutrient management[10]10 and unsustainable crop production. Within the last 15 years, the vegetated land cover has exhibited rapid losses of productivity and a fourth of global warming are linked to land use.[11]11

5. Deforestation in the global south does not only destroy the socioeconomic and environmental productive capacity of land, but could have, for example in the Amazon and Africa, major regional impacts on rainfall and therefore on rainfed agriculture. The just released FAO report on global forests suggest three interrelated pathways involving forests and trees that can support economic and environmental recovery. These are: i) halting deforestation and maintaining forests; ii) restoring degraded lands and expanding agroforestry; and iii) sustainably using forests and building green value chains.[12]12

6. The phenomenon is most concerning in dryland landscapes that cover approximately 40% of the world's land area and support about two billion people, 90% of whom live in developing countries where women and children are most vulnerable. Land degradation and desertification are mostly linked to poor farming practices.[13]13 Taking many forms, the phenomenon has become pervasive and systemic; occurring on all terrestrial ecosystems. For example, while in some cases all biodiversity, ecosystem functions and services are adversely affected; in others, only some aspects are negatively affected while others are increased[14]14. Though the complete picture of the severity and extent of degraded lands[15]15 is not known with 100% certainty, it is well established that land degradation is happening on a large scale and is leading to the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services on which humans depend (see Figure 1 above[16]16). As land degrades, so does its ecosystem functioning. The pressures on land and associated resources continue, and therefore, the end to the rate at which land degradation is occurring globally is not yet in sight. For example, most degradation resulting from land use is forecasted to happen in Central and South America, sub-Saharan Africa and Asia, which have the largest remaining amount of land suitable for agriculture[17]17 ? it should be noted that most regions in Africa and South Asia have attained less than 40% of their potential crop production[18]18.

7. Global agriculture production is at the crossroads. This project acknowledges the growing demand for higher-value agricultural products, a fact that presents smallholders and agriculture-based Small to Medium Enterprises in developing countries such as Cote d'Ivoire with new opportunities to add value to their primary production. Government agencies, NGOs, and the private sector have recognized the opportunity, as well as the need, to support smallholders and local enterprises to effectively participate in agrifood value chains. In some cases, government agencies and NGOs target their interventions at smallholders, with the aim of building smallholders' capacity to respond to the growing demand for high-value agricultural products and services in international markets. In other cases, they seek out options for enhancing the policy and institutional environment in which smallholders and their business partners operate, with emphasis on removing political/legal barriers and institutional bottlenecks to increased productivity and profitability. Agrifood companies may support smallholders and SMEs in their efforts to obtain better access to raw materials and semi-finished products, and to enhance their social and environmental credentials (?sustainable sourcing?). While poverty reduction may not be the

primary goal when companies invest in their smallholder suppliers, such engagement may have important implications for pathways out of poverty and overall rural development.[19]¹⁹

8. Additionally, 70% of the world's poorest people live in rural areas and depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. Global population is expected to reach 9.6 billion by 2050 - and, agriculture is expected to meet the challenges of food and nutritional insecurities in the context of industrialisation, infrastructure development and increased pressure on natural resources including soils and water, loss of biodiversity, and the uncertainties associated with climate change. As the middle-income segment of the global population grows, so does the need for more food[20]²⁰ - requiring changes in the production patterns to meet food requirements with sustainable food systems. Though global estimate masks differences among regions and countries, it is estimated that average global food availability per person is projected to grow by 4% over the next ten years, reaching just over 3 025 kcal/day in 2030.[21]²¹ This is reflected in the manner in which the production of primary crops has steadily been increasing - for example, it was 9.4 billion tons in 2019, 53% more than in 2000. Similarly, the production of vegetable oils more than doubled between 2000 and 2019, an increase by 118% - driven by a sharp increase in palm oil.[22]²²

9. Efforts to boost agricultural development have focused on improving output to produce more food at high environmental and social costs. Concomitant loss of ecosystem services poses an existential threat to people and their economic systems - such as annual colossal loss in ecosystem service values ranging between \$6.3 trillion and \$10.6 trillion[23]²³ - including a loss of ~10% of global GDP. This is true globally but the situation is particularly concerning in the fragile ecosystems of drylands across continents. Drylands represent ~41% of the planet's surface area[24]²⁴ and are home to two billion people[25]²⁵. They contain 44% of the world's cultivated systems and 50% of the world's livestock[26]²⁶. They also hold 30% of the total area of sites of important biodiversity and 35% of the global Biodiversity Hotspot Area[27]²⁷.

10. In the wake of increased frequency, intensity and duration of droughts and floods, temperatures, desertification, water stress and soil erosion, agricultural productivity and food security are threatened - resulting in the loss of assets, crops and livestock, low productivity and disruptions in key value chains such as wheat, maize, rice, cocoa, cashew, rubber, palm oil, soja - and soaring food prices. COVID-19 and now the Russia-Ukraine conflict have taken a toll on food prices and energy.

11. While agriculture is an important engine for rural development, it remains the largest driver of tropical deforestation, forest degradation and land degradation. Global demand for food, fuel, and fiber is growing rapidly as hundreds of millions of people in emerging economies rise out of poverty and consume more animal protein, oil, and carbohydrates. The World Bank[28]²⁸ as a multilateral bank, argues that "opportunities abound for farmers in Africa to regain international competitiveness, especially in light of projected stronger demand in world markets for agricultural commodities over the long term." In this report, the Bank argues in favour of commercial agriculture on 400 million hectares of African Guinea Savannah, which are less than 10% cropped. The report draws on lessons and examples from Cerrado region in Brazil and the Northeast Region of Thailand that have developed and become competitive on important world markets. The logic in this argument is that policy makers have increasingly realized again the potential of agriculture to contribute to food security, poverty reduction

and broader development[29]29. This push for commercial agriculture will expand production systems that will contribute to further land degradation, deforestation, GHG emissions and biodiversity loss.

12. The global community is therefore faced with the challenge to socioeconomically develop while maintaining or improving the environmental integrity of production landscapes by create an enabling environment to support scaling up and mainstreaming of sustainable land management and land degradation neutrality (LDN) that country Parties to the UNCCD adopted at COP12 in Ankara, Turkey.

The Ivorian National-level Context

13. Cote d'Ivoire is located in West Africa, and is bordered on the North by Mali and Burkina Faso, on the West by Liberia and Guinea, on the East by Ghana and on the south by the Gulf of Guinea. With a land area of 322,463 km² (318,003 km² are land and 4,460 km² water), the country has a population of 27.5 million people, spread across 31 administrative regions, twelve districts, and two autonomous districts. Growing at annual rate of 2.6%, the population is projected to surpass 50 million people by 2049.[30]30 Cote d'Ivoire's HDI value for 2019 is 0.538 - which put the country in the low human development category - positioning it at 162 out of 189 countries and territories.[31]31 Endowed with varied natural conditions, the country has aimed to use agriculture as the vehicle for economic growth. Cote d'Ivoire is heavily dependent on agriculture and related activities, which engage roughly 68% of the population. The country is the world's largest producer and exporter of cocoa beans and a significant producer and exporter of coffee and palm oil. Agriculture accounts for 29.2% of the GDP, and the economy is more sensitive to fluctuations in international prices for agricultural products such as cocoa, oil and coffee.[32]32

14. The country is rich in natural resources with strong history of economic prosperity. The *Ivorian miracle* of the period 1960-1979 happened thanks to the fertile land for cocoa and coffee production that saw the country's economic growth that surpassed any other country in the region. However, the country endured more than a decade of conflicts that eroded important economic gains, weakened institutional capacities and exacerbated environmental degradation.

15. This rich biodiversity is threatened by different factors. These factors are at three levels: level one is linked to the impacts of climate change and climate variation that lead to floods and soil erosion in some areas, and drought in others. The second level is linked to anthropogenization of production landscapes and other biomes with intact ecosystems. This level is associated with phenomena such as unsustainable agricultural practices, pollution, deforestation for fuelwood, poaching, infrastructure development and over-fishing. The third level is associated with structural causes. These causes are related to high poverty levels of particularly natural resources-dependent communities, lack of awareness of the importance of environmental affordances, and weak institutional capacities. Other factors that threaten the environmental integrity in Cote d'Ivoire include the invasive species and epizootics.[33]33

16. In Cote d'Ivoire, as population growth continues on the one hand, so does land degradation on the other, principally due to expansion of agricultural land frontiers using unsustainable production systems, other land changes and bush fires. The impacts of climate change have equally been disturbing the ecological integrity with changing temperature regimes and droughts in some regions and floods in others. According to the Global Forest Watch, in 2010, Cote d'Ivoire had 13.9 million ha of natural forest, extending over 43% of its land area. In 2020, it lost 248 000 ha of natural forest, equivalent to 143Mt of CO₂ of emissions.[34]34

17. As a Party to the UNCCD, C?te d'Ivoire participated in the LDN target setting programme to support the country?s efforts to combat land degradation and enhance the socioeconomic and environmental productive function of land. The country is committed to doubling its efforts to stop and reverse current trends in land degradation, estimated at 11.03% (~3.6 million ha) of the national territory. Thus, to achieve LDN targets, C?te d'Ivoire has set itself to restore 100% of degraded lands and to increase forest cover by 5 million ha by 2030. More specifically, to achieve the national-level LDN agenda, C?te d'Ivoire is committed to the following targets:

- ? Increase forest cover by 3 million ha;
- ? Limit the rate of conversion of forests to other forms of land use to 1%;
- ? Improve the productivity of 2 million ha of existing forests showing a net productivity decline;
- ? Improve the productivity of 800,000 ha of agricultural land showing a net decrease in productivity;
- ? Recover 7,200 ha of bare land for agricultural production; and
- ? Sequester 50,000 tons of carbon released into the atmosphere.[35]35

18. Achieving these LDN national-level ambitions in C?te d'Ivoire calls for adoption of measures to avoid or reduce land degradation, combined with measures to reverse past degradation. The objective is to balance anticipated losses in land resources with measures that produce alternative gains through approaches such as sustainable land management and land restoration.



Map 1 Hotspots of land degradation in Cote d'Ivoire

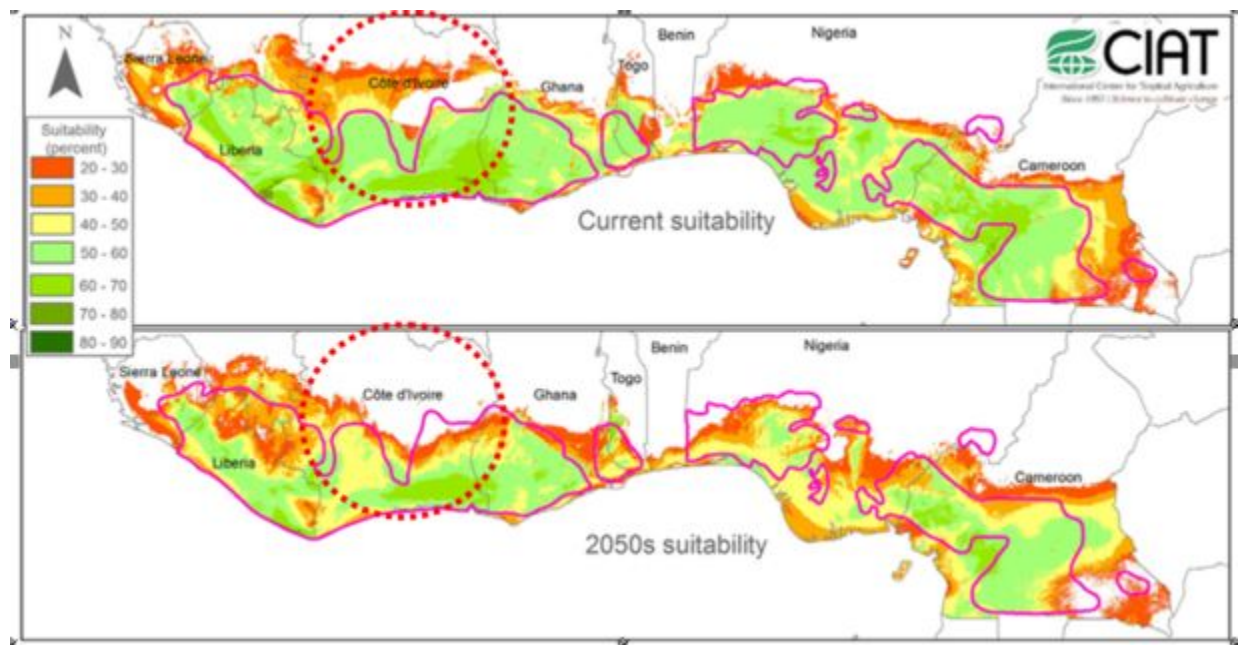
19. LDN aims at maintaining and restoring land-based natural capital. LDN-targeted interventions play an important role in tackling climate change, securing biodiversity and maintaining critical ecosystem

services, while ensuring shared prosperity and wellbeing.[36]36 In C?te d'Ivoire the LDN targets represent the common ground for effective national-level efforts to reverse trends in land degradation while recognizing the role of land as an engine for economic growth and a source of livelihood for thousands of Ivorians who directly depend on land for their survival.

20. The government of C?te d'Ivoire (GoCI) identified eight regions across the country as hotspots of land degradation. The eight regions are Kabadougou, Poro, Boukani, Iffou, Nawa, Tonkpi, Gb?k? and Sud-Como? (see map 1).[37]37 GoCI has demonstrated sufficient political will to address challenges of land degradation in the country. C?te d'Ivoire has participated in the global programme to set up national voluntary LDN targets. This proposed project will therefore, seek to leverage on the political will of GoCI to demonstrate LDN co-benefits through the implementation of sustainable land management practices in the country. The co-benefits include adaptation and mitigation interventions as well as food and nutrition security (e.g. the extent to which interventions prevent negative land cover change, the loss of net primary productivity and the loss of soil organic carbon).

21. GoCI recognises that transformative projects and programmes combined with innovative financing opportunities are central to the successful actions to achieve LDN in the country. Therefore, this proposed project is a precursor to more transformative interventions that will lead to improved biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management, ecosystem restoration, increased resilience and poverty eradication ? including spurring large scale investments to support production sectors in the country.

22. Agricultural land use in C?te d'Ivoire is a driver of land degradation, deforestation and - by extension - climate change. Simultaneously, climate change impact and land degradation are driving key economic value chains to become unproductive across West Africa. Degraded lands, as well as expected geographical dislocation of key value chains due to changing climate and weather patterns, will require a massive and integrated effort by the Government, the private sector as well as technical partners to support C?te d'Ivoire in ensuring that productive systems are future proof and resilient.



Map 2 Shift of cocoa production landscapes due to climate change

23. Generally, it is noted that global markets are characterized by an increasingly turbulent environment caused by growing global competition, technological change, and changing customer expectations.[38]³⁸ In C?te d'Ivoire, the cocoa value chain exemplifies the twin threat of commodities that fuel climate change, while also facing existential risks from it. Cocoa provides income to 20% of the population, and while the country is one of the largest suppliers globally, it only receives 5% of the global profit share from cocoa production.[39]³⁹ Deforestation driven by cocoa production directly impacts local micro-climates dependent on now vanishing forests - C?te d'Ivoire's forest cover alone is down to 8 per cent.[40]⁴⁰ Virgin forests soils provide an ideal nutrient base for cocoa plantations and are therefore a preferred option for farmers. Mature cocoa plantations often exhibit reduced productivity due to soil depletion which makes replanting less productive ? further fueling deforestation. More effective and targeted soil management approaches, including through non-chemical approaches (mulching, bio-stimulants), as well as the intensification of shade grown cocoa could mitigate at least part of the productivity issues, protect soils and contribute to ensuring that cleared land remains productive and limit a productive migration towards the south with its accompanying social migration.[41]⁴¹

24. While cocoa production has been an extensive driver of deforestation as well as land degradation, it also faces existential threats from climate change. C?te d'Ivoire is witnessing the first impact of climate change with higher average temperatures, changing rain patterns and rising sea levels. The cocoa belt is set to witness continued higher temperatures which will lead to higher levels of evaporation which are unlikely to be offset with higher (extreme) rainfall patterns.[42]⁴² While the cocoa plant can withstand higher temperatures, the loss of humidity will make the cocoa plant less productive or unproductive. Expected temperature variation from climate change is also likely to shift production sites towards more southern regions increasing the risk for further clearings (see map 2).[43]⁴³ The below figure shows a simulation using a stabilization scenario in terms of emissions, and clearly highlights a potential shift towards the southern regions, as well as a clear reduction of geographical suitability for cocoa plantations.

25. Similar geographical dislocation as well as lower productivity can be expected for other cash crops within the country, including coffee and to a lesser extent cotton.

26. In light of the foregoing, this MSP is proposed within a special context ? that of the just ended UNCCD COP15 in C?te d'Ivoire and a cross-cutting knowledge and learning pillar of the Legacy Program (LP) - building on the political momentum demonstrated by country Parties to the UNCCD in engaging in the voluntary LDN target setting, C?te d'Ivoire inclusive. The LP will support interventions to reduce the degradation of land and forest resources by ensuring more sustainable productive capacities in existing value chains, while identifying, developing and implementing new value chains that can withstand the impact of climate change and support a regenerative transition of productive systems while supporting inclusive livelihood options. Knowledge generated under this MSP will inform and inspire other countries in the region and worldwide confronted with the same development challenges.

27. The proposed MSP will involve a broad range of stakeholders, ranging from smallholder farmers to commercial enterprises involved in target value chains in Cote d'Ivoire. Commercial enterprises are driven by market dynamics and motivated by profits. Their production systems (including smallholders) are at the core of drivers of environmental degradation in general, and land degradation in particular. The project will engage stakeholders to inspire behaviour change vis-?-vis production systems. The

anthropogenic factors that drive environmental degradation are closely associated with human behaviours such as intensified consumption, population growth and other human activities that have led to accelerated global change.[44]44 The development of the project considers and captures the proposal of various actors following the comprehensive consultations have been conducted at national level prior to the COP 15 in Grand Bassam and Abidjan. Virtual meetings were also organized with various stakeholders including local communities, private sector, sector ministries and UN agencies including UNCCD and FAO between March and April 2022.

28. Concretely, the LP will support participating countries to achieve their voluntary land degradation neutrality (LDN) targets. The LP will focus on the most important cash crops such as cocoa, as well as coffee, cashew and cotton, but with a specific emphasis on transforming the cocoa value chain. The Program will focus on land restoration or rehabilitation using locally-proven techniques such as Za?, ANR and agroforestry, among others to reverse land degradation trends by protecting and restoring soils, thereby increasing smallholder agricultural and forestry productivity per unit of land, diversifying farmers' sources of income and slowing land degradation particularly in the most vulnerable areas (North, Centre and South). The approach will follow the LDN hierarchy to either avoid, reduce or reverse land degradation? looking at the level of land degradation and prevailing local contexts, and consistent with LDN's guidelines.[45]45

29. In the LP, the proposed MSP is the quintessential brick that will support generation of knowledge products, strengthen collaboration among Parties and spur concrete investments in sustainable production of targeted value chains while supporting local livelihoods in production landscapes and contributing to strengthening the ability to achieve their LDN targets. The MSP is therefore, meant to be the knowledge backbone of the LP with an objective to guide other countries confronted by the same development challenges. In this MSP, it is noted that knowledge management provides the means to collect experiences, lessons and results from previous and ongoing interventions in a structured and user-friendly format in view to maximizing impact from investments; providing guidance in scaling-up intervention experiences in Cote d'Ivoire and across the region, and to support a culture of learning and leveraging beneficial change.[46]46

30. As a cross-cutting knowledge management and learning pillar of the LP, the MSP acknowledges opportunities for investments in sustainable land management abound, but so do the challenges to address food security and rural development? challenges relate to lack of national level communities of practice linked to regional and global communities of practices, investment tools and financial models, scanty and or poor quality poorly-managed information to guide decisions regarding sustainable agricultural value chains and sustainable agricultural practices and technologies in Cote d'Ivoire. Other equally relevant challenges include those of climate change, land degradation, global population growth (exerting undue pressure on land, a limiting resource), infrastructure development (creating undue land use change), weak in some cases and non-existing institutional arrangements in others (as enablers of investments), global pandemics (that shift priorities in land investments and global markets, among others) and conflicts (that strain not only food production but also its distribution). Addressing these key challenges requires the greater engagements of private sector, investors, banks, project developers, producers (small and medium-sized) and specialized advisory institutions to de-risk the investments in the agriculture sector. Various agencies exist to accelerate investments in strategic economic sectors? taking advantage of demographic dynamics, policies at different levels, resource-endowment and socioeconomic changes, among others. However, sustainable agriculture and value chains are still lagging behind.

The main barriers and threats to be addressed by the project

31. A rigorous and extensive application of the value chain management has emerged as an important management approach in business practices and processes. However, due to the complex and multidimensional nature of value chains, achieving efficient and effective value chain management in real value chains remains a major conundrum for practitioners.[47]⁴⁷ This is partly attributed to important challenges that include lack of supplier commitment to sustainable products, lack of knowledge toward sustainability in value chains and inadequate communication among the suppliers in the value chain.[48]⁴⁸

Barrier 1: Weak institutional capacities to systematically collect and organize informations and data on best practices, technologies and practices on agro forestry substantial production systems to leverage investments

32. There is limited institutional capacity in the government and local communities in developing countries particularly in Cote d'Ivoire and other countries to design and maintain platforms with the right information, scientific evidence on SLM to attract investors on sustainable climate-resilient agriculture. The government ministries tasked with agriculture and forestry have limited technical and institutional capacity to generate and organize evidence and data. The country faces also limited coordination between the forest, environment and agriculture ministries in terms of policy development, implementation and knowledge management. At the local level, small-scale farmers are not receiving the necessary support and training to collect and disseminate the best practices. Forest management is also hampered by a lack of capacity. There is lack of technical and human capacity to develop forest and agricultural plans management plans, local development plans that ensure effective community involvement and consider climate change.

Barrier 2: Limited knowledge of best practices and learning on climate resilient and low emission agricultural value chains, forest and land use

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33. Limited knowledge of climate change impacts on smallholder agro forestry value chains and landscapes and effective adaptation practices and technologies, especially in Cote d'Ivoire but also other most vulnerable regions like the Sahel or drylands in Central Asia and Latin America. There is also lack of capacity and understanding of change in land management practices, agro forestry techniques, and irrigation techniques, which reduces GHG emissions and mitigates the impacts of climate change by making staple crop fields more resilient. When knowledge is available, it is not collected and disseminated effectively. In particular, there are no consolidated platforms where information about climate change impacts and best adaptation practices are stored and shared with policy- and decision-makers but particularly with investors, private sector (foreign and domestic). This is despite the existence of different players, for example in cocoa production in Cote d'Ivoire who involve smallholder producers. The lack of 'recipes' and lessons of best production practices and experiences that are collated for easy access has impeded on scaling up of the practices to counter levels of land degradation in eight regions in Cote d'Ivoire.

Barrier 3: Limited Investment Tools and incentives to foster sustainable investment into the most suitable value chains

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35. Participating in and benefitting from interventions for value chain development pose considerable challenges particularly to resource-poor farmers when certain preconditions for success are not met. Such preconditions may relate to asset endowments, access to sufficient and effective services and affordable inputs, and minimum degrees of smallholder business organization. Higher-value agricultural products

presents new opportunities for smallholders and market agents in developing countries. However, responding to these opportunities can require significant investment for enhancing productive capacities, business skills, and infrastructure,[49]⁴⁹ especially to ensure sustainable production processes through the entire chain.

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36. In most of the developing countries, and Côte d'Ivoire is not an exception, there is a lack of investment in the right value chains that are environmental sound, economically viable and profitable, and climate resilient - given the projections with high social impacts. Underfunding of the sustainable agricultural, livestock and forestry, land management sectors also means that communities are not receiving the necessary support and training with the right tools and incentives to adopt and implement climate resilient agriculture and to adopt an EbA approach in their management of adjacent forests. The lack of investment also often results in lack of adequate assessment and documentation of financial models tools and incentives for to guide investors with the best available climate resilient and low emission agricultural value chains, forest and land use and technologies.

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2) The baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects

37. The MSP is focused on Côte d'Ivoire. Its scope focuses on strengthening institutional capacity and decision-making, knowledge and learning and knowledge generation and exchange in support of interventions for sustainable production of target agricultural value chains. Though the proposed MSP has a national scope focusing on the afore-mentioned areas, the project will build and draw on lessons from various existing initiatives at regional and national levels to shed light other similar initiatives and programs in the region and worldwide. Drawing on regional initiatives will be also critical in informing south-south cooperation, an aspect that will constitute one of the important outputs of the project. Regional initiatives include the following:

- o *The Bonn Challenge*: Launched by the Government of Germany and IUCN in 2011, this is a global initiative to bring 150 million hectares of degraded and deforested landscapes into restoration by 2020 and 350 million hectares by 2030.

- o *Collaborative Partnership on Forests*: This is an innovative voluntary interagency partnership on forests that was established to help enhance the contribution of all types of forests and trees outside forests to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other internationally agreed development goals, promote the sustainable management of all types of forests and to strengthen long-term political commitment to that end.

- o *The Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative (FERI)*: FERI is supported by the Korea Forest Service of the Republic of Korea, and implemented by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). FERI supports developing countries as they develop and operationalize national targets and plans for ecosystem conservation and restoration within the framework of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011- 2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, in particular Targets 5, 14, and 15. This is carried out through capacity building workshops and direct support to forest ecosystem restoration planning and on-the-ground implementation in a number of locations around the world.

- o *AFR100 (the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative)*: This is a country-led effort to bring 100 million hectares of land in Africa into restoration by 2030. AFR100 contributes to the Bonn Challenge, the African Resilient Landscapes Initiative (ARLI), the African Union Agenda 2063, the Sustainable Development Goals and other targets.

- o *The Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism (FLRM)*. The Mechanism aims to contribute to scaling-up, monitoring and reporting on FLR by developing financial intelligence functions (raising

awareness on FLR and fundraising actions towards key donors), preparing guidelines and standards for baselines and verification of successful efforts and contributing to more effective reporting to Rio Conventions and other relevant international organizations, processes and initiatives. It was established by FAO in 2014.

- o *The Global Forest Financing Facilitation Network (GFFFN)* was mandated by UNFF11 to promote the design of national forest financing strategies to mobilize resources for sustainable forest management.

- o *The Global Landscapes Forum (GLF)*. The GLF is a multi-sectoral platform that seeks to produce and disseminate knowledge and accelerate action to build more resilient, climate friendly, diverse, equitable and productive landscapes.

- o *The Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration (GPFLR)*. The GPFLR is a worldwide proactive network that unites influential governments, major UN and non-governmental organizations and others with a common cause to transform landscapes through restoration. Since its establishment in 2003 the GPFLR has been building support for restoration with key decision makers, both at the local and international level, and providing information and tools to catalyze and reinforce the restoration of deforested and degraded lands around the world. Eleven members of the CPF are also members of the GPFLR, along with several governments.

38. Besides the afore-mentioned Initiatives that are providing leadership, technical assistance, knowledge and support to countries in advancing the sustainable management of forests, there are other GEF-funded global level projects and programs that integrate forest restoration and land rehabilitation. These include the following:

- o *The Food Securities Fund: A fund to finance sustainable supply chains at scale in Emerging Markets*: This is a \$13.5 million global GEF-funded to improve rural livelihoods and achieve positive environmental outcomes by supporting sustainable agriculture production systems in emerging markets with a complementary source of credit, provided in partnership with companies committed to sustainable development in their sourcing areas through sustainable supply chains.

- o *AGRI3 A Forest Conservation and Sustainable Agriculture Fund for Developing Countries*: This is a \$13.5 million GEF-funded (240 months) global project to de-risk USD 1 billion of private sector financing and provide USD 15 million in technical assistance for forest conservation and sustainable agriculture in developing countries and emerging markets to address climate change and land degradation.

- o *Fostering Partnerships to Build Coherence and Support for Forest Landscape Restoration*: This was a \$625,000 GEF-funded global MSP (2017-2019) to enhance synergies in the global FLR process and assist countries and stakeholders to scale up and strengthen implementation of FLR at national and sub-national levels.

- o *AVACLIM: Agroecology, ensuring food security and sustainable livelihoods while mitigating climate change and restoring land in dryland regions*: This is a \$1.13million GEF-funded global MSP (2019-2022) to increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner.

- o *Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration (FOLUR) Impact Program*: This is a \$306.4 million GEF-funded global project to promote sustainable, integrated landscapes through development of integrated landscape management systems, promotion of sustainable food production practices and responsible commodity value chains, restoration of natural habitats and capacity building.

- o *Sustainable Forest Management Impact Program on Dryland Sustainable Landscapes*: This is a \$95.8 million GEF-funded global project to avoid, reduce, and reverse further degradation, desertification and deforestation of land and ecosystems in drylands through the sustainable management of production

landscapes through strengthening the required environment for the sustainable and inclusive management of drylands and implementing and scaling up sustainable dryland management.

o *Scaling up Cocoa-based Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration / Transformative Innovations in Cote d'Ivoire*: This is a \$5.3 million GEF-funded project in Ivory Coast to promote deforestation-free cocoa value chains and restore degraded cocoa-forest landscapes.

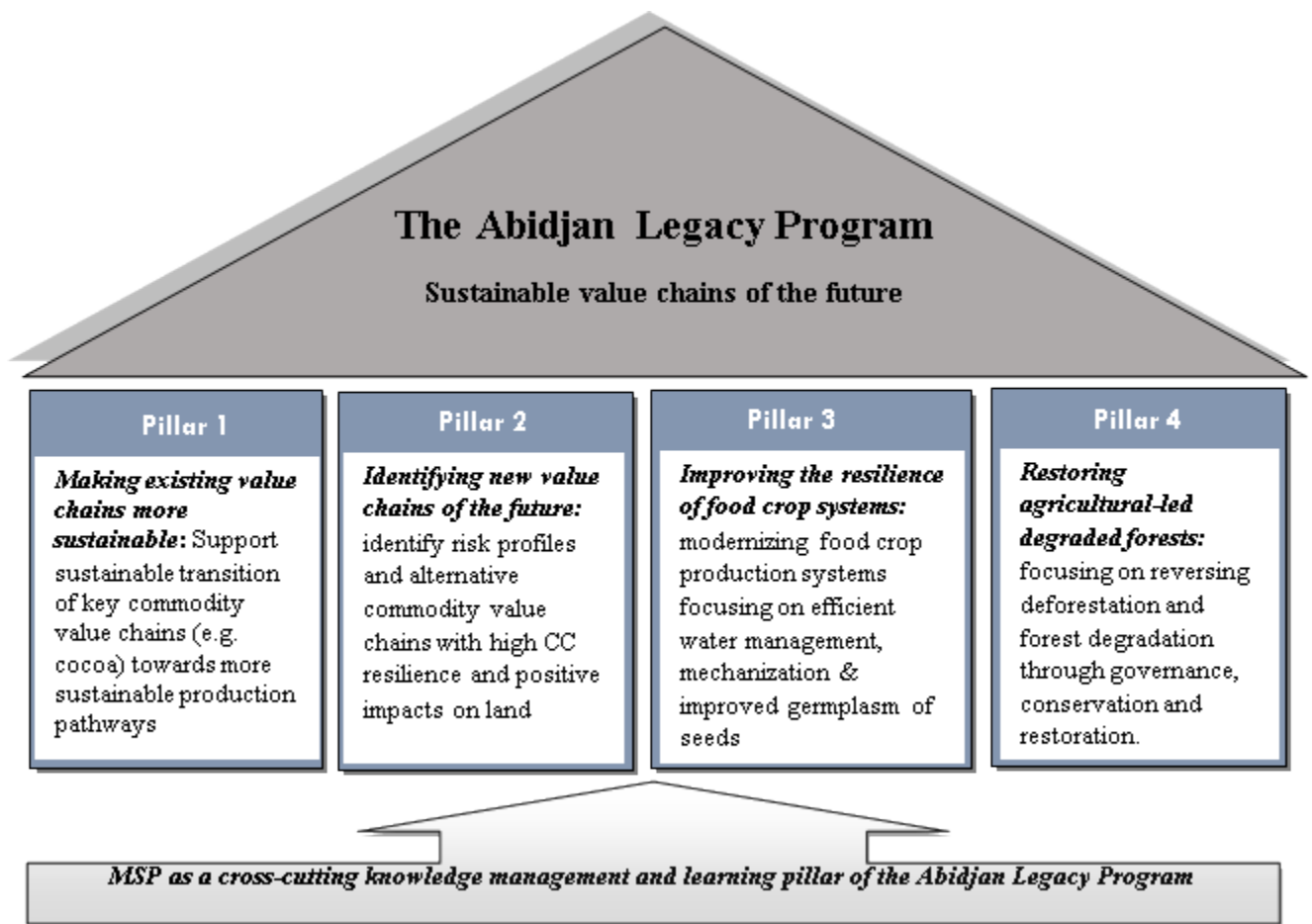
39. These initiatives and programs provide an opportunity but also are a wealth of experiences land degradation, land restoration, livelihoods, private sector involvement in agricultural value chains that the proposed MSP will utilize to generate and disseminate knowledge that will support the implementation of the LP. This priority will benefit from existing networks such as the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT)[50]50 as well as the FOLUR IP (GEF-7) and the GGP (GEF-6). It should be noted that these programs and initiatives involve various players that include policy makers, academia, smallholders and the private sector. In this regard, the programs provide an opportunity for the MSP to draw lessons from the pool of stakeholders to inform the engagement processes, including what has been working, what hasn't, what can be done differently and the reasons. Through improved knowledge management, participating countries in the LP will be able to have more effective and efficient institutions in tackling complex environmental problems (particularly those associated with striking a balance between food production systems and sustainable environmental management), and delivering global environmental benefits, and sustainable development.[51]51

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

40. Approaches to land restoration and rehabilitation may take different strategies shaped by resource availability, access to knowledge in terms of tools, innovations and best practices. The strategies can also be influenced by policy and institutional environment and priorities of key stakeholders. The proposed MSP will support stakeholders in Cote d'Ivoire to access information to enable them to make informed decisions regarding slowing the degradation and clearing of tropical forests and increasing tree cover in agricultural and livestock grazing systems, including making informed decisions regarding reconciling the expansion of forest and tree cover with the growing global demand for food, feed, and fiber from the tropics, focusing on targeted value chains.

41. With a national scope in Cote d'Ivoire, the proposed MSP is conceived to address challenges related to: first, knowledge generation and management to support investments in sustainable agricultural best practices and sustainable land management. Second, the MSP will support the creation of an environment for private sector investment in sustainable agricultural value chains.

42. The proposed MSP is designed as **a cross-cutting knowledge management and learning pillar of the Abidjan Legacy Program** launched during the COP 15 in May 2022 in Abidjan. **The Abidjan Legacy Program** will be conceived around the following four components: i) Making existing value chains more sustainable; ii) Identifying new value chains of the future; iii) Improving the resilience of food crop systems; and iv) Restoring agricultural-led degraded forests (see the figure below). This MSP will generate and use knowledge products and stimulate investments to support Parties to the UNCCD to successfully implement the Abidjan Legacy Program structured around the following components presented as Pillars in the figure below.



43. The goal of the Abidjan Legacy Programme is to ensure that commodity value chains are futureproof, resilient and inclusive. In Cote d'Ivoire, the Programme will reduce the degradation of land and forest resources through the twin objectives of ensuring more sustainable productive capacities in existing value chains, while identifying, developing and implementing new value chains that can withstand the impact of climate change and support a regenerative transition of productive systems. At the global level, the programme will highlight systemic risks value chains and producers are facing from both climate change and land degradation, as well as highlight opportunities that exist both with regards to retrofitting existing value chains, as well as foresighting new opportunities

44. The Abidjan Legacy ?s long-term vision is to implement and expand countries efforts in boosting long-term environmental sustainability across major value chains while protecting and restoring forests and lands and improving communities? resilience to climate change. The project has been designed following various consultations in Abidjan and virtually with a range of stakeholders (government, private sector, civil society and development partners) including IFAD, FADO , UNCCD in Abidjan

between March and April 2022. The Legacy Programme will be a model of excellence of an 'ambition loop' - a virtuous cycle where country parties and the private sector mutually escalate ambitions for sustainability in major commodity value chains such as soy, beef, palm oil, coffee, cocoa and textile fiber. Engaging various stakeholders at different levels will be opportune to support and encourage behaviour change in individual consumption patterns and production systems to ensure sustainability^[52] in target value chains. The Legacy Programme will call on country parties to reassess and reinforce their commodity value chains towards sustainability and resilience and a sustainable transition of commodity value chains in Cote d'Ivoire and beyond - this will be ensured through a cross-sectoral and vertical robust policy coherence mapping in support of an enabling LDN policy environment of LDN - underpinned by sustainable value chains (through Component 2).

45. Under this overall Abidjan Legacy program, the overarching objective of the proposed MSP is to **generate and use knowledge products and stimulate investments to support Parties to the UNCCD to successfully implement the Abidjan Legacy Program**. To achieve its objective, the proposed MSP has been conceived around the following two principal components that are described in section C:

? **Component 1.** Knowledge management, innovation and exchanges to facilitate investments in best practices and learning on climate resilient and low emission agricultural value chains, forest and land use; and

? **Component 2.** Investment Tools and incentives are developed to foster sustainable investment into the most suitable value chains

46. Overall, the MSP will focus on enhancing the ability of relevant stakeholders in Cote d'Ivoire to access knowledge, appropriate tools and innovations, have an exchange platform for best practices in support of their participation in the Abidjan Legacy Program. The MSP will also create and support a policy environment and address capacity needs so that relevant stakeholders in Cote d'Ivoire increasingly take up Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) businesses. Supporting policy environment will also include mapping policy coherence to identify policy bottlenecks that undermine sustainable production systems of target value chains, and potentially negatively impact the sustainability of project outcomes.

Component 1. Knowledge management, innovation and exchanges to facilitate investments in best practices and learning on climate resilient and low emission agricultural value chains, forest and land use

47. Under this component, the project acknowledges that Innovation is a key driver of economic growth and competitiveness. In the agricultural sector, innovation can take many forms, including technological, organizational, and policy-related changes. It can also involve the adoption of new practices and technologies to increase productivity and improve resource use efficiency, as well as the development of new products and markets.^[53]

48. Component 1 will be core to the MSP as a knowledge project for the Legacy Program. The rationale of this component is underpinned by an understanding that to address more effectively land degradation associated with land use change for (global) agricultural value chains, relevant stakeholders in Cote d'Ivoire need to have information and knowledge hubs that they can easily access to make informed decisions regarding production systems. Access to knowledge will empower participating stakeholders to engage in sustainable production systems that will keep agricultural businesses profitable without necessarily engaging in unsustainable land management practices and technologies that lead to deforestation and land degradation. Open access to knowledge and tools will also facilitate knowledge exchange among stakeholders, but also the potential of scaling up and out best practices across the

country. Thus, the proposed outputs and associated activities are geared to ensure stakeholders increasingly access knowledge, appropriate tools, best practices and innovations, as summarized in the component's outcome below:

49. Component 1's outcome is as follows:

? Outcome 1.1: Different stakeholders^[54] in Cote d'Ivoire and other countries increasingly access knowledge, appropriate tools, innovations, exchange platforms and best practices to support their participation in the Abidjan Legacy Program

50. The outcome will be achieved through three outputs:

? Output 1.1.1: Information hub and an open-access knowledge platform developed for targeted investments. Activities include the following:

b) Collect and document relevant good practices in food systems in the region as well as from other regions (e.g. Latin America for cocoa, Asia for oil palm on traceability, etc.) in collaboration with existing networks such as WOCAT and the UNCCD Knowledge Hub. This MSP will seek synergies and support existing platforms, focusing on the identified agricultural value chains ? interoperability will be explored to avoid duplication of efforts. Gender elements will be taken into account. The collection of data will be phased to support the identification of gaps in existing platforms so that the proposed information hub can close. This will strengthen the value addition of the information hub not as a replication of existing platforms but more as a ?complementor.?

c) Set up a digital platform to encourage exchanges between government, producers (small and commercial) and investors, and ensure the promotion of knowledge documented through national (e.g. existing national investor platforms) and regional platforms (e.g. Africa Union, CEDEAO etc.) including through FAO-TECA global knowledge platform. The gender dimensions will be integrated and reflected in the platform to underscore the role of both men and women as agents of positive change in agricultural value chains.

? Output 1.1.2. A community of practice including gender experts and expertise established and capacities strengthened targeting climate resilient and low emission agricultural value chains, forest and land use, promoting exchange and cooperation among different stakeholders in Cote d'Ivoire (in collaboration with the UNCCD Knowledge Hub and other initiatives).

A community of practice will bring together interested parties in prioritized agricultural value chains to share their knowledge and experiences related to the production of the selected crops and other agricultural products. One important aspect of a community of practice is that it is centered around a shared goal or interest in improving agricultural practices and outcomes. In this regard, the community of practice will be a platform for discussions about topics related to sustainable farming methods, new technologies and techniques, or market trends and demand. In addition to sharing information and expertise, members will also engage in collaborative problem-solving, mentorship, and networking. In the context of agricultural value chains, a community of practice can play a critical role in strengthening the linkages between producers, processors, and buyers, and ensuring that the products and services being offered meet the needs and expectations of all stakeholders. Overall, a community of practice in the agriculture sector can serve as an invaluable resource for farmers and industry professionals seeking to stay up-to-date on the latest developments and best practices in their field.

To sustain it, the community of practice will be housed under a renowned existing platform that will manage and maintain it. The platform will be identified in consultation with the Global Mechanism and the Ivorian Office of the Prime Minister. A community of practice will open up to a broad range of stakeholders ranging from smallholder farmers to large corporations in Cote d'Ivoire ? to inspire behaviour change in the production systems, and create an opportunity for demonstrating best practices in target value chains.

? Output 1.1.3. Communication, outreach and awareness-raising of products and activities produced, and a synthesis of lessons from the "Abidjan Legacy Program's lessons" to highlight good practices and

experiences from stakeholders (government agencies, local, international NGOs and private sector[55]55), local observer networks[56]56 in C?te d'Ivoire but also from other countries in the Africa region and Worldwide.

The private sector as well, will be part of the community of practice, engaged as individual companies, through value chains or through existing sectoral initiatives that will be explored within the country. The private sector possess both the financial and knowledge resources, and their centres could be centres of demonstration of best practices, knowledge transfer and learning which this MSP will support. The private sector are critical for: innovation, expertise, and capabilities; investment capacity, and managerial and operational expertise, including riskmanagement; provision of distribution channels to reach value chain actors ranging from SMEs to retailers and consumers financial resources and expertise in market-based solutions that have the potential for achieving scale and sustainability in tackling systemic environmental challenges; and policy influence and the capability to deliver what in-country governments seek to achieve, such as improved service-delivery, resilience to climate change and human health.[57]57 Additional information at CEO endorsement will be furnished to refine the private engagement in this project.

51. The engagement of the private sector in the project is an on-going process, and opportunities such as trade fairs within the country and agricultural regional conferences will be taken to engage them. There are global, regional and national best practices that will be tapped into and integrated in this MSP. International organisations present in C?te d'Ivoire will be critical in knowledge transfer regarding best practices from other global regions. It is for this reason that existing platforms and initiatives will be critical in attracting the right private sector entities that, on one hand, can influence positive behaviour change in spearheading best practices regarding sustainable production systems of key target commodities and associated value chains. On the other hand, they (private sector entities) can also be engaged to provide additional financing to promote sustainable practices, ensure socioeconomic inclusive growth opportunities for smallholders by involving them in value chains while offering technological opportunities and knowledge transfer. In the engagement of the private sector, it should be noted that the UNCCD Knowledge Hub, UNCCD and GEF National Focal Points will play an important role at both national and regional levels.

52. In a nutshell, private sector engagement in the context of this project will be critical because:

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- o Firstly, it helps to increase efficiency and productivity within the agricultural sector. Private companies, particularly those with experience in the industry, can bring new technologies and management practices that can improve crop yields and reduce waste. This, in turn, can lead to lower food prices and improved food security for both producers and consumers.
 - o Secondly, private sector engagement can help to create jobs and stimulate economic growth in rural areas. Agricultural value chains often involve a range of activities, from farming and processing to distribution and marketing. As such, they have the potential to generate employment opportunities at various stages of the chain. This can be particularly beneficial in developing countries, where the agricultural sector is often a key source of employment and income.
 - o Finally, private sector engagement can also help to improve the sustainability of agricultural value chains. Companies that are committed to sustainability can introduce practices that reduce environmental impacts, such as conserving water and reducing the use of pesticides. This can help to preserve natural resources and protect the health of both farmers and consumers.
 - o Overall, private sector engagement in agricultural value chains is important for increasing efficiency, stimulating economic growth, and promoting sustainability. It can help to improve the lives of both producers and consumers and contribute to the overall development of a country.
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? Output 1.1.4 A south-south cooperation and knowledge exchange feasibility conducted. Exchanges, visits including virtual tours between regions like West Africa, Latin American Countries (Brazil,) and South Asia countries (Indonesia) will be facilitated.[58]⁵⁸ The South-South exchange programs will also serve as opportunities for engagement and learning from the private sector so that global best practices in Côte d'Ivoire can be supported and domesticated.

At the time of developing this document for CEO endorsement, the government of Ivory Coast has had advanced discussions with the government of Costa Rica as part of the planning process for a south-south cooperation and knowledge exchange. Additional contacts are foreseen with other countries in other global regions for south-south or peer-to-peer learning opportunities.

53. The MSP will use a three-pronged approach to ensure effective engagement with the private sector; working with multi-stakeholder platforms to achieve scale and impact; supporting multiple private sector entry points through existing networks and partnerships; and crowding-in the private sector.[59]⁵⁹ The specific approach will depend on the specific private sector and prevailing conditions, including enabling policy and institutional environments.

? Activities include the following:

a) Promote knowledge sharing and innovation through regional and inter-regional exchanges between farmers based on FAO Farmer Field Schools approaches, but also the private sector and other stakeholders within the land use, management and administration space ? inspired by the GEF's 5-step art of knowledge exchange process.[60]⁶⁰ The regional and inter-regional exchanges such as with water management in India with Jain Irrigation technology centers, Syngenta's demonstration farms, Yara's centers of excellence amongst other . will be critical in strengthening partnerships of equals based on shared experiences and understanding, and facilitating reciprocal knowledge-sharing among peers who face similar challenges speeds up learning and capacity-building, and helps in scaling up the outcomes of successful projects.[61]⁶¹

b) Organize national events to promote public and private partnerships.

? Output 1.1.3. Communication, outreach and awareness-raising products and activities produced, and a synthesis of lessons from the ?Abidjan Legacy Program's lessons? to highlight good practices and experiences from stakeholders including to women (government agencies, local, international NGOs and private sector[62]⁶²), local observer networks[63]⁶³ in Côte d'Ivoire. Activities include the following:

a) Establish an integrated e-learning platform for the community of practice on AFOLU businesses and to be sustained by the chamber of commerce of Côte d'Ivoire

b) Finance platform development, maintenance, hosting and support. Additional consultations with project partners will be undertaken to seek synergies with enduring institutional arrangements such as Finance for Tomorrow to catalyze aspects of the Initiatives that have the potential to transform production systems, generate global environmental benefits and improve livelihoods of local communities.

c) A collection of synthesized lessons regarding best practices and experiences informed by local stakeholders (who include (local and international NGOs, local networks of independent observations) in Côte d'Ivoire.

? Output 1.1.4 A south-south cooperation and knowledge exchange feasibility study conducted. Activities include a study that will be informed by consultations with key stakeholders as well as other regional initiatives, organisations and policy makers to explore more effective mechanisms to support south-south exchange programs to scale up best practices and experiences to avoid, reduce or restore land degradation associated with unsustainable agricultural practices, deforestation and land use change. Women participation will be supported.[64]⁶⁴

Component 2. Investment Tools and incentives are developed to foster sustainable investment into the most suitable value chains

54. In the conception of this MSP within the context of the Legacy Program, component 2 builds on component 1, acknowledging that access to knowledge and appropriate tools is necessary but not sufficient. The missing gap is the policy and capacity environment within which accessed knowledge and appropriate tools can be used to achieve the objectives of reversing land degradation and deforestation associated with the AFOLU business sector. Therefore, to complement component 1, component 2 will focus on creating a required environment by addressing policy and institutional capacity gaps that create bottlenecks that stifle the ability of relevant stakeholders in C?te d'Ivoire to increasingly take up sustainable AFOLU businesses. Thus, through component 2, the proposed MSP will support the policy environment and capacity needs so that stakeholders in in C?te d'Ivoire steadily engage in the sustainable AFOLU business sector as summarized in the in the component?s outcome below:

55. Component 2?s outcome is as follows:

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? Outcome 2.1: The policy environment and capacity needs are addressed and different stakeholders in C?te d'Ivoire increasingly take up Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) businesses

56. The outcome will be achieved through two outputs:

? Output 2.1.1: Best available climate resilient and low emission agricultural value chains, forest and land use and technologies investments, financial models and instrument in C?te d'Ivoire are assessed and documented (including gender gaps in access to climate resilient agric value chains, technologies and investments). Proposed activities include the following:

a) Assess and document the most suitable value chains requiring greater investments in C?te d'Ivoire considering climate change, accelerated land degradation, ecosystem services among others ? this activity will synergise and ride on institutional arrangements of already existing platforms and Initiatives such as WOCAT. This will ensure targeted knowledge generation regarding climate change, accelerated land degradation, ecosystem services among others, without duplicating resources. This will be further refined at CEO endorsement.

b) Assess and document current investment trends; financial models and instrument (concessional loans, guarantee, equity) taking into account all risks including environmental, social and climate risk and gaps. To reverse and or reduce the pitfalls in production systems of target value chains, the assessment will also engagement the private sector to understand why certain models work in certain places, and why they don?t work in others.

c) Identify and document the best agricultural practices to be promoted and their profitability for greater investment at scale[65]65.

? Output 2.1.2: Policy coherence is mapped, and Investment Tools, criteria?s and incentives developed and used by relevant stakeholders in C?te d?Ivoire to foster sustainable investment into the most suitable value chains.: Proposed activities include the following:

a) Mapping the policy coherence environment and capacity needs in C?te d?Ivoire to not only identify bottlenecks, but also country level policy enablers for sustainable production systems in target value chains.

b) Develop digital investment guidebook providing a comprehensive compendium of innovative solution in support of an accelerated agricultural transition in target regions, including practices (such as perverse incentives) that impede the generation of multiple environmental, social, and economic benefits ? identifying bad practices to be avoided but also to inform policy to support sustainable production systems.

c) Identify relevant incentives (e.g. fair trade, traceability, social investment in the fight against illegal child labour etc.) and mechanisms to attract private capital including domestic into in sustainable agricultural value chains.

d) Define investment criteria for investors for each of the selected value chains meeting expected development standards.

57. As has already been noted, this proposed GEF MSP is a component of the overall Legacy Programme and provides a global framework for promoting sustainability in the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector with green funds. Shifting to business models and technologies that sustainably use land, management and forest assets can contribute to lower the impacts of climate change, reducing GHG emissions, restoring degraded land and contribute to increasing the overall resilience of global socioecological systems. The potential for both private and investment in sustainable value chains for people, the planet is significant, and tapping it can be determinant of the ability of in C?te d?Ivoire as a UNCCD Party country. By mobilizing the financial sector, the country and other partners can boost processes, accelerate business, and promote comprehensive regulatory tools. Through the Legacy Programme, Cote d?Ivoire is supporting the cooperation at continental and global level for the conservation of tropical forests, the restoration of land to generate opportunities for the sustainable development and well-being of its population.

58. Overall, by focusing on knowledge and policy and capacity needs, the GEF MSP is conceived as an important contribution to kick-start the change of entrenched behaviours (i.e., unsustainable practices in agriculture), helping create the foundation for markets that lifting cocoa and others value chain farmers from poverty, tackling child and forced labour, improving gender equality, ending deforestation, and empowering value chains producers including cocoa farmers? organizations. The program will jump-start private participation with demonstration effects, highlighting biodiversity as an intrinsic element of economic, social and environmental success beyond the GEF support in important agricultural value chains. Under the project, mechanisms to promote the broader adoption and replication of the successful policies, practices and technologies will be ensured in support of sustainable production of targeted agricultural value chains.

59. The project will seek to ensure that relevant stakeholders in C?te d?Ivoire increasingly access knowledge, appropriate tools, innovations, exchange platforms and best practices to support their participation in the Abidjan Legacy Program, as well as creating and supporting a policy environment and capacity needs so that national and international relevant stakeholders in C?te d?Ivoire increasingly take up Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) businesses. In this regard, component 1 that

focuses on knowledge management, innovation and exchanges facilitating investments on best practices and learning, and component 2 that focuses on creating a propitious environment for private sector investment in sustainable agricultural value chains are both strategically proposed to ensure country Parties have the required foundation and environment to successfully implement the Legacy Program. Thus, this MSP is not to be viewed in isolation from the Legacy Program, but one that prepares the successful implementation of the latter.

60. The project will improve the ability of stakeholders in Côte d'Ivoire to monitor and track forest and land use change related to targeted agricultural value chains thereby promoting access to more reliable, available, accessible and transparent information on AFOLU businesses. The project will build country capacity in several ways. First, IFAD with partners will develop an e-learning course on transparency in the AFOLU business sector, which will be available to the Ivorian government as well as other interested stakeholders, such as intergovernmental organizations, the private sector and academia. The project will organize sub-regional and national workshops to build AFOLU business capacity and introduce innovative forestry tools. Third, the project will identify and share case studies and best practices on transparency in the AFOLU business sector and develop communication and outreach materials to raise awareness on the importance of data collection, analysis and dissemination increasing transparency among different stakeholders and players in the AFOLU business sector ? all these interventions in support of the implementation of the Legacy Program. To improve south-south cooperation and sharing of best practices and experiences, the project will carry out an exchange program with Costa Rica which has already been identified and the Ivorian government has already had discussions. Others will be included, may be done through virtual tours.

61. Under this envisaged South-South exchange program, the project acknowledges that Learning exchanges can be a useful tool for sharing knowledge and best practices, and for facilitating the transfer of technology and innovations. They can also help to build capacity and foster collaboration among stakeholders in different sectors and countries. Thus, the project views the South-South exchange program as a knowledge exchange?or peer-to-peer learning for sharing, replicating, and scaling up what works when addressing global environmental challenges[66]⁶⁶ associated with agricultural food value chains.

62. It should be noted that the design of this project acknowledges global efforts such as those embedded in the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and private sector commitments, such as deforestation-free supply chains ? and how these are stimulating growing demand for sustainable investment opportunities in the food and agriculture sector. However, the supply of such opportunities has been slow to materialize despite a proliferation of impact funds and other sustainability-focused funders seeking to direct global capital flows into the sector. This can be explained, in part, by the heterogeneous, multi-layered, and fragmented nature of agricultural production systems and food value chains and the poorly developed knowledge systems available to inform new types of investment. The volume of sustainability-oriented investment in the food and agriculture sector is likely to be hampered by the absence of a robust scientific evidence base and well-designed tools for harnessing knowledge to investment decision processes.[67]⁶⁷

KM-LEGAP's Theory of Change

63. The project is designed to address the barriers related to limited investment tools and incentives for investments in the most suitable value chains, weak institutional capacities for data to leverage investments, limited knowledge of best practices and learning on climate resilient agric value chains. Its overall objective in this regard is to generate and use knowledge products to stimulate investments to support Parties to the UNCCD to successfully implement the Abidjan Legacy Program. The context within which the project is designed is characterised by growth in human population which is exerting undue pressure on land resources through expansion of agricultural land frontiers using unsustainable

production systems, other land use changes and bush fires. It is granted that agricultural commodity value chains such as palm oil, cocoa, coffee, cashew and cotton, among others, have important socioeconomic benefits but it is also noted that their production has environmental costs. These major cash crops are fueling deforestation and land degradation, changing microclimates permanently and reducing productivity and livelihoods. Additionally, the impacts of climate change are threatening the suitability of the cocoa belt in West Africa ? with implications on the socioeconomic benefits of important value chains to small to commercial farmers and national GDPs.

64. In addressing the three barriers in the afore-highlighted context, this project acknowledges that lack of knowledge makes it difficult for investors to identify opportunities for sustainable investment in important agricultural value chains to spur a transition towards sustainable production systems. Also, the project notes that there are limited incentives for investors to prioritize sustainability in their agricultural investments focused on important value chains. Finally, the project acknowledges that without access to reliable and comprehensive data, it can be challenging for investors to make informed decisions about where and how to allocate their resources. Additionally, weak institutional capacities can make it difficult for policy makers to develop and implement effective policies and regulations that support the sustainability agenda in agricultural production systems and associated value chains.

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65. It therefore remains critical to: i) develop best practices and learning on climate resilient and low emission agricultural value chains, forest, and land use, including investments in knowledge generation and encourage more widespread adoption (exchange or peer-to-peer learning opportunities, among others); ii) develop and provide more investment options and incentives for sustainable agriculture, and encourage more investors to prioritize sustainability in their agricultural investments (creating and linking platforms such as community of practice, among others); and iii) invest in research and development to improve data collection and management technologies, as well as providing training and support to institutions to help them build their capacity in this area (interoperability). By strengthening the ability to collect and organize data important value chains, the understanding of production and distribution systems can be enhanced and investments can be better leveraged.

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66. The combined effect of achieving the three points above translates into the collection and sharing of relevant and impactful knowledge and policy coherence to foster sustainable investment into the most suitable value chains. At the more practical level, the generated and used knowledge products will stimulate investments to support transforming production systems of target value chains (cocoa, coffee, palm oil, cashew and cotton, among others) including making them more resilient to climate change , inclusive and mitigate their contribution to land degradation and deforestation. This theory of change is illustrated in Annex H.

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67. Given the multiplicity of stakeholders, their diverse interests, including land use priorities, and geographical and policy spaces, the theory of change for this project is built on the assumptions that: i) unless addressed with a more coherent policy environment, unsustainable agricultural practices in important agricultural value chains will continue leading to deforestation and land degradation ? and will exacerbated by human population pressure and climate change impacts; ii) COVID-19 and weather events will not disrupt the implementation of project activities (such as bringing stakeholders together, south-south exchange programs etc); and iii) stakeholder enthusiasm, the private sector, development partners and political will be maintained and or enhanced during project implementation (see Annex H).

4) Alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Program strategies

68. The MSP is conceived in compliance with the GEF-7 Land Degradation Focal Area priorities, particularly investments in production landscapes where agricultural and rangeland management practices underpin the livelihoods of poor rural farmers and pastoralists, but also with specific emphasis on sustainable management of drylands in arid and semi-arid zones addressing, among other issues, drought-prone ecosystems and populations. The MSP is proposed in line with LD set-asides for supporting interventions in food, land-use and restoration, and sustainable forest management for major biomes. Additionally, the MSP is squarely aligned and consistent with the GEF LD focal priorities under LD objective 2 (creating an enabling environment to support voluntary LDN target implementation):

- ? Building capacity at all levels required to restore and maintain functional landscapes;
- ? Lessons learning and knowledge exchange and south-south cooperation within regions; and
- ? Developing monitoring and information systems and targeted research on impacts, trade-offs, costs-benefit analysis of restoration, and identifying incremental synergies.

69. The MSP will support the overall implementation of the Legacy Program. In increasing access to knowledge and appropriate tools and innovations, participating countries and the private sector will make better informed decisions in the AFOLU business sector. Thus, in this regard, the MSP will contribute to reducing or arresting trends in deforestation and associated land degradation of targeted agricultural value chains, while supporting livelihoods of local communities that directly depend on the integrity of forests and soil fertility to survive. Improved forests and reduced levels of land degradation have positive impacts on biodiversity but also reduce carbon emissions that result from land use change.

70. The MSP is consistent with the GEF LD to support the implementation of SLM to increase the prospects for food security for smallholders and communities that are dependent on farming for their livelihoods, but also the avoidance of further land degradation, desertification, and deforestation of land and ecosystems in drylands through the sustainable management of production landscapes, addressing the complex nexus of local livelihoods, land degradation, climate change, and environmental security.

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5) Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing

71. *Under the baseline scenario:* Agriculture continues to be the primary source of food under the convergence of multiple factors: rapidly growing population, climate change, burgeoning middle-class that is increasing the consumption per capita and infrastructure development, among others. While agriculture assuages concerns over food insecurity, particularly in low to very low income countries, the sector remains the largest driver of tropical deforestation and forest degradation, and contributes 10% - 14% of global anthropogenic GHG emissions[68]⁶⁸ ? plus, the sector contributes to loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services on which humans depend. The environmental footprint due to agriculture is marked by both commercial and smallholders. More effective responses to this scenario face serious bottlenecks due to financial constraints, skills, knowledge (chronically scanty, poor quality and scattered), technology, tools and institutional capacity challenges[69]⁶⁹. Therefore, under the baseline scenario of agricultural production, land users (commercial and smallholders) need curated knowledge

and tools and guided policy and institutional development for them to more effectively produce without necessarily degrading the very resources that underpin their production systems.

72. *With the GEF funding:* Guided by the adage that "knowledge is power," with the GEF support, participating countries in the Legacy Program will be empowered through access to knowledge, appropriate tools, best practices and innovations "capacitating them to make informed decisions to ensure that target agricultural commodity value chains (for example, of palm oil, cocoa, coffee, cashew and cotton, among others) are resilient, inclusive but also contribute to reducing land degradation and forest resources " by ensuring sustainable productive capacities in existing value chains, and identifying, developing and implementing new value chains that can withstand the impact of climate change and support a regenerative transition of productive systems. Eventually, this will contribute to strengthening Côte d'Ivoire's momentum towards achieving its national LDN targets.

6) Global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)

73. The MSP will support the overall implementation of the Legacy Program. In increasing access to knowledge and appropriate tools and innovations, participating countries and the private sector will make better informed decisions in the AFOLU business sector. Thus, in this regard, the MSP will contribute to reducing or arresting trends in deforestation and associated land degradation of targeted agricultural value chains, while supporting livelihoods of local communities that directly depend on the integrity of forests and soil fertility to survive. Improved forests and reduced levels of land degradation have positive impacts on biodiversity but also reduce carbon emissions that result from particularly agriculture, but also generally, from land use change.

74. As a principally knowledge-generation and exchange focused project to support the implementation of the Legacy Program, the MSP is conceived to contribute to reducing land degradation, deforestation, loss of biodiversity and GHG emissions associated with agricultural commodity value chains " thereby supporting livelihoods of communities that directly depend on land for their survival.

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75. The MSP will generate and disseminate reliable information to support the integration of environmentally-friendly systems, such as those informed agroecology approach into agricultural commodity value chains in production landscapes across different biomes " facilitating the mainstreaming of different innovations, practices and technologies in production landscapes to increase food security, diversify agricultural livelihoods, reduce environmental degradation and biodiversity loss and increase soil carbon sequestration.

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76. It is reiterated here that this MSP a cross-cutting knowledge management and learning pillar of the LP. It is a precursor of the Program to facilitate its implementation to achieve both environmental benefits as well as contributing to the socioeconomic wellbeing of local livelihoods. In its role as a cross-cutting knowledge management and learning pillar and precursor of the LP, the proposed MSP is poised to:

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" Support eight (8) events to foster national-level knowledge exchange and scaling up of SLM and LDN best practices;

" Establish one community of practice with strengthened capacities targeted on climate resilient and low emission agricultural value chains, forest and land use;

? Build capacities of direct beneficiaries of 30,000 individuals, inclusive across the gender divide to ensure 50% representation of both males and females;

? Produce knowledge products (on low emission agricultural value chains, forest and land use and technologies investments, financial models and instrument) and devise dissemination mechanisms to reach out to all relevant stakeholders in C?te d'Ivoire that will participate in the LP and beyond, including peer-reviewed publications. During the dissemination process of knowledge products and learning, the project will also involve GEF National Focal Points and the UNCCD National Focal Points. As noted by STAP, the involvement of the Focal Points will create a ?knowledge and practice multiplier effect? as they will be equipped with the right skills and understanding of how to define knowledge exchange needs and help develop, implement, measure, and report knowledge results[70]⁷⁰; and

? Create one open access information platform for targeted investments to facilitate knowledge sharing and stimulate interest in investments in SLM and LDN in support of sustainability in priority value chains ? this will also seek to learn and contribute to responding to the challenges in value chains e.g recurrent difficulties on the cocoa value chain in C?te d'Ivoire , carbon credit owners etc.

In consultation with other key stakeholders who include the GEF and the UNCCD Knowledge Hub, the creation of one open information will be informed by other existing knowledge information systems, user access and platform content ? to best synergise through interoperability rather than duplicating efforts.

77. As a cross-cutting knowledge management and learning pillar and precursor, it should be noted that future projects, principally the LP will benefit from the MSP?s knowledge products and built capacities in production landscapes through maintaining or improving the flow of agro-ecosystem services to sustain food production and livelihoods; and reducing pressures on natural resources from competing land uses and increase resilience in the wider landscape. Overall, this will involve the use of SLM practices such as agroforestry, silvo-pastoral systems, agro-ecological intensification, and other practices. Production systems such as agroforestry, for example, support the generation of global environmental benefits through the preservation of biodiversity, carbon emissions avoided and carbon sequestration. Additionally, this helps to maintain important local ecosystem services including the provision of clean water for crops and communities ? contributing to food and nutrition security, resilience, and livelihoods of local farmers. The role of the MSP as a cross-cutting knowledge and learning pillar of the LP cannot therefore, be underestimated in catalysing the generation of socioeconomic and environmental benefits in production landscapes.

78. Consistent with the expectation that a GEF project will not cause any harm to environment or to any stakeholder and, where applicable, it will take measures to prevent and/or mitigate adverse effects, this project is a cross-cutting Knowledge Management and Learning Pillar of the LP. According to IFAD?s Environmental and social categorization and criteria, this is a Category C project ? not requiring additional environmental analysis because the activities have positive environmental impacts, or negligible or minimally adverse environmental impacts.[71]⁷¹

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7) Innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up

79. *Innovation*: Within the context of agrifood systems, innovation denotes a process by which individuals, communities or organizations generate changes in the design, production or recycling of goods and services, as well as changes in the surrounding institutional environment, that are new to their context and foster transitions towards sustainable agrifood systems for food security and nutrition ? including changes in practices, norms, markets and institutional arrangements, which may foster new

networks of food production, processing, distribution and consumption that may challenge the status quo.[72]⁷² The innovation of the proposed MSP is embedded in its being a precursor of a broader Legacy program. As a precursor, its innovation is closely linked to its sustainability and potential for scaling up. In this sense, it is an independent yet associated project designed to achieve a specific objective which, on its own, is not an end in itself, but rather a means to achieve a bigger objective of the Legacy program with regional and global scopes. Aside this particularity, the MSP will bring together different players (local and international operating in C?te d'Ivoire) around a knowledge building agenda to avoid, reduce or reverse trends in deforestation and land degradation associated with the AFOLU business sector. It will create a recipe for private sector investments and participation in the AFOLU business sector.

80. *Sustainability*: As has already been noted, the MSP will prepare in C?te d'Ivoire and generate knowledge and learning platform for other UNCCD country Parties to participate in the Legacy Program later. Therefore, this will ensure the sustainability of the results of this proposed MSP ? the results of the MSP will feed in the Legacy Program thereby ensuring continuity of the MSP?s achievement in a bigger program with regional and global scopes. Some of the aspects that this MSP will look at are the creation of an information hub and an open-access knowledge, a community of practice and investment tools, all of which will ensure sustainability of the results of the project. The information hub will serve as a one stop shop to allow interested parties in C?te d'Ivoire to access information but also to share best practices and lessons. The project will seek to synergise and support but also draw lessons from other already existing platforms and initiatives such as WOCAT, The Bonn Challenge, The Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism, the Global Landscapes Forum, and the Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration ? to the extent that these are relevant to production systems in C?te d'Ivoire. This may take the form of interoperability. Synergies and or interoperability will ensure sustainability of the MSP? outcomes because these will be supported by already existing and enduring institutional arrangements. As has been noted, the process of interoperability will include a ?data situational assessment? to better identify gaps in the existing platforms that this MSP will close.

The MSP will have a community of practice that will offer opportunity for peer-to-peer learning and mentorship among members. Therefore, it will be an invaluable resource for farmers and industry professionals seeking to stay up-to-date on the latest developments and best practices in prioritized value chains, including sustainable farming methods, new technologies and techniques, or market trends and demand. These aspects will ensure sustainability.

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81. *Scaling-up*: With a national-focus though also drawing on lessons from regional and global initiatives ? coupled with the improved ability of relevant stakeholders in C?te d'Ivoire to access information and best practices, the potential for scaling up sustainable land management practices in the AFOLU sector will be enhanced in the country. As a knowledge-focused project, this MSP will develop knowledge products and dissemination mechanisms that, combined, will point to strategic and practical directions for moving forward on sustainable production systems of important cash crops at both commercial and smallholder levels. As mentioned, the important regional and global initiatives (e.g Bonn Challenge, AFR100 etc) provide an opportunity to draw lessons from but also to plug in lessons, including through case studies to enhance scaling up. In this regard, these regional and global initiatives are platforms for scaling up lessons learned.

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[55] These include government agencies (SODEFOR and parks and reserves managed by the Ivorian Office for Parks and Reserves (OIPR).). Other include NITIDAE, ECOOKIM, Mirova, International Cocoa Initiative, IDH/The Sustainable Trade Initiative, FOA (Foncier, Forestrrie, agriculture), offtakers and traders (Walter Matter, Alter Eco), Wild Chimpanzee Foundation, (WCF) and Notre Foret, Notre Avenir (NOFNA).

[56] These observer networks are in the umbrella Observatoire Ivoirien pour la Gestion des Ressources Naturelles (OIREN).

[57] GEF (2020). [GEF's Private Sector Engagement Strategy](#)

[58] As has already been noted, it is reminded here that at the time of developing this document for CEO endorsement, the government of Ivory Coast has had advanced discussions with the government of Costa Rica as part of the planning process for a south-south cooperation and knowledge exchange. Other ?candidate? countries include those in West Africa, Latin American Countries (Brazil,) and South Asia countries (Indonesia). The exchanges will include virtual tours.

[59] GEF (2020). [GEF's Private Sector Engagement Strategy](#)

[60] GEF (2017). The Art of [Knowledge Exchange](#): A Results Focused Planning Guide for the GEF Partnership - The guide offers a practical step-by-step blueprint on how to design, implement, and measure progress with regards to knowledge exchange initiatives embedded in projects.

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[64] Please, note that at the time of developing this document for CEO endorsement, the government of Ivory Coast has had advanced discussions with the government of Costa Rica as part of the planning process for a south-south cooperation and knowledge exchange. Other ?candidate? countries include those in West Africa, Latin American Countries (Brazil,) and South Asia countries (Indonesia). The exchanges will include virtual tours.

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[72] FAO (2022). Innovation for transformation of agrifood systems

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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

N/A

1c. Child Project?

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

2. Stakeholders

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

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Yes

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none of the above, please explain why:

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

1. Successful implementation of this project that focuses on knowledge building for the Legacy Program needs to draw on different actors. Therefore, stakeholder engagement is the very essence of the

development but also implementation of the project. Within the broader context of the Legacy Program (with the ultimate goal to contribute to environmental benefits and improving the socioeconomic contexts of people), building inclusive value chains is an inherently complex process. It involves value-chain actors with different and often divergent interests, entrepreneurs and businesses of different sizes, farmers with a variety of assets and productive capacities, and an array of input and service providers, all operating in a dynamic business environment with severe limitations in terms of infrastructure and services.[1] This project notes that behind development organizations' interventions in value chains lies a desire to stimulate economic growth and, in some cases, enhance the environmental and social performance of value chains. Organizations have put particular emphasis on inclusion of the rural poor and expanded business opportunities for women, often in combination with incentives for environmentally friendly production technologies.

[1] Donovan et al. (2016). Challenges And Approaches For Inclusive Value-Chain Development: [Introduction](#)

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

Stakeholders	Respective roles	Mode of engagement
National Government	At National level, the project will collaborate with the UNCCD National-level structures that include the National Focal Points,	The government of Côte d'Ivoire is the key stakeholders in this MSP, and the project will provide a platform to engage with the UNCCD national-level structures and other stakeholders in the country in knowledge generation and addressing policy and capacity needs.
CSO	Providing community-level information and validate knowledge and tools	As above, civil society organisations will be engaged through UNCCD national-level structures, including the focal points.
Scientific and research organizations	The MSP collaborate with research institutions/scientific organisations particularly in supporting knowledge generation, data collection and documentation of good practices, development of dissemination tools and development of investment guidebook, among others.	At national levels, the UNCCD National Focal and the UNCCD Science and Technology Correspondent (CST) will engage scientific and research organizations throughout the life of the project for their role and contribution to the project.
National-level workshop host organizations TBD	The workshop host organizations (to be identified) will support the organization of the training workshops in the respective sub-national regions in close collaboration with the Project Management Unit, Executing Agency with support from the Implementing Agency.	Consultations will be conducted at national levels with the support of the government structures at national and sub-national levels with support from the Project Management Unit, Executing Agency with support from the Implementing Agency ? ensuring that capacity development, knowledge platforms and data are all conducted as necessary.

The Convention's institutions: UNCCD	The UNCCD Secretariat and the Global Mechanism will provide technical assistance and guidance to Cote d'Ivoire, providing a legitimate national-level platform for exchange of information and experiences among relevant stakeholders in the country ? thus ensuring that lessons learned are available and readily shared.	Global Mechanism as the Project Executing Agency and the UNCCD Secretariat as Executing Partner
Private Sector	Value chain players (to be determined at design stage but will include big, medium and small players)	IFAD and FAO as coordinating agencies
Uns and MDBs	All UN Organizations particularly Rome Based Agencies (RBA) African Development Banks, Islamic Development Bank, World Bank, BOAD.	IFAD and FAO as coordinating agencies

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1. The development of this CER has benefitted from consultations and discussions with Cote d'Ivoire, IFAD HQ and WCA, FAO CI office, UNCCD/GM, as well as UNDP (involved in GEF-6 GGP, and GEF-7 FOLUR). On February 13, 2023, a national consultation was held in Abidjan that brought together different stakeholders from different sectors including the private sector, smallholder producers, development partners, academia, women groups and civil society organisations (see list of participants attached).

? The development of value chains that inspire transformation changes in production systems;

? Policy and institutional capacity inadequacies and incoherencies that need to be addressed so that different government departments can start working in a harmonious fashion;

? The role of the state in reinforcing capacities required to support smallholder producers access financial resources to invest in sustainable production system;

? The role of women and the youth, and the challenges that they face in the production of the most important value chains, particularly the lack of access to land

? Asymmetrical availability of information regarding the best practices, limiting people's knowledge of that they need to know to improve their production system, including markets but also crop and animal husbandry management practices

During the workshop, other issues raised included almost lack of extension services to support the dissemination of information to farmers for them to make informed decision regarding investments in natural resources management. Smallholders expressed lack of access to information, the required support for seeds, including those that relate to animals.

These aspects have been reflected in the design of the project, particularly as they are related to the generation of knowledge and investment tools. For example, the lack of access to information has been addressed through the information hub and an open-access knowledge platform which will also enable get information that they would otherwise get through extension services. Policy and institutional disharmony will be addressed through the output that will ensure that policy coherence is mapped, and investment tools, criteria and incentives are developed and used by relevant stakeholders in Cote d'Ivoire to foster sustainable. Additionally, lack of access to financial services will be addressed through the assessment and documentation of best available climate resilient and low emission agricultural value chains, forest and land use and technologies investments, financial models and instrument in Cote d'Ivoire - including gender gaps in access to climate resilient agric value chains, technologies and investments.

2. It should be added here that the development of this project benefitted immensely from consultations with international partners and CSOs representatives during the UNCCD COP15 that took place in April-

May 2022 in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire. Some of stakeholders who were engaged during the UNCCD COP15 have remained committed to the project development process, and were present at the national consultation workshop held on February 13, 2023 in Abidjan. Below is the list of participants at the national consultation workshop.

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor;

Co-financier;

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

Executor or co-executor;

Other (Please explain)

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.

1. The MSP sensitized that gender equality is a core cross-cutting objective of UNCCD recognized by the Parties ? recognizing that land degradation in developing countries impacts men and women differently, mainly due to unequal access to land, water, credit, extension services and technology. Also, gender inequality plays a significant role in land-degradation-related poverty calling for the need to address persistent gender inequalities that fuel women?s poverty in LDN interventions.[1]

2. At COP 13, the Gender Action Plan (GAP) was adopted to support and enhance the implementation of gender-related decisions and mandates. In compliance, the MSP will follow gender policies of the UNCCD, IFAD, and the GEF. The project will engage a gender specialist to ensure gender considerations are accounted for in the project. Building on IFAD and UNCCD global and national-level experiences and expertise, women will be involved in the implementation of project activities.

3. The MSP notes that the UNCCD Strategy[2] acknowledges that gender equality is crucial in implementing the UNCCD Strategic Framework 2018-2030 and achieving the goal of the 2030 Agenda. The document[3] ICCD/CRIC (17)/CRP.1 presented at CRIC 17 highlights the progress made in addressing gender equality and women?s empowerment in the implementation of the UNCCD. Additionally, Decision 11/COP14 requests the secretariat to align the reporting process for strategic objectives 1?5 with the gender-responsive indicators and guidelines under development as part of the Gender Action Plan activities to ensure that the gender dimensions of land degradation are fully captured. The proposed MSP will ensure compliance to the calls for gender consideration in interventions to reverse the trends in land degradation associated with AFOLU.

4. The MSP will remain consistent with the guidance outlined in the UNCCD Gender Action Plan but also the gender policy guidelines in Cote d'Ivoire ? ensuring women?s participation during the design, planning, implementation of the project activities, particularly capacity building, access to knowledge

and development of tools. It is noted that if Côte d'Ivoire could improve equity of gender, its economy could benefit from gains of the order of 6 to 8 billion dollars in the long term, i.e. if most of the discrimination against women would be stamped out,[4] and their participation in the access and control of natural resources improved.

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The Ivorian Gender National Context

5. The Ivorian population is estimated to be 52.2% men and 47.8% women, according to the latest General Census of Population and Housing (RGPH 2021), 75.6% of the population is under 35 years old. Although they do not own large farms, women are an important workforce, especially in the production and marketing of food crops. In terms of social indicators, low college completion rates (35.5%), educational disparities between girls and boys (42.7% of girls versus 55.5% of boys at the secondary level), maternal mortality (643 deaths per 100,000 live births), child malnutrition, and youth unemployment (36% of 15 - to 35-year olds.) are among the country's top development challenges.[5]

6. Gender disparities and inequalities in the agriculture sector are a significant issue in Ivory Coast. According to the World Bank, the majority of farmers in the country are women, yet they face numerous barriers that limit their ability to access resources, technology, and markets.[6] This limits their productivity and income-earning potential, which in turn contributes to poverty and food insecurity.

7. One of the main reasons for these disparities is the lack of access to land ownership. In Ivory Coast, women are legally entitled to own and inherit land, but cultural norms and traditional practices often prevent them from doing so. This means that they often have to rely on renting or borrowing land from men, which can be costly and uncertain. Additionally, as noted above, women in Ivory Coast tend to have less education and training than men, which limits their ability to use new technologies and best practices in farming. This lack of access to education and training also limits their ability to access markets and sell their products at fair prices.

8. Gender disparities are also reflected in the division of labor within agriculture. Women are often assigned to less profitable and less recognized tasks such as weeding, harvesting, and processing, while men are typically responsible for the more lucrative tasks, such as selling crops and making business decisions. This division of labor further limits women's earning potential, and leads to a lack of recognition of women's contributions to the agricultural sector.

9. According to the World Economic Forum's 2018 gender parity report, with a score of 0.632, Côte d'Ivoire comes in 133rd position out of 149 countries evaluated.[7] This ranking is based on 4 criteria that are: opportunities for economic participation, education, health, political participation of men-women. They are present at 29.9% in the agricultural sector; 31.6% in industry; 59.5% in trade and 39.5% in services (Household Living Standards Survey, ENV2015).

10. In addition, women are also affected by discrimination and gender-based violence, and they face sexual harassment, and physical and psychological abuse by men. This cause them to suffer from lack of security, and access to basic needs such as health care and education for their children.

11. To address these disparities, it is essential that policies and programs are put in place to empower women and ensure that they have equal access to resources, training, and markets. This may include measures to increase women's access to land ownership, education, and training opportunities, as well as initiatives to promote gender equality in decision-making and labor division.

12. In the context of this project as a cross-cutting knowledge management and learning pillar of the Legacy Program, the project recognizes that women often have less access to information and resources

related to agricultural production, including training, extension services, and financial resources. This can lead to a lack of knowledge and skills among women farmers, which can limit their ability to improve crop yields and increase income. In addition to the lack of access to information and resources, societal norms and cultural practices can also contribute to knowledge asymmetry between men and women - where women are not encouraged to attend agricultural training programs or participate in decision-making related to agricultural production. This can further limit their ability to acquire new knowledge and skills, and ultimately lead to a lack of participation in the agricultural sector.

13. In light of the above, this project will be deliberate about knowledge exchange programs/ training programs to ensure they are gender-sensitive and responsive to the specific needs and roles of women farmers or women-led groups. Through knowledge management and dissemination, the project will ensure that knowledge programs are accessible and relevant to women farmers. Additionally, the project will ensure to create opportunities for women to participate in all project activities at an equal level as men.

14. Overall, knowledge, information, and learning asymmetry between men and women in the agriculture sector can have a significant impact on the productivity and profitability of smallholder farms. Addressing this issue requires a multifaceted approach that includes targeted training programs, participation in decision-making and access to financial resources for women. By addressing this issue, women farmers and women-led groups will be more empowered while promoting gender equality in the agricultural sector, including high value crops and their associated value chains. The socioeconomic benefits of gender inclusion are immense.

15. Specifically, this project will be explicit and deliberate about strengthening gender inclusion through the activities associated with the following outputs:

- 1.1.1: Information hub and an open-access knowledge platform developed for targeted investments (in coordination with other existing platforms such as WOCAT with gender experts).
- 1.1.2: A community of practice including with gender experts established and capacities strengthened on targeted climate resilient and low emission agricultural value chains, forest and land use, promoting exchange and cooperation among different stakeholders in Cote d'Ivoire (in collaboration with the UNCCD Knowledge Hub and other initiatives).
- 2.1:1 Best available climate resilient and low emission agricultural value chains, forest and land use and technologies investments, financial models and instrument in Cote d'Ivoire are assessed and documented (including gender gaps in access to climate resilient agric value chains, technologies and investments).

[1] Collantes, V. et al. (2018). Moving towards a twin-agenda: Gender equality and land degradation neutrality. *Environmental science & policy*, 89, 247-253

[2] Decision 7/COP.13 Paragraph 8

[3] The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Gender Action Plan as a mechanism for improving the living conditions of affected populations first experiences and the way forward (ICCD/CRIC(17)/CRP.1) https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/sessions/documents/2019-01/ICCD_CRIC%2817%29_CRP.1-1900678E.pdf

[4] World Bank (2017). Are Women the Key to Unlocking Economic Emergence in Cote d'Ivoire

[5] UN Women (n.d). Cote d'Ivoire in [brief](#)

[6] World Bank. (2020). Ivory Coast - Gender assessment and action plan (GAP) for the agricultural sector

[7] World Economic Forum. (2022). Global Gender Gap Report 2022 [Insight](#) Report

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

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

Improving women's participation and decision making Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women

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

4. Private sector engagement

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

1. The MSP has a focus on AFOLU as they are influenced by different actors, including businesses. Therefore, the private sector representatives will be key to the success of what the project seeks to achieve. The private sector at national level will be engaged as appropriate using channels that will include the National UNCCD Focal Points, GEF National Focal Points, IFAD and the UNCCD/Global Mechanism ? based on the scope and modus operandi of the private sector that will be identified in the AFOLU business sector. In this regard, to the extent possible, the UNCCD National Focal Points will involve existing UNCCD related coordination mechanisms at national level, which formally include private sector representatives and civil society organizations. Given the increased importance of private financial flows, the private sector will be one of the stakeholders engaged on capacity building events, particularly on matters related to the identification of best practices, innovation and additional financing. The engagement with the private sector will be deliberate in ensuring that there is social inclusion evidenced through existing policies, processes and sound track record.

2. It should be noted that at the level of the private sector, the Legacy Program will not solely target commercial players. It will engage small and medium enterprises, cooperatives and farmer organizations ? with due recognition of their role in land degradation and deforestation, but more relevantly, their role in being part of the solution to address land degradation, deforestation, land use, GHG emissions and biodiversity conservation. In this regard, as a knowledge brick of the Legacy Program, the proposed MSP will devise mechanisms of engaging the different stakeholders.

3. It has already been noted that the MSP has both national and regional scope to ensure representation of relevant players in important commodities and associated value chains for sustainability and transformational impact. In Cote d'Ivoire, for example, Mondelez, Cocoa Life, World Cocoa Foundation will be engaged; recognizing their unique yet complementary role in promoting sustainability in their production systems ? but also to learn from their experiences in terms of working with smallholders and

the policy environment that either facilitates their engagement in sustainable practices or does the opposite, including technology transfer, policy influence, among others. Others such as the Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture can have a critical role in providing expertise and financial resources. As the GEF[1] notes, this MSP recognizes the unique role that the private sector plays as 'doing what the public sector cannot' and the opportunities presented through innovation, trade, finance and investment. The MSP in this regard, will broker the private sector involvement with other players in promoting best practices to generate global environmental benefits and supporting livelihoods of communities in production landscapes.

4. As has already been noted, the MSP will draw lessons from global and regional initiatives and programs that have been listed down in the baseline and associated projects section to understand better and generate knowledge on stakeholder engagement to inform the implementation of the Legacy Program.

[1] GEF (2020). [GEF's Private Sector Engagement Strategy](#)

5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

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

1. The following have been identified as risks associated with the proposed MSP.

Potential Risk	Level	Proposed measure
Social and political instability	Low-Medium	It is difficult to ascertain country-level political and socioeconomic in/stability which may have spillover effects at regional levels. In the event of socioeconomic and political instability, the project will pursue its objectives in countries and regions with stability, and consider re-engaging the affected countries/regions later, as conditions will allow.
Financial risks due to global price volatility	Medium	The global prices of commodities and services are on the rise due to difficult factors beyond the project. As a mitigation measure, the project will budget activities in such a way as to allow for price fluctuations.
Surges in COVID impede regional capacity development workshops	Low	Capacity building workshops will be designed with a hybrid approach, or depending on the travel restrictions, they will be delivered online
Erosion of built capacity due to staff turn over	Medium	Where staff turn-over will be inevitable, this will be covered through regional capacity development and knowledge exchange workshops and technical backstopping. Additionally, efforts will be done to work with relevant personnel, and with support from the UNCCD Focal Points, ensure stability in the staff whose capacities will be built.

Potential Risk	Level	Proposed measure
Apathy from Country Parties to participate in the project	Low	Country Parties are looking for opportunities to implement interventions that put them on course to achieve their LDN targets. Countries will be sensitized to strengthen their commitments to their LDN targets. During the implementation stage, there will be technical backstopping to ensure their continued engagement in the project.
Availability of information to support the Legacy Program	Low	The project will seek to sequentially prioritise the development and updating of tools to ensure the access, collection and analyses of data in a timely manner, and will work to engage relevant to ensure data collection and development of the information hub so that Country Parties can access the required information.
Tepid interest from the private sector to invest in restoration due to lack of information and experience in agricultural value chains	Medium	The MSP will focus on generating and disseminating information to inform players in their decision in the target agricultural value chains. Additionally, the project's focus on policy and institutional capacity building will enhance private sector interest in the sector
Risk of duplication	Low	As a cross-cutting knowledge management and learning pillar of the LP, this MSP will seek collaboration with existing platforms and initiatives, including those in the 'baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects' section of this proposal.
COVID -19 Risk	Low to Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Implementation of the IFAD action plan including the COVID19 project in cote d'Ivoire in their response to Covid-19. The set of actions are : ? Remote and Tele-Coordination of the program ? Safety measures when organizing evens or regional events ? On specific activities being promoted under COVID 19 measures on the field , collect and share good practices on agriculture during COVID -19 period which include: ? Trainings on safe labour practices, and transports ? Access to more protective equipment such as masks and gloves, ? Restrictions on workers on producer's field, ? Use of drones and other digital extension tools for labour and input saving practices, shared mechanization. ? Risk sharing mechanism such as insurance including pandemic insurance, ? Digital marketing platforms and logistics, sanitary and phyto-sanitary controls ? Good practices gender dimension to COVID-19 to reduce women exposure and violence against women ? More access to finance, Agri-service centres for inputs ? Provide inputs (seed, fertilizer, forage/fodder saplings, fingerlings, vaccines, medicines
Climate change impacts and extreme weather events	Medium	As weather patterns become more unpredictable and extreme, this may render existing knowledge and understanding 'obsolete' and unhelpful. This project is about knowledge and learning, therefore, the engagement of different stakeholder with different experiences in value chains will be useful in understanding the evolving climate change impacts and weather events.

2. The Covid-19 pandemic has had severe impacts on the already vulnerable economies globally and undermined efforts to strengthen the resilience of smallholder farmers to climate change. For instance, the prices of Senegal and Cote d'Ivoire's cashews dropped a record 47% due to the decline in demand in domestic markets, while demand for cocoa beans from Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana (the two largest cocoa producers in the world) fell across Europe in 2020-2021. Unemployment increased while household monetary incomes declined due to the closure of several MSMEs in key agricultural value chains. A drop in household income affects savings, as low-income households are forced to use their savings or resort to other negative coping strategies to buy food and meet other basic needs. This, in turn, hinders their already limited chances of gaining access to much-needed credit. The unanticipated shock of COVID-19 underscores the need for a shift from 'business as usual' practices to a more forward-looking approach that invests in the productivity, sustainability and resilience of food systems. Despite those risks and impacts, covid recovery allows for mainstreaming resilience, sustainability, agroecology, and ensure local production and shorter and more efficient value chains are built.

3. At the time of the draft of this document, a decline in COVID-19 cases has been observed. However, the potential risks of the pandemic cannot be downplayed because the resurgence of the pandemic remains within the realm of possibilities. Between December 23, 2022 and January 05, 2023 there have been 30 reported cases of COVID-19 with two deaths.



4. Overall, there have been 87,950 cases with 833 deaths related to COVID-19 in Cote d'Ivoire. The graph on the left shows the evolution of the pandemic in the country since February 22, 2022 till January 6, 2023 ? showing a flattening trend in the number of cases that are recorded.[1]

5. During implementation, the project will ensure adherence to the approved national sanitary conditions, as well as IFAD's strategic response to the COVID-19 crisis is centred on a coordinated range of activities that address immediate impacts, prevent the erosion of results from past and ongoing operations, and put in place the building blocks to support post-crisis recovery - identify immediate solutions; scale up; advise and support; and look to the long term.[2]

Climate change risk assessment

6. The country is heavily dependent on agricultural activities that engage approximately two-thirds of the population, being the world's largest producer and exporter of cocoa beans and an important producer and exporter of coffee and palm oil. The climate in Côte d'Ivoire is tropical along the coast, semiarid in the north and with three seasons: warm and dry (November to March), hot and dry (March to May), hot and wet (June to October)⁹. The long-term mean annual air temperature of 26.4 °C and the mean annual precipitation of 1414.5 mm was registered in the period 1901-2016¹⁰. Furthermore, historical climate trends show rainfall decrease.^[3]

7. An analysis of Climate Analytics data shows that the country has been divided into two with the left (westward) having lower temperature compared to the west (eastward) between 2000 and 2020. The picture is likely to change between 2031 and 2050 with the northern region likely to become hotter by about 1.4°C under the RCP4.5 scenario. Temperature in the southern regional (coastal area) is likely to change within 1.25 and 1.3°C.

8. Regarding rainfall pattern, the western half of the country has been wetter (between 1,500 and 1,800 mm annually) between 2000 and 2020. The central region from east to west is projected to be drier, with the southern region (coastal region) likely to be the wettest thanks to a projected increase in precipitation by about 50 mm, annually. Generally, lower regions in terms of temperature record more precipitation during the 2000-2020 period. Similarly, regions with higher projected increase in temperature are projected to have less precipitation (see figure below).^[4]

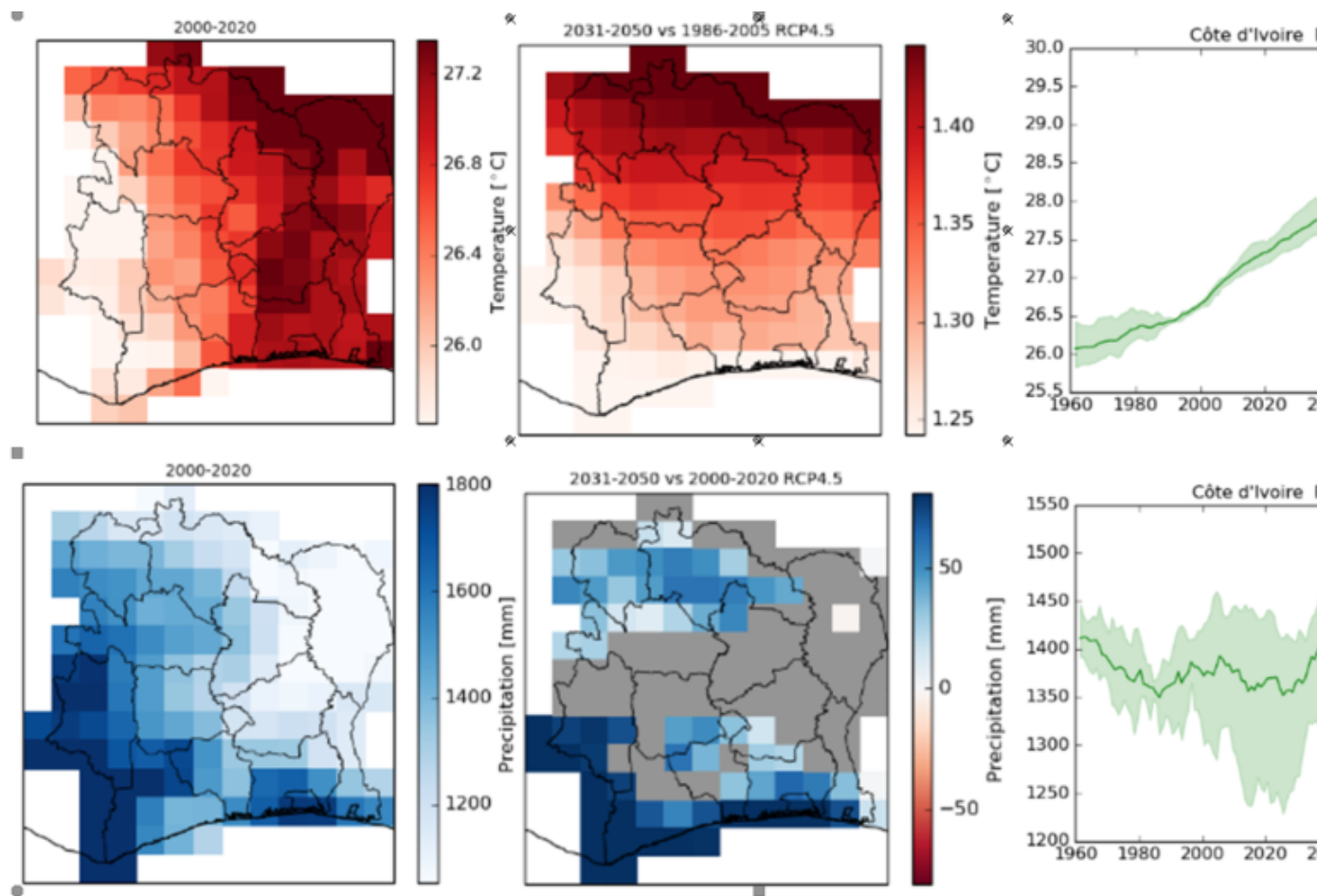


Figure showing historical and projected temperature and rainfall regimes in Cote d'Ivoire.

9. Based on the primary focus of the project as a cross-cutting knowledge management and learning pillar of the Legacy Program, the project is designed to address weak institutional capacities; limited knowledge of the practice best practices; and iii) limited investments in the most suitable value chains.

10. IFAD remains committed to mainstreaming social, environmental and climate change solutions in projects and programmes under its charge. Using its Social, Environmental and Climate Assessment Procedures (SECAP), IFAD screens projects and programmes to categorize them as A, B or C. The table below summarises these three categories defined according to the likely significance of environmental and social concerns:

Table showing the categorization of project[5]

Project Category	Description
Category A	Significant adverse environmental and/or social implications that: (i) are sensitive, irreversible or unprecedented; (ii) affect an area broader than the sites or facilities subject to physical interventions; and (iii) are not readily remedied by preventive actions or mitigation measures. For category A programmes and projects one, or a combination of, a formal Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) or Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Resettlement Action Framework (RAF)/ Resettlement Action Plan (RAP), free, prior and informed consent (FPIC)/FPIC implementation plan and Indigenous People Plan is required for the whole programme or project or for one or more components. The ESIA/ESMF should incorporate an ESMP
Category B	May have some adverse environmental and/or social impacts on human populations or environmentally significant areas, but the impacts: (i) are less adverse than those for category A; (ii) are site specific and few are irreversible in nature; and (iii) can be readily remedied by appropriate preventive actions and/or mitigation measures. While no formal ESIA is required for category B programmes and projects, in many cases further environmental analysis could be undertaken, or in some cases an ESMF is developed during project preparation or implementation. Category B projects require an ESMP, which is incorporated in the SECAP review note in the form of a matrix, showing the output from the environmental and social analysis.
Category C	Negligible or no environmental or social implications ? no further environmental and social analysis is required because the activities have positive environmental impacts, or negligible or minimally adverse environmental impacts: Activities generally focus on technical assistance grants for agricultural research and training; research; extension; health; nutrition; education; and capacity- and institution-building

11. Given the focus on knowledge management and as a learning pillar of the Legacy Program, the project is classified as a Category C project with a Climate risk of low.

The Russian-Ukrainian conflict

12. This MSP is a knowledge management and learning pillar of a Legacy Program that will concretely focused on important agricultural value chains that have direct links to global markets and players. The potential impacts of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict were therefore worth noting. Generally, the conflict has had impacts on agricultural global value chains in terms of disruptions to trade, prices, direct impacts on farmers and low investments in the sector ? threatening food and nutrition security in countries that directly depend on food and farming input imports from Russia and Ukraine.

? *Disruptions to agricultural trade:* The conflict has disrupted trade between Russia and Ukraine, which are both significant agricultural producers. For example, Russia has imposed trade restrictions on Ukrainian agricultural products, and the fighting has disrupted transportation routes and caused damage to infrastructure. This has disrupted the flow of agricultural goods between the two countries, as well as the broader supply chains in which they are involved. Additionally, the United States and European Union have imposed trade restrictions and sanctions on Russia, which has disrupted the export of agricultural products such as grains, meat, and dairy products.

? *Changes in agricultural prices:* The disruptions to trade caused by the conflict have also led to changes in the prices of certain agricultural goods. For example, the price of wheat, a major export crop for both Russia and Ukraine, has been affected by the conflict.

? *Negative impacts on farmers:* The conflict has had negative impacts on farmers in both Russia and Ukraine. For example, farmers in Ukraine have faced challenges accessing markets due to trade restrictions and disruptions to transportation routes, while farmers in Russia have faced higher input costs due to inflation and economic instability. Additionally, the conflict has resulted in the displacement of farmers in eastern Ukraine, leading to a decrease in agricultural production and a decrease in the supply of agricultural products on the global market.

? *Decrease in investment:* The conflict has also led to a decrease in foreign investment in the agricultural sector in Ukraine, which has further impacted the country's agricultural production and exports

13. Given the complexity of (potential) impacts of the conflicts, it is possible that the war in Ukraine may have had some indirect effects on the global cacao value chain and distribution. For example, if the war has disrupted transportation and trade routes in the region, it could potentially impact the export and import of cacao, coffee, rubber and other agricultural commodities. It is noted that the cacao, coffee, rubber etc value chain and global distribution are influenced by a wide range of factors, including global demand, currency exchange rates, and the policies and practices of producing, trading, and consuming countries. However, the war in Ukraine is just one of many factors that could potentially impact the global value chains and distribution of these agricultural commodities.

14. Focusing on cacao production, The cacao value chain includes a range of activities from production and processing to transport, storage, and distribution, and it is influenced by a variety of factors such as demand for chocolate, global economic conditions, and the availability of alternative sources of cacao. The war in Ukraine may have had some indirect effects on the cacao value chain and global distribution through its impact on global economic conditions and trade.

[1] The [graph](#) and information are based on data from the COVID-19 Data Repository by the Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) at Johns Hopkins [University](#)

[2] IFAD. (2020). IFAD's [response](#) to the COVID-19 crisis - protecting and enhancing rural resilience

[3] UNDP, UNEP & GEF (n.d). National Adaptation Plans in focus: [Lessons](#) from Cote d'Ivoire

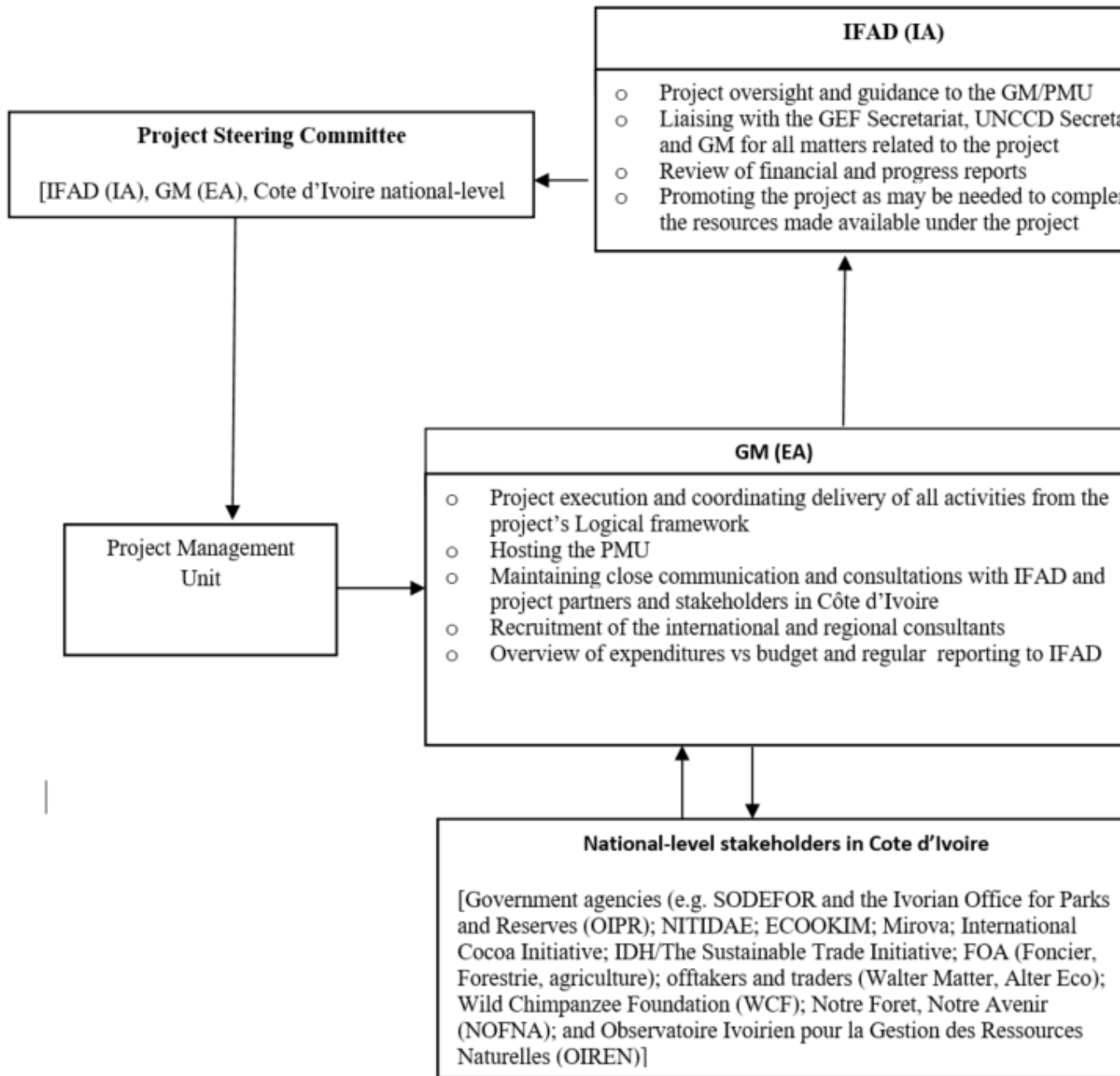
[4] Maps of Cote d'Ivoire showing temperature and precipitation historical and projected patterns are based on Climate Analytics [data](#)

[5] IFAD. (2017). Social, Environmental and Climate Assessment [Procedures](#): Managing risks to create opportunities

6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

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

1. This MSP is prepared in partnership between the GM/UNCCD and IFAD. IFAD will serve as the Implementing Agency of the project. The GM is an institution of the UNCCD, mandated to support country Parties to the Convention in the mobilization of resources for its implementation. With the view to increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of existing financial mechanisms, the GM is requested to facilitate actions leading to the mobilization and channeling of substantial financial resources, including for the transfer of technology, on a grant, and/or on concessional or other terms, to affected developing country Parties? (Article 21, para. 4, UNCCD). It provides technical assistance to affected country Parties to access and mobilize financial resources for UNCCD implementation.
2. Proposed institutional structure of the MSP is shown below:



3. The project will have a steering committee that will comprise IFAD as the Implementing Agency that has physical presence in Cote d'Ivoire, Global Mechanism as the Executing Agency, Cote d'Ivoire national-level stakeholders (including government agencies, NGOs/Civil Society Organizations, private sector entities etc). As an Executing Agency, the Global Mechanism will head the Project Management Unit with technical and management support from expertise that will be hired for project management. At grass root level, the project will work closely with Cote d'Ivoire national-level stakeholders who will be involved in various project activities, including participation in building up a portfolio of best practices and experiences in the target value chains etc.

4. With IFAD as the Implementing Agency, this MSP will benefit from the technical contribution of different stakeholders. The graph above illustrates the proposed institutional structure of the project that will have IFAD as the Implementing Agency to provide overall project coordination and reporting oversight to the GEF. The project will have a project steering committee to serve as the Board of the project, and will comprise IFAD, FAO, the Global Mechanism and the UNCCD secretariat.

5. To ensure the smooth implementation of the project activities, and support the coordination of reports and engagement with different partners, the project will constitute a Project Management Unit (PMU). The PMU will closely work with the Global Mechanism, the UNCCD secretariat and IFAD, ensuring seamless communication flow and coordination among the structures. Together, while carrying out their respective roles in the project, these institutions will provide technical backstopping to the national level structures.

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6. After additional consultation, the Prime Minister has made a special request for a long term International Consultant to be positioned within the Office of the Prime Minister to provide strategic advice and guidance for the implementation of the Abidjan Legacy Programme, with the aim to mobilize and stimulate investment, in particular by the private sector. With respect to the MSP, therefore, the Consultant will provide support for the implementation of both components, although with specific focus on component 2 to design and develop investment tools, policies and models to foster sustainable investment by both private and public sector in the most suitable value chains, based on international knowledge and best practices on climate resilient and low emission agricultural value chains. Specific Terms of Reference will be elaborated within the next few months.

7. As the Implementing Agency, IFAD will coordinate the overall implementation of the project, including managing the fiduciary arrangements, engagement of different partners, searching and coordinating cofinancing and coordinating reporting obligations to the GEF.

7. Consistency with National Priorities

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

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

1. The proposed MSP has a global theme to generate knowledge that will support inclusive, equitable and sustainable production systems, reduce land degradation, biodiversity loss and GHG emissions. It is aligned with the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), the driving principle of the UNCCD through to 2030. It is defined as a state whereby the amount and quality of land resources necessary to support ecosystem function and services and enhance food security remain stable or increase within specified temporal and spatial scales and ecosystems. Most Country Parties to the UNCCD have established their LDN national-level targets, and are in the process of preparing or already implementing activities to achieve the targets. By focusing on interventions that will support equitable, inclusive and sustainable agricultural value chains, this MSP is therefore consistent with Cote d'Ivoire's ambitions to achieve national LDN targets to avoid, reduce or reverse deforestation and land degradation.

2. The program is aligned with the IFAD three main strategic objectives that are:

- ? Increasing the productive capacity of poor rural people
- ? Increasing their benefits from market participation
- ? Strengthening the environmental sustainability and climate resilience of their economic activities.

3. The MSP aligns also with FAO strategic objectives 2022-2031 which are : better production, better nutrition, better environment and better life.

4. Also, the proposed MSP is consistent and will contribute to the following UNCCD strategic objectives and associated expected impacts:

? Strategic objective 1: To improve the condition of affected ecosystems, combat desertification/land degradation, promote sustainable land management and contribute to land degradation neutrality -

- o Expected impact 1.1: Land productivity and related ecosystems services are maintained or enhanced
- o Expected impact 1.2: The vulnerability of affected ecosystems is reduced and the resilience of ecosystems is increased.
- o Expected impact 1.4: Measures for sustainable land management and the combating of desertification/land degradation are shared, promoted and implemented.

? Strategic objective 2: To improve the living conditions of affected populations ?

- o Expected impact 2.1: Food security and adequate access to water for people in affected areas is improved.
- o Expected impact 2.2: The livelihoods of people in affected areas are improved and diversified.
- o Expected impact 2.3: Local people, especially women and youth, are empowered and participate in decision-making processes in combating DLDD.

? Strategic objective 3: To mitigate, adapt to, and manage the effects of drought in order to enhance resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems ?

- o Expected impact 3.1 Ecosystems? vulnerability to drought is reduced, including through sustainable land and water management practices.

? Strategic objective 4: To generate global environmental benefits through effective implementation of the UNCCD ?

- o Expected impact 4.1 Sustainable land management and the combating of desertification/land degradation contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and addressing climate change.
- o Expected impact 4.2 Synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and processes are enhanced.

? Strategic objective 5: To mobilize substantial and additional financial and non-financial resources to support the implementation of the Convention by building effective partnerships at global and national level ?

- o Expected impact 5.1 Adequate and timely public and private financial resources are further mobilized and made available to affected country Parties, including through domestic resource mobilization.
- o Expected impact 5.2 International support is provided for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building and on-the-ground interventions? in affected country Parties to support the implementation of the Convention, including through North?South, South? South and triangular cooperation
- o Expected impact 5.3 Extensive efforts are implemented to promote technology transfer, especially on favourable terms and including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, and to mobilize other non-financial resources.

8. Knowledge Management

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

1. Knowledge management of the proposed MSP will be very critical because the project itself is focused on knowledge generation and management to support the implementation of the Legacy Program. Therefore,

knowledge management mechanisms will be squarely applied to the two components of the project. Data acquired from different sources will be processed and made available to the Parties through the information hub as well as regional workshops. The project will design mechanisms to enhance access to information, tools and innovations, among others to all the Country Parties that will be participating in the Legacy Program.

2. A communication strategy will be developed and implemented to ensure that the project objective and activities, progress and results are shared in a timely manner with all project partners. A thorough monitoring and evaluation plan will also be implemented to enable adaptive management, and availability of information on project progress and results in due course.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Describe the budgeted M and E plan

1. The project will follow standard processes and procedures for monitoring, reporting and evaluation. The conditions and reporting templates are integral part of the related legal instruments that must be signed. The project monitoring and evaluation plan is consistent with the GEF monitoring and evaluation policy guidelines. The project outcome framework includes SMART indicators for each expected outcome and output as well as end-of-project objectives. These indicators in the Results Framework in Annex A constitute the main basis for the assessment of the progress accomplished in project implementation and determination of whether the project results are achieved or not. The monitoring-evaluation costs are also presented in the costed monitoring - evaluation plan and are fully integrated into the overall project budget. The monitoring - evaluation plan will be reviewed and revised as necessary during the project's launching workshop to ensure that the stakeholders understand their roles and responsibilities in the processes of monitoring and evaluation.

2. The implementation of the M&E plan will overall, be overseen by the GEF National Project Manager who will be supported by the M&E Officer. The M&E Officer will also be part of the Project Steering Committee that will constitute important key stakeholders to provide oversight in the implementation of project activities. The M&E Officer will be an important link within the implementation of the M&E plan between community-level structures and project activities and national level structures to support the integration of the social and environmental standards and gender considerations in the project ? consistent with the Ivorian national standards and IFAD's SECAP modalities.

3. In this regard, the implementation of the project's M&E plan will ensure that the project contributes meaningfully as a cross-cutting knowledge management and learning pillar of the Legacy Program of the COP to transform production systems of target value chains (cocoa, coffee, palm oil, cashew and cotton, among others) including making them more resilient to climate change, inclusive and mitigate their contribution to land degradation and deforestation.

4. For IFAD's internal processes in support and alignment with the GEF operational modalities, a robust and user-friendly planning, monitoring, evaluation, learning and communication system (PM&E) will be established in line with the IFAD's ORMS and GRIPS. The main objectives of the PM&E are to: (i) assess the project's achievements at the level of outcomes and impact, and compliance with the COSOP results management framework; (ii) provide timely and accurate information of project implementation progress, with an emphasis to monitor performance, based on outputs delivery; (iii) provide reliable and relevant information to all the stakeholders to improve transparency; (iv) define and assign tasks, manage workflow on a timely basis and track the various components and milestone deadlines; and (v) evaluate the performance of implementing agencies and service providers. This system will include citizen engagement/ Third Party Monitoring (TPM) in order to involve beneficiaries and frontline actors in data collection and validation. Impacts will be evaluated against a baseline study, a mid-term evaluation and an ex post evaluation, which will use key indicators in line with the ORMS. The PM&E system will be developed to verify targeting performance and reflect gender and youth perspectives of impact.

5. The proposed indicators and their means of verification will be reviewed and validated at the launching workshop. The project management team will manage the day-to-day monitoring of the project, but other project partners may be assigned to collect specific information, including engaging consultants where deemed necessary. The GEF National Project Manager will inform IFAD, as the GEF Agency, of any delays or difficulties encountered during implementation, so that appropriate support or corrective measures can be taken in a timely manner. The Project Steering Committee will review progress achieved, provide guidance and make recommendations to the project team and IFAD on the need to revise any aspects of the outcomes in the framework or the monitoring - evaluation plan. The GEF Project Manager will continuously monitor project implementation and review the quality of preliminary project results, provide feedback to project partners and establish peer review procedures to ensure adequate quality of the outputs and scientific and technical publications. IFAD will carry out annual project supervision missions to monitor project progress and the quality of outputs produced, as well as ensure the project's compliance with IFAD and GEF policies and procedures.

6. Project supervision will adopt an adaptive management approach. The GEF National Project Manager will develop a project supervision plan at the beginning of the project, which will be communicated to the project partners during the launching workshop. The GEF Project Manager will focus on the monitoring project implementation, timely delivery of project inputs and outputs, and ensure sound financial management of the project. Progress made in achieving the overall environmental benefits of the project will be assessed and reported to the Steering Committee at agreed intervals. Risks and assumptions of the project will be regularly monitored by the project partners, and the IFAD. Risk assessment and rating will be fully integrated in the project implementation review (PIR). Key financial parameters will be monitored quarterly to ensure cost-effectiveness in the use of financial resources and reported to IFAD. A mid-term review will be carried out at the end of the second year of the project. Both the MTR will include all the parameters recommended by the GEF and IFAD Evaluation Offices.

7. Additionally, project adaptive management will be applied to the management of climate risks (such as floods and droughts) ? likely to call for the involvement of different scenarios (or impact pathways) than what is originally conceived in the project. This rationale will equally be extended to the peaks and lows of COVID-19 which is a potential threat to the overall implementation of the project.

8. The review will be conducted using a participatory approach. This will entail consulting the potential project beneficiaries or the parties affected by the project. These parties are identified during the review and mapping of stakeholders.

9. The project steering committee will be involved in the mid-term review and will prepare the management response to the recommendations of the evaluation as well as an implementation plan. Also, the GEF Project Manager at will have the responsibility to monitor the implementation of agreed recommendations.

10. An independent final evaluation will take place at the end of the project implementation. IFAD will oversee the final evaluation process. A report on the quality of the evaluation report will be made by the IFAD Independent Office of Evaluation (IOE) and submitted with the report to GEF Evaluation Office no later than six months after the end of the evaluation. GEF monitoring tools will be updated at mid-term and at the end of the project. These will be transmitted to GEF Secretariat along with the project's PIR report. As mentioned above, the mid-term review and the final evaluation will check the information provided by the monitoring tool.

Table of the budgeted M&E plan

Type of Monitoring & Evaluation activity	Responsible	Budget US\$ (Excluding project staff's time)	Frequency
Mid Term review	Global Mechanism, Office of the Ivorian Prime Minister, /IFAD/GEF/Project Team	10,000	Midway into the project implementation
Terminal Evaluation	Global Mechanism, Office of the Ivorian Prime Minister, /IFAD/GEF/Project Team	10,000	Once at the end of the project cycle
M&E Assistant	Project Team	45,000	During the entire life cycle of the project
Annual Progress Reports and Dissemination	Global Mechanism, Office of the Ivorian Prime Minister, /IFAD/GEF/Project Team	10,000	Annually
Steering Committee Meetings	Global Mechanism, Office of the Ivorian Prime Minister, /IFAD/GEF/Project Team	10,000	Every year, after reception of the annual progress report
Total Indicative Costs		85,000	

10. Benefits

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

1. It is reiterated here that this project is cross-cutting knowledge management and learning pillar and precursor of the Legacy Program of the COP that will focus on transforming production systems of target value chains (cocoa, coffee, palm oil, cashew and cotton, among others) including making them more resilient to climate change, inclusive and mitigate their contribution to land degradation and deforestation. Therefore, it is designed to support the overall implementation of the Legacy Program. In increasing access to knowledge and appropriate tools and innovations, participating countries and the private sector will make better informed decisions in the AFOLU business sector. Thus, in this regard, the MSP will contribute to reducing or arresting trends in deforestation and associated land degradation of targeted agricultural value chains, while supporting livelihoods of local communities that directly depend on the integrity of forests and soil fertility to survive. Improved forests and reduced levels of land degradation have positive impacts on biodiversity but also reduce carbon emissions that result from particularly agriculture, but also generally, from land use change.

2. As a principally knowledge-generation and exchange focused project to support the implementation of the Legacy Program, the MSP is conceived to contribute to reducing land degradation, deforestation, loss of biodiversity and GHG emissions associated with agricultural commodity value chains, thereby supporting livelihoods of communities that directly depend on land for their survival.

3. The MSP will generate and disseminate reliable information to support the integration of environmentally-friendly systems, such as those informed agroecology approach into agricultural commodity value chains in production landscapes across different biomes ? facilitating the mainstreaming of different innovations, practices and technologies in production landscapes to increase food security, diversify agricultural livelihoods, reduce environmental degradation and biodiversity loss and increase soil carbon sequestration.

4. The MSP is a precursor of the Legacy Program to facilitate its implementation to achieve both environmental benefits as well as contributing to the socioeconomic wellbeing of local livelihoods. In its role as a cross-cutting knowledge management and learning pillar and precursor of the LP, the proposed MSP is poised to:

- ? Support eight (8) events to foster national-level knowledge exchange and scaling up of SLM and LDN best practices;

- ? Establish one community of practice with strengthened capacities targeted on climate resilient and low emission agricultural value chains, forest and land use;

- ? Build capacities of direct beneficiaries of 30,000 individuals, inclusive across the gender divide to ensure 50% representation of both males and females;

- ? Produce knowledge products (on low emission agricultural value chains, forest and land use and technologies investments, financial models and instrument) and devise dissemination mechanisms to reach out to all relevant stakeholders in C?te d'Ivoire that will participate in the LP and beyond, including peer-reviewed publications. During the dissemination process of knowledge products and learning, the project will also involve GEF National Focal Points and the UNCCD National Focal Points. As noted by STAP, the involvement of the Focal Points will create a ?knowledge and practice multiplier effect? as they will be equipped with the right skills and understanding of how to define knowledge exchange needs and help develop, implement, measure, and report knowledge results[1]; and

- ? Create one open access information platform for targeted investments to facilitate knowledge sharing and stimulate interest in investments in SLM and LDN in support of sustainability in priority value chains ? this will also seek to learn and contribute to responding to the challenges in value chains e.g recurrent difficulties on the cocoa value chain in C?te d'Ivoire , carbon credit owners etc.

5. In consultation with other key stakeholders who include the GEF and the UNCCD Knowledge Hub, the creation of one open information will be informed by other existing knowledge information systems, user access and platform content ? to best synergise through interoperability rather than duplicating efforts.

6. As a cross-cutting knowledge management and learning pillar and precursor, it should be noted that future projects, principally the LP will benefit from the MSP?s knowledge products and built capacities in production landscapes through maintaining or improving the flow of agro-ecosystem services to sustain food production and livelihoods; and reducing pressures on natural resources from competing land uses and increase resilience in the wider landscape. Overall, this will involve the use of SLM practices such as agroforestry, silvo-pastoral systems, agro-ecological intensification, and other practices. Production systems such as agroforestry, for example, support the generation of global environmental benefits through the preservation of biodiversity, carbon emissions avoided and carbon sequestration. Additionally, this helps to maintain important local ecosystem services including the provision of clean water for crops and communities ? contributing to food and nutrition security, resilience, and livelihoods of local farmers. The role of the MSP as a cross-cutting knowledge and learning pillar of the LP cannot therefore, be underestimated in catalysing the generation of socioeconomic and environmental benefits in production landscapes.

7. Consistent with the expectation that a GEF project will not cause any harm to environment or to any stakeholder and, where applicable, it will take measures to prevent and/or mitigate adverse effects, this

project is a cross-cutting Knowledge Management and Learning Pillar of the LP. According to IFAD's Environmental and social categorization and criteria, this is a Category C project ? not requiring additional environmental analysis because the activities have positive environmental impacts, or negligible or minimally adverse environmental impacts.[2]

[1] STAP (2021). Understanding South-South Cooperation for [Knowledge](#) Exchange

[2] IFAD (2017) Social, Environmental and Climate Assessment Procedures ([SECAP](#)): Managing risks to create opportunities

11. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

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

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification*

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approva I	MTR	TE
Low	Low		

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

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

The project is essentially focused on soft activities in terms of knowledge generation and development of investment tools to eventually support sustainable production systems in important value chains. In this regard, the activities of the project themselves will not lead to any foreseeable environmental and social risks. To ensure its successful implementation, the project acknowledges the critical role of political will, gender participation, continued multi-stakeholder engagement and non-resurgence of COVID-19 to prevent stakeholder engagement. Continued stakeholder engagement holds the promise to keep and enhance stakeholder interest in the project.

As noted in the document, should COVID-19 or any other pandemic pose threat to the implementation of the project, the project will have to adhere to health regulations in place in the country while observing international health standards.

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title

Module

Submitted

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

<i>Project title:</i> Knowledge Generation and Management to support the Implementation of the UNCCD COP15 Abidjan Legacy Program (KGM-LEGAP)						
	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Mid term target</i>	<i>Project target</i>	<i>Verification sources</i>	<i>Risks and assumptions</i>
Project objective: To generate and use knowledge products to stimulate investments to support Parties to the UNCCD to successfully implement the Abidjan Legacy Program.						
Component 1: Knowledge management, innovation and exchanges to facilitate investments in best practices and learning on inclusive and equitable climate resilient and low emission agricultural value chains, forest and land use						
Outcome 1.1. Different stakeholders in Côte d'Ivoire increasingly access knowledge, appropriate tools, innovations, exchange platforms and best practices on climate	Number of information hub and an open-access knowledge platform for targeted investments (in coordination with other existing platforms such as WOCAT with gender experts	None	<i>Processes, including consultations with key stakeholders, including gender experts, WOCAT finalized for developing an information hub and an open-access knowledge platform for targeted investments</i>	<i>One (1) fully operational information hub and an open-access knowledge platform developed for targeted investments</i>	Project progress and evaluation reports, technical support missions, the information hub and an open-access knowledge platform itself	-Political stability and will and stakeholder engagement continue to support the implementation of KGM-LEGAP - Government as a key stakeholder maintain their interest and engagement in

<i>Project title: Knowledge Generation and Management to support the Implementation of the UNCCD COP15 Abidjan Legacy Program (KGM-LEGAP)</i>						
	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Mid term target</i>	<i>Project target</i>	<i>Verification sources</i>	<i>Risks and assumptions</i>
resilient and low emission agricultural value chains, forest and land use to support their participation in the Abidjan Legacy Program.	Number of communities of practice including gender experts established and capacities strengthened on targeted climate resilient and low emission agricultural value chains, forest and land use.	None in the context of KM LEGAP	<i>Processes, including consultations with key stakeholders, training programs (on targeted climate resilient and low emission agricultural value chains, forest and land use,) including gender experts finalized for promoting exchange and cooperation among different stakeholders in Cote d'Ivoire (in collaboration with the UNCCD Knowledge Hub and other initiatives</i>	<i>One (1) functional community of practice established for promoting exchange and cooperation among different stakeholders in Cote d'Ivoire (in collaboration with the UNCCD Knowledge Hub and other initiatives</i>	Project progress and evaluation reports, technical support missions, minutes/reports of meetings of the community of practice	the project, particularly in mobilizing different stakeholder and interest groups (including the private sector). -Established / strengthened capacities, are maintained to facilitate knowledge exchange among key stakeholders and other platforms within and beyond Cote d'Ivoire. - Awareness-raising sessions trigger interest

<i>Project title: Knowledge Generation and Management to support the Implementation of the UNCCD COP15 Abidjan Legacy Program (KGM-LEGAP)</i>						
	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Mid term target</i>	<i>Project target</i>	<i>Verification sources</i>	<i>Risks and assumptions</i>
	Number of synthesis Communication, outreach and awareness-raising of products and activities produced, and a synthesis of lessons from the "Abidjan Legacy Program's lessons"	None	<p>i) 2 Communication, outreach and awareness-raising of products and activities produced</p> <p>ii) Draft of a synthesis of lessons from the "Abidjan Legacy Program's lessons" to highlight good practices and experiences from stakeholders (government agencies, local, international NGOs and private sector), local observer networks in Cote d'Ivoire</p>	<p>i) 4 Communication, outreach and awareness-raising of products and activities produced</p> <p>ii) Final copy of a synthesis of lessons from the "Abidjan Legacy Program's lessons" to highlight good practices and experiences from stakeholders (government agencies, local, international NGOs and private sector), local observer networks in Cote d'Ivoire</p>	Project progress report, Evaluation report, final copy of the synthesis of lessons from the Abidjan Legacy Program.	from local community producers, including women who in turn, participate in the project activities.
	Number of south-south cooperation and knowledge exchange	None	<i>Identification of ?peer country,? processes, preparation and procurements for a S-S procurement finalized for a cooperation and knowledge exchange with at least one ?peer country.?</i>	<i>At least One (1) south-south cooperation and knowledge exchange conducted</i>	Project progress and evaluation reports, technical support missions	
Output 1.1.1: Information hub and an open-access knowledge platform developed for targeted investments (in coordination with other existing platforms such as WOCAT with gender experts).						
Output 1.1.2: A community of practice including with gender experts established and capacities strengthened on targeted climate resilient and low emission agricultural value chains, forest and land use, promoting exchange and cooperation among different stakeholders in Cote d'Ivoire (in collaboration with the UNCCD Knowledge Hub and other initiatives).						

<i>Project title: Knowledge Generation and Management to support the Implementation of the UNCCD COP15 Abidjan Legacy Program (KGM-LEGAP)</i>						
	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Mid term target</i>	<i>Project target</i>	<i>Verification sources</i>	<i>Risks and assumptions</i>
Output 1.1.3: Communication, outreach and awareness-raising of products and activities produced, and a synthesis of lessons from the "Abidjan Legacy Program's lessons" to highlight good practices and experiences from stakeholders (government agencies, local, international NGOs and private sector), local observer networks in Cote d'Ivoire						
Output 1.1.4: A south-south cooperation and knowledge exchange feasibility conducted in Cote d'Ivoire and Costa Rica						
Component 2: Investment Tools and incentives are developed to foster sustainable investment into the most suitable value chains						
Outcome 2.1 The policy environment and capacity needs are addressed and different stakeholders in Cote d'Ivoire increasingly take up Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) businesses	Documentation of best available climate resilient and low emission agricultural value chains, forest and land use and technologies investments, financial models and instrument in Cote d'Ivoire (including gender gaps in access to climate resilient agric value chains, technologies and investments).	None	Terms of reference, consultants identified and engaged, stakeholder consultations done and priority areas finalized	<i>Final report submitted of the documentation of best available climate resilient and low emission agricultural value chains, forest and land use and technologies investments, financial models and instrument in Cote d'Ivoire (including gender gaps in access to climate resilient agric value chains, technologies and investments).</i>	Project progress and Evaluation reports, technical support missions, actual report of best technologies, investments and financial models and instruments in Cote d'Ivoire	-The political will that KM LEGAP has generated among politicians, policy makers, academia, development partners and other stakeholders will be sustained to contribute to the Abidjan Legacy Program. - COVID-19 will continue to be a bay so as not to disrupt the implementation of project activities, particularly

<i>Project title: Knowledge Generation and Management to support the Implementation of the UNCCD COP15 Abidjan Legacy Program (KGM-LEGAP)</i>						
	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Mid term target</i>	<i>Project target</i>	<i>Verification sources</i>	<i>Risks and assumptions</i>
	Map of policy coherence and tools, investment criteria and incentives for sharing and use by relevant stakeholders in Cote d'Ivoire and other countries to foster sustainable investments into the most suitable value chains.	None	Terms of reference, consultants identified and engaged, stakeholder consultations done for: i) Mapping policy coherence; ii) Developing tools, investment criteria and incentives to foster sustainable investments into the most suitable value chains.	i) <i>Map of policy coherence for supporting most suitable value chains completed</i> ii) <i>Tools, investment criteria and incentives to foster sustainable investments into the most suitable value chains developed.</i>	Project progress and evaluation reports, list of participants technical support missions	the S-S knowledge exchange. - Awareness-raising campaigns and political will to address environmental challenges in important value chains will spur substantial interest from the private sector for their continued engagement in this KM and the Legacy Program.
	<i>Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender</i>	None in the context of KM LEGAP	i) <i>1,250 male direct beneficiaries</i> ii) <i>1,250 female direct beneficiaries</i>	i) <i>2,500 male direct beneficiaries</i> ii) <i>2,500 female direct beneficiaries</i>	Project progress and evaluation reports, list of participants technical support missions	
Output 2.1.1: Best available climate resilient and low emission agricultural value chains, forest and land use and technologies investments, financial models and instrument in Cote d'Ivoire are assessed and documented (including gender gaps in access to climate resilient agric value chains, technologies and investments).						
Output 2.1.2: Policy coherence is mapped, and tools, investment criteria and incentives developed, shared and used by relevant stakeholders in Cote d'Ivoire and other countries to foster sustainable investments into the most suitable value chains.						
Output 2.1.3: Community-based biodiversity enterprises as alternative income generating activities for local communities identified and supported in line with sustainable agricultural and livestock practices identified in the land use plan for the PA and adjacent landscape.						

ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

	GEF Comments	IFAD responses	IFAD's responses at CEO endorsement
<p>Part I ? Project Information Focal area elements</p> <p>1. Is the project/program aligned with the relevant GEF focal area elements in Table A, as defined by the GEF 7 Programming Directions?</p>	<p>April 28, 2022</p> <p>Yes, the project is aligned with the LD2-5 objective (?Create enabling environments to support scaling up and mainstreaming of SLM and LDN?).</p> <p>Table A: Please inform the "executing partner" section and its "type" (based on the section 56, it seems that you identified the GM as the executing partner). Please, complete.</p>	<p>IFAD is proposed as EE for the moment to foster synergy with the IFAD GCF GGW programme. However this will be revisited during full design and based on discussions with partners.</p>	
	<p>May 27, 2022</p> <p>Including IFAD as a potential executing partner is possible, but it is also possible that the quality control will ask for a message from Cote d'Ivoire to agree on this execution mode. We suggest including the GM for the time being, and update the "Executing Partner Type". You may propose other execution modes under the results of the PPG.</p>	<p>June 03, 2022.</p> <p>As recommended, the Global Mechanism has been put as the Executing Agency</p>	
	<p>June 14, 2022 Addressed</p>		
<p>Indicative project/program description summary</p> <p>2. Are the components in Table B and as described in the PIF sound, appropriate, and sufficiently clear to achieve the project/program objectives and the core indicators?</p>	<p>April 28, 2022</p> <p>Result Framework</p> <p>Component 1</p> <p>- 1.1.1: Information hub and an open-access knowledge platform: It is not yet possible to understand how this hub/platform will be articulated to existing platforms (FOLUR, AFR100, FLRM, Bonn Challenge, GLF, GPFLR, DSL?).</p> <p>o It would seem that a knowledge hub and platform would take some ongoing support and therefore being</p>	<p>Comments well noted. In response:</p> <p>Component 1</p> <p>- 1.1.1 Additional consultations will refine this further at CEO endorsement to ensure synergies and avoid duplication of resources ? including considering interoperability (description of output 1.1.1).</p>	<p>The CER provides additional information in the description of output 1.1.1 ? indicating the value addition of the information hub as a ?complementor? of existing platforms rather than replicating existing ones. Thus, the collection of data will include an</p>

	GEF Comments	IFAD responses	IFAD's responses at CEO endorsement
	<p>housed within another entity which has the remit for this type of knowledge and research activity would make sense. Please, clarify, and to be further developed at CEO approval.</p> <p>o Please, anticipate how sustainability issues will be assessed (to be further developed at CEO approval).</p> <p>- 1.1.2: A community of practice established: Please, clarify this notion of community of practices: anchorage, partners, (and sustainability at CEO approval).</p> <p>- South-South exchanges are not clearly mentioned in the result framework while they are highlighted in the eligibility aspects. We would be ready to support South-South exchanges within this project. Such exchanges would make sense between regions as West Africa, Brazil, and Indonesia. However, such activity is complicated to design to be fully relevant. Please initiate a reasoning on South-South exchanges and include them in the result framework.</p> <p>- Is there a rationale to limit the knowledge sharing between Farmer Field Schools at regional and inter-regional levels? We do not think so. The exchanges should also target the private sector who are not covered by FFS. Please, revise.</p> <p>- Would the private sector be engaged as part of the community of</p>	<p>Additional information has been provided in the sustainability section, making allusion to synergies with other existing and enduring platforms and their institutional arrangements, and possibility for interoperability ? to be refined at CEO endorsement after additional consultations. The project believes that this approach will strengthen the sustainability aspects of the outcomes.</p> <p>- 1.1.2 To be further refined at CEO endorsement, additional information has been added highlighting S-S exchanges and building on the 5-step GEF's 5-step art of knowledge exchange process.[1] It is noted that the regional and inter-regional exchanges will be critical in strengthening partnerships of equals based on shared experiences and understanding, and facilitating reciprocal knowledge-sharing among peers who face similar challenges speeds up learning and capacity-building, and helps in scaling up the outcomes of successful projects.[2]</p> <p>The further development of the results framework will include indicators and targets for S-S exchanges.</p>	<p>assessment of gaps in the existing platforms that this project will be able to close.</p> <p>Regarding output 1.1.2, additional information has been provided clarifying the role of a community of practice to give members an opportunity for collaborative problem-solving, mentorship, and networking, among others.</p> <p>Regarding output 1.1.3, additional information has been provided rehashing that private sector engagement in agricultural value chains is, overall, important for increasing efficiency, stimulating economic growth, and promoting sustainability. It can help to improve the lives of both producers and consumers and contribute to the overall development of a country.</p>

	GEF Comments	IFAD responses	IFAD's responses at CEO endorsement
	<p>practice? Would such engagement be targeted at individual companies or through value chain or sectoral initiatives? There is already a good number of private sector and multi-stakeholder platforms that could assist. GEF Secretariat would be pleased to connect with such platforms, including those currently engaged in GEF 6 and 7 programs, notably the FOLUR IP (GEF-7) and the GGP (GEF-6).</p> <p>- About the activity "Promote knowledge sharing and innovation through regional and inter-regional exchanges between farmers based on FAO Farmer Field Schools approaches? :</p> <p>- It might be considered to include in this section the private sector demonstration farms and technology centers that would be most keen to host this type of activity - water management in India with Jain Irrigation technology centers, Syngenta's demonstration farms, Yara's centers of excellence...</p> <p>- We suggest adding a section here for private sector partners and the opportunities to use their facilities and centers.</p> <p>- GEF Secretariat would be most keen to discuss private sector needs further in relation to this MSP.</p> <p>- 1.1.3: Finance platform development: Please clarify the starting point, the synergy with existing platforms (CPIC, Finance for Tomorrow, ?).</p>	<p>A sentence has been added to include the private sector and other stakeholders within land use, management and land administration space. Another paragraph has been added to indicate the mode of engagement with the private sector as members of the community of practice, building on GEF private sector strategy.</p> <p>A paragraph has been added that succinctly includes the private sector and their role in supporting knowledge transfer and learning; as centres for demonstrating best practices and potential sources of financial resources and knowledge.</p> <p>Without being too specific at this stage, information has been added regarding private sector's role which extends to the use of their facilities and centres for demonstrating best practices and knowledge transfer.</p>	<p>Regarding south-south exchanges, it has been included in the document that at the time of developing this document for CEO endorsement, the government of Ivory Coast has had advanced discussions with the government of Costa Rica as part of the planning process for a south-south cooperation and knowledge exchange. Additional contacts are foreseen with other countries in other global regions for south-south or peer-to-peer learning opportunities.</p>

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	<p>Component 2</p> <p>- Output 2.1.1 on best value chains: Activity c) ?identify and document the best agricultural practices?. Please connect with existing technical platforms related to sustainable commodities and value chains (WOCAT, FOLUR, IDH?).</p> <p>- Output 2.1.1: there has been a great deal of work undertaken in this regard by the WB, CGIAR, ASEAN CSA network etc. What would also be useful from the perspective of the private sector is an assessment also of the failed approaches, why they fell short and what could be done in the future to support best approaches. Please, address.</p> <p>- Output 2.1.2 on investment tools: activity b) in addition to identify the relevant incentives, would not it be complementary to also identify perverse incentives that do not help generating multiple environmental, social, and economic benefits? Please, adjust.</p>	<p>1.1.3 At this stage of the MSP development, it is noted that different initiatives will be engaged and supported, particularly in aspects that can transform production systems to support the generation of GEBs and community livelihoods. This will be refined at CEO endorsement.</p> <p>Component 2</p> <p>-Output 2.1.1 ? information added to signal the connection with existing platforms.</p> <p>-Output 2.1.1 A sentence has been added indicating the assessment of what is not working and what is.</p> <p>2.1.2 Adjusted with the following sentence added: including practices (such as perverse incentives) that do impede the generation of multiple environmental, social, and economic benefits.</p>	
	<p>May 27, 2022</p> <p>1 - The main lesson from the discussions at the COP is that</p>	<p>June 03, 2022</p> <p><i>Comment 1:</i> As suggested, the results</p>	

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	<p>Cote d'Ivoire is the only certitude of the Abidjan Legacy Program. We therefore recommend to re-orient the result framework largely on Cote d'Ivoire, highlighting the lessons and best practices on the specific case of Cote d'Ivoire. The point is also to involve and empower different stakeholders on the ground in the Abidjan Legacy Program (private sector, NGO, State agencies as SODEFOR and OIPR, etc). If countries join the Abidjan Legacy Program, they will be invited to react, adjust, endorse these best practices. Please, correct.</p> <p>2 - During the PPG, include an inventory of on-going initiatives on the topic, as several donors and partners positively respond to the call of the President and the Prime Minister of Cote d'Ivoire: World Bank Group, European Union, IFAD, GEF, etc.</p> <p>3 - About the South-South cooperation: the GEF CEO and the Prime Minister agreed to explore such mechanism for Cote d'Ivoire. Please, include clearly a feasibility study for this option. We recommend speeding up this task in view of the GEF Assembly in August 2023 at Vancouver, Canada.</p> <p>4 - Under the output 1.1.3, we recommend to include a "collection" or a "Abidjan Legacy Program's lessons" to highlight good practices and experiences from Cote d'Ivoire based organizations: local NGO, international NGO, local networks of independent observations.</p>	<p>framework has largely been scaled down to the specific case of C?te d'Ivoire. Please, note also that the PIF now includes a section that specifically focuses on C?te d'Ivoire, including tailoring the information to the country?s context.</p> <p><i>Comment 2:</i> Suggestion noted that during PPG, an inventory will be conducted to include on-going initiatives on value chains ? this will be complemented and be strengthened under output 2.1.1 Additional consultation during PPG effectively confirm multistaker interest in the Program, and there is more than enough political will behind the program. Consultations and engagements will continue to be able to include additional initiatives on the topic.</p> <p><i>Comment 3:</i> As recommended, an output for a south-south cooperation and knowledge exchange feasibility study has been</p>	

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	<p>5 - In the forest of Cavally, we recommend Wild Chimpanzee Foundation, WCF, and NOFNA (Notre Foret, Notre Avenir).</p> <p>6 - Local observer networks are all together in OIREN (Observatoire Ivoirien pour la Gestion des Ressources Naturelles).</p> <p>7 - There is very active community of NGO and private sectors who all have good stories and practices to highlight: NITIDAE, ECOOKIM, Mirova, International Cocoa Initiative, IDH/The Sustainable Trade Initiative, FOA (Foncier, Forestric, agriculture), oftakers and traders (Walter Matter, Alter Eco).</p> <p>Output 2.1.1</p> <p>8 - In terms of topics: in addition to the economic aspects of the cocoa value chain and potentially other value chains (coffee, cashew...), it is important to highlight the complexity of social aspects and the need for ad hoc solutions, often case by case solutions. What is done in Cavally may not be possible everywhere; but the upcoming plans of the FIP2 are applicable to two or three very degraded gazetted forests, but should be considered as a general rule. These aspects do not need to be all listed in the PIF, but it will be important to</p>	<p>added under component 1 as output 1.1.4.</p> <p><i>Comment 4:</i> As suggested, output 1.1.3 has been modified to include a synthesis of lessons from the "Abidjan Legacy Program's lessons" to highlight good practices and experiences from stakeholders (local and international NGOs, local networks of independent observations) in Cote d'Ivoire.</p> <p><i>Comment 5:</i> Our understanding is that these important organisations will be engaged in collating lessons of best practices, and therefore, they are reflected in output 1.1.3 - which has been modified to include a synthesis of lessons.</p> <p><i>Comment 6:</i> As suggested, these stakeholders are reflected in output 1.1.3</p> <p><i>Comment 7:</i> As suggested, these stakeholders are reflected in output 1.1.3</p>	

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	<p>develop them during the project design (PPG).</p> <p>9 - Aside the restoration of agroforestry parklands, it is also important to highlight knowledge and best practices in terms of FOREST restoration and the generation of multiple benefits (carbon, climate, rainfall), applicable to gazetted forests managed by SODEFOR and parks and reserves managed by the Ivorian Office for Parks and Reserves (OIPR).</p> <p>Output 2.1.2</p> <p>10 - A feasibility study about the institutional framework of the Abidjan Legacy Program may be partially financed through this MSP. Several scenarios exist, upon decisions of the Ivorian side (to integrated under the 2.1.2).</p> <p>11- Project Management costs: comment not addressed: please include cofinancing in front of the GEF grant for pmc with a ratio in the similar range than the rest of the project. IFAD may provide this cofinancing, even-kind, as well as the Ivorian side, and the Global Mechanism. Please, revise.</p>	<p><i>Comment 8:</i> Suggestion and comment well noted, and will be duly considered at PPG.</p> <p><i>Comment 9:</i> Comment well noted, however since the comment is more inclined towards showcasing knowledge and best practices, we have included this element to output 1.1.3 which has aspects related to synthesis of good practices and experiences.</p> <p><i>Comment 10:</i> Comment well noted</p> <p><i>Comment 11:</i> The co-financing from IFAD has been adjusted to 200,000 USD</p>	
	<p>June 14, 2022 Addressed</p>		
<p>Co-financing</p> <p>3. Are the indicative expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing adequately documented and consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines, with a description</p>	<p>April 28, 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The role and nature of cofinancing is not clear. Please, clarify. - The notion of 'investment mobilized' for cofinancing 'in-kind' from IFAD and FAO needs to be clarified. 	<p>The cofinancing cash (loans and grants from IFAD and grants from FAO) will come from IFAD and FAO projects that connect with the objective of this MSP. The in-kind relates to the staff involved.</p>	

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<p>on how the breakdown of co-financing was identified and meets the definition of investment mobilized?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Abidjan Legacy Program is not a Donor Agency (last line). - Please, check with the government of Cote d'Ivoire if cofinancing from their part is conceivable. - Is the private sector expected to be a source of co-finance for any aspect of this project? At present, there are no private sector actors listed, however, through the use of their websites, communications channels, access to other media such as platforms and initiatives, it could be expected that the private sector could play a role in KM and communication. - Other types of private sector actors may be considered to financially support the project, notably private foundations such as the Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture. 	<p>The discussion on cofinancing with the government of Cote d'Ivoire will most probably happen during the full design.</p> <p>The cofinancing (cash or in kind) from the private sector will be explored during the full design.</p> <p>The comment on the role of the private sector is noted, and additional information has been included in the PIF to address the comment at this stage of PIF development.</p> <p>- At this stage of MSP development, there are no private sector entities listed, however, with additional consultations, this might change at CEO endorsement. Regarding the private sector's role in KM and Learning, they are expected to play an important role. The MSP already notes that the centres of the private sector could be centres of demonstration of best practices and places for knowledge transfer.</p> <p>The role of Foundations is noted in the document.</p>	<p>Regarding the private sector, as noted above, additional information has been provided regarding engaging with the private sector in the project.</p>
	<p>May 27, 2022</p> <p>Some points below were not addressed. Please, double-check:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is difficult to consider in-kind cofinancing from FAO 	<p>The cofinancing section has been updated</p>	

	GEF Comments	IFAD responses	IFAD's responses at CEO endorsement
	<p>and IFAD in "investments mobilized".</p> <p>- The Abidjan Legacy Program is not a Donor Agency: Please, correct.</p> <p>- Cofinancing from Cote d'Ivoire has not been added. Please, correct or justify.</p>		
	<p>June 14, 2022 Addressed. However, we are not sure that Cote d'Ivoire can be considered as a Donor Agency. to be confirmed at CEO approval.</p>		
<p>GEF Resource Availability</p> <p>4. Is the proposed GEF financing in Table D (including the Agency fee) in line with GEF policies and guidelines? Are they within the resources available from (mark all that apply):</p>	<p>April 28, 2022</p> <p>Not fully</p> <p>- Referring to the Council decision GEF/C.39.9, there should be a proportionality between the project management costs covered by GEF funding and the pmc covered by cofinanced amounts. Please, correct.</p> <p>- Especially if the cofinancing in grants is confirmed, the GEF should not bear a disproportionate burden of the total management costs. Please, confirm or adjust.</p>	<p>Considering this is a KM project, some of the in-kind contribution of IFAD and FAO could be accounted to the cofinancing of the PMC.</p> <p>The cofinancing of grants and loans would be from IFAD and FAO projects related to the activities of this project, so it will not be under PMC.</p> <p>However other sources ? e.g. from the private sector- will be sought ? This information is included under Table C in the PIF.</p>	
	<p>May 27, 2022</p> <p>Not addressed. Please correct.</p>	<p>Please, see response above mentioning that the cofinancing section has been updated.</p>	
	<p>June 14, 2022 Addressed.</p>		
The STAR allocation?	NA	n/a	
The focal area allocation?	<p>April 28, 2022 Yes, LD.</p>	Noted	
The LDCF under the principle of equitable access	NA	n/a	
The SCCF (Adaptation or Technology Transfer)?	NA	n/a	
Focal area set-aside?	April 28, 2022		

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	YES		
Impact Program Incentive?	NA	n/a	
Project Preparation Grant 5. Is PPG requested in Table E within the allowable cap? Has an exception (e.g. for regional projects) been sufficiently substantiated? (not applicable to PFD)	April 28, 2022 Yes, a PPG is requested within the allowable cap.	Noted	
Core indicators 6. Are the identified core indicators in Table F calculated using the methodology included in the correspondent Guidelines? (GEF/C.54/11/Rev.01)	April 28, 2022 - It is always challenging for KM related projects to directly generate GEB and concretely propose targets under the core indicators. However, there is a fair tentative to quantify the different products under this MSP (para 44), quantify the direct beneficiaries (core indicator 11), and catalyze change in the sector of several value chains. - Please, make the number of beneficiaries consistent with the number entered in the Core Indicators table.	Comment noted and appreciated. Core indicator indicates 30,000 beneficiaries; 15,000 being males and the other 15,000 women.	The number of direct beneficiaries has been made consistent as 30,000 (15,000 women and 15,000 men).
Project/Program taxonomy 7. Is the project/ program properly tagged with the appropriate keywords as requested in Table G	April 28, 2022 Addressed	Noted	
Part II ? Project Justification 1. Has the project/program described the global environmental / adaptation problems, including the root causes and barriers that need to be addressed?	April 28, 2022 Addressed.	Noted	
2. Is the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects appropriately described?	April 28, 2022 OK, but the logical reasoning should better integrate the existing mechanisms and platforms from GEF6 and	Addressed	

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	GEF7 IAP and IP. To be adjusted.		
	<p>May 27, 2022</p> <p>- Sorry to reopen this item, but following discussions with Cote d'Ivoire and IFAD, it seems that the baseline scenario has evolved, as well as the number of pillars in the Abidjan Legacy Program. This MSP should still constitute its KM component, but cross-cutting to the four revised pillars. Please, clarify</p> <p>(Please, we would appreciate a response to the questions we raise. Thanks to provide the response and the references or the changes in the appropriate cell. Please, let us decide if the point is "addressed" or not).</p>	The document has been revised with the latest pillars of the Legacy program and the MSP as a cross-cutting knowledge management and learning pillar of the Abidjan Legacy Program	
	<p>June 14, 2022</p> <p>Addressed.</p>		
3. Does the proposed alternative scenario describe the expected outcomes and components of the project/program?	<p>April 28, 2022</p> <p>- The proposal is quite broad in its approach. There are limited commodities and general geographies referenced at this stage. When and how will the private sector be engaged in the development of this concept to support a minimum of buy-in and early commitment?</p> <p>- However, the commodities listed in the MSP should provide excellent resources for best practices and information should be readily available from such private sector platforms and initiatives.</p> <p>- Many of the private sector best practices, or those that are being promoted by the main partners in ecological</p>	<p>At this stage, the approach is fairly broad ? as the development of the MSP evolves, this will offer the opportunity to target and define and narrow on relevant commodities that hold potential for transformational impact. This will be reached through additional consultations with different stakeholders at national and regional levels.</p> <p>Under component 1, output 1.1.2, additional information has been provided to indicate that private sector engagement will remain</p>	

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	intensification / regenerative / semi-arid agriculture are in developed countries or those with a relatively strong agricultural sector, such as Brazil, India, and Indonesia. Will the project also look to global best practices and explore how these approaches could be best deployed in developing country contexts, notably LDCs? Please, clarify.	an on-going process, taking advantage of new opportunities with different stakeholders, however, events such as the COP15, existing platforms such as the UNCCD Knowledge Hub, South-South Knowledge Exchange programs, National Focal Points will remain important mechanisms for engaging to get private sector buy-in. It is noted that the private sector have the finances and knowledge and experience to share as leaders of best practices, but also candidates of change of sustainable production systems. It is clarified that the project has regional and national scope to engage stakeholders to facilitate domestication of best global practices.	
	May 27, 2022 See comments made in the item II/2.	Same as above, following the discussions in Cote d'Ivoire	
	June 14, 2022 Addressed.		
4. Is the project/program aligned with focal area and/or Impact Program strategies?	April 28, 2022 Yes, the project is aligned with the LD2-5 objective (?Create enabling environments to support scaling up and mainstreaming of SLM and LDN?). See the comment on South-South exchanges in the result framework.	Noted and mentioned above that the RF will include S-S relevant indicators and targets at CEO endorsement	The RF includes an indicator related to south-south knowledge exchange and cooperation.
	June 14, 2022 Addressed.		

	GEF Comments	IFAD responses	IFAD's responses at CEO endorsement
5. Is the incremental / additional cost reasoning properly described as per the Guidelines provided in GEF/C.31/12?	<p>April 28, 2022</p> <p>Addressed at PIF level. To be reinforced at CEO approval.</p>	Reminder noted with thanks.	-
6. Are the project's/program's indicative targeted contributions to global environmental benefits (measured through core indicators) reasonable and achievable? Or for adaptation benefits?	<p>April 28, 2022</p> <p>Yes, the contribution is reasonable.</p> <p>- This contribution is also aligned with several STAP publications. We would like to see a clear reference to these publications, their contents, and their recommendations, notably the following: South-South Cooperation for knowledge exchange, nature-based solutions, multi-stakeholder for transformational change, Land Degradation Neutrality.</p>	Noted, and as suggested, at this stage of MSP development, references have been included to highlight the knowledge scientific underpinning of certain aspects that the MSP is proposing in the design.	-
	<p>May 27, 2022</p> <p>Addressed.</p>		
7. Is there potential for innovation, sustainability and scaling up in this project?	<p>April 28, 2022</p> <p>- Yes, the Abidjan Legacy Program is innovative, as well as this MSP that will constitute its KM pillar.</p> <p>- At CEO approval, please, reinforce the sustainability aspects building on existing and long-term initiatives and entities. We recommend not inventing new platforms and mechanisms. To be discussed at CEO approval.</p> <p>- Yes, this project has a potential for scaling up.</p>	This point is well noted, and in the current version, allusion is made to ensure synergies and consideration for interoperability is proposed to ensure the project speaks to and builds on existing platforms for sustainability and engagement of different players, including the private sector. It will also build and amplify GEF-6 and GEF-7 relevant platforms, notably the FOLUR IP and the GGP. The texts will be further refined at CEO endorsement.	In the CEO document, it has been clarified that this MSP will seek synergies and support existing platforms, focusing on the identified agricultural value chains? interoperability will be explored to avoid duplication of efforts. The collection of data will be phased to support the identification of gaps in existing platforms so that the proposed

	GEF Comments	IFAD responses	IFAD's responses at CEO endorsement
			information hub can close. This will strengthen the value addition of the information hub not as a replication of existing platforms but more as a ?complementor.?
<p>Project/Program Map and Coordinates</p> <p>Is there a preliminary geo-reference to the project's/program's intended location?</p>	NA	n/a	
<p>Stakeholders</p> <p>Does the PIF/PFD include indicative information on Stakeholders engagement to date? If not, is the justification provided appropriate? Does the PIF/PFD include information about the proposed means of future engagement?</p>	<p>April 28, 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The PIF includes the information about future means of engagement. - Please, provide the details of meetings (dates, objectives) and who you meet to develop this PIF. We understand that this PIF was designed under a participative approach involving Cote d'Ivoire, UNCCD/GM, IDH, IFAD's bureaus, and potential partners from the private sector. Please, clarify. 	<p>At this stage, the design of the PIF involved discussions with Cote d'Ivoire, IFAD HQ and WCA, FAO CI office, UNCCD/GM, as well as UNDP (involved in GEF-6 GGP, and GEF-7 FOLUR). Further discussions with other partners will take place during full project design. This information is included under the table of stakeholders in the PIF.</p>	
	<p>May 27, 2022</p> <p>Addressed.</p>		
<p>Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment</p> <p>Is the articulation of gender context and indicative information on the importance and need to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, adequate?</p>	<p>April 28, 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is a section on gender. However, the issues of inequalities between men and women are absent from the project narrative and the result framework (table B). To be revised. 	<p>Text has been added to output 2.1.1 to explicitly highlight gender gaps in access to climate resilient agriculture value chains, technologies and investments. The further development of the RF will reflect this concern with indicators and target</p>	

	GEF Comments	IFAD responses	IFAD's responses at CEO endorsement
		? ensuring that gender lessons are integrated in the KM and L of this MSP. Additionally, a text has been added, indicating that land degradation in developing countries impacts men and women differently, mainly due to unequal access to land, water, credit, extension services and technology. This will be further developed as the design of the MSP evolves.	
	May 27, 2022 Addressed.		
<p>Private Sector Engagement</p> <p>Is the case made for private sector engagement consistent with the proposed approach?</p>	<p>April 28, 2022</p> <p>- We can understand that it is difficult at this stage to identify the direct partners from the private sector. However, we recommend improving this section in listing some key private partners present in Cote d'Ivoire on the main identified value chains (Mondelez, Cocoa Life, World Cocoa Foundation, for instance). They should be interested in the outcomes of this project, especially from the component 2 (financial models and instruments, technologies, investment tools, incentives?).</p> <p>- We also recommend referring to the GEF Private Sector Strategy. Please, revise.</p>	<p>Texts under output 2.1.1 and private sector engagement have been added, improved with guidance from GEF PS Strategy ? to be refined further at CEO endorsement</p>	<p>As noted above in the response to the comment on output 1.1.3, additional information has been provided regarding the private sector.</p>
	May 27, 2022 Addressed.		
<p>Risks to Achieving Project Objectives</p>	<p>April 28, 2022</p>	<p>Noted</p>	<p>Additional information, including on</p>

	GEF Comments	IFAD responses	IFAD's responses at CEO endorsement
Does the project/program consider potential major risks, including the consequences of climate change, that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved or may be resulting from project/program implementation, and propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design?	- Addressed at PIF level. At CEO approval, please, provide a comprehensive risk analysis.		COVID-19 has been provided under the risk table.
Coordination Is the institutional arrangement for project/program coordination including management, monitoring and evaluation outlined? Is there a description of possible coordination with relevant GEF-financed projects/programs and other bilateral/multilateral initiatives in the project/program area?	April 28, 2022 Addressed at PIF level	Noted	Additional information has been provided
Consistency with National Priorities Has the project/program cited alignment with any of the recipient country's national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions?	April 28, 2022 Addressed.	Noted	
Knowledge Management Is the proposed knowledge management (KM) approach in line with GEF requirements to foster learning and sharing from relevant projects/programs, initiatives and evaluations; and contribute to the project's/program's overall impact and sustainability?	April 28, 2022 The project as a whole is a KM approach. Addressed.	Noted	
Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Are environmental and social risks, impacts and management measures adequately	April 28, 2022 Based on the GUIDELINES ON THE PROJECT AND PROGRAM CYCLE POLICY (2020 UPDATE)	A paragraph in the GEBS section of the PIF has been added indicating that this project is a knowledge Management and Learning Pillar of	

	GEF Comments	IFAD responses	IFAD's responses at CEO endorsement
documented at this stage and consistent with requirements set out in SD/PL/03?	(GEF/C.59/Inf.03, July 20, 2020), GEF Agencies are required to provide ESS assessment unless Agency policy or procedure has exemption of ESS assessment. Please, indicate if this project is exempt for ESS screening.	the LP. According to IFAD's Environmental and social categorization and criteria, this is a Category C project ? not requiring additional environmental analysis because the activities have positive environmental impacts, or negligible or minimally adverse environmental impacts.	
	May 27, 2022 Addressed.		
Part III ? Country Endorsements Has the project/program been endorsed by the country's GEF Operational Focal Point and has the name and position been checked against the GEF data base?	April 28, 2022 - A letter of endorsement from the Cote d'Ivoire GEF OFP was received by email. We invite the GEF Agency to check the language at the end of the letter: 1) no STAR resources are committed and 2) it is not a grant for Cote d'Ivoire, but for a global MSP. To be revised.	The letter of endorsement from Cote D'Ivoire will be revised to reflect the global nature. However at this stage the country is not committing putting GEF-8 resources.	
	May 27, 2022 Not addressed. Please, revise the letter. See the points of concern below.	A new letter will be sent	
	June 14, 2022 As this is a global project and a KM project, we consider that letters of endorsement are not needed. However, this MSP is seen as the KM pillar of a program led by Cote d'Ivoire following the announcement of the Abidjan Legacy Program and a letter of endorsement from Cote d'Ivoire seems a minimum. A letter of endorsement is available	A Letter of endorsement is attached.	

	GEF Comments	IFAD responses	IFAD's responses at CEO endorsement
	at PIF level. To be updated at CEO approval. Addressed.		
<p>Termsheet, reflow table and agency capacity in NGI Projects</p> <p>Does the project provide sufficient detail in Annex A (indicative termsheet) to take a decision on the following selection criteria: co-financing ratios, financial terms and conditions, and financial additionality? If not, please provide comments. Does the project provide a detailed reflow table in Annex B to assess the project capacity of generating reflows? If not, please provide comments. After reading the questionnaire in Annex C, is the Partner Agency eligible to administer concessional finance? If not, please provide comments.</p>	NA	n/a	
<p>GEFSEC DECISION RECOMMENDATION</p> <p>Is the PIF/PFD recommended for technical clearance? Is the PPG (if requested) being recommended for clearance?</p>	<p>June 14, 2022</p> <p>The points have been addressed. The project is recommended for CEO clearance.</p>		
	<p>June 15, 2022</p> <p>Please address the comments below:</p> <p>1- include a short note on the COVID-19 situation to figure out 1) the risks analysis and 2) the opportunity analysis.</p> <p>2. Gender: In output 1.1.1 and 1.1.2, it is very important to capture the gender dimensions. The Agency is therefore requested to include gender experts in stakeholders to capture gender perspectives in the development of information hub and the</p>	<p>1 -Covid: the following text have been added to the PIF under the risks section: The Covid-19 pandemic has had severe impacts on the already vulnerable economies globally and undermined efforts to strengthen the resilience of smallholder farmers to climate change. For instance, the prices of Senegal and Cote d'Ivoire's cashews dropped a record 47 per</p>	

	GEF Comments	IFAD responses	IFAD's responses at CEO endorsement
	<p>community of practice. This will complement the 50-50 distribution of project beneficiaries. On the questions below (screenshot), the first question is the umbrella question for the three sub-points under it. As the Agency has responded Yes to one of the sub-points, the response to the first question should be Yes (not TDB). It also appears that the project responds to the third sub-point (generating socio-economic benefits). The Agency may review this in the PPG stage. It is also recommended to have gender-responsive indicators, hence, the Agency may wish to consider this at the PPG stage.</p> <p>(see Figure 1 below)</p> <p>3. Cofinancing from Cote d'Ivoire:</p> <p>a) Cote d'Ivoire is not a Donor Agency; please, correct using "recipient country".</p> <p>b) Depending on the nature on cofinancing, we may expect a cofinancing as "investment mobilized", please, correct.</p> <p>c) Please, justify in the explanations under the table;</p> <p>d) remove the sentence "the discussion with the government will most probably happen during the design phase?".</p> <p>(See Figure 2 below)</p> <p>4. Stakeholder engagement: The submission has ticked boxes that consultations with indigenous peoples/local communities, CSOs and private sector entities have been</p>	<p>cent due to the decline in demand in domestic markets, while demand for cocoa beans from Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana (the two largest cocoa producers in the world) fell across Europe in 2020-2021.</p> <p>Unemployment increased while household monetary incomes declined due to the closure of several MSMEs in key agricultural value chains. A drop in household income affects savings, as low-income households are forced to use their savings or resort to other negative coping strategies to buy food and meet other basic needs. This, in turn, hinders their already limited chances of gaining access to much-needed credit. The unanticipated shock of COVID-19 underscores the need for a shift from "business as usual" practices to a more forward-looking approach that invests in the productivity, sustainability and resilience of food systems. Despite those risks and impacts, covid recovery allows for mainstreaming resilience, sustainability, agroecology, and ensure local production and shorter and more efficient value chains are built.</p> <p>2-Gender:</p>	<p>The development of the CEO endorsement document has immensely benefited from consultations with different stakeholders who include CSOs (see list of participants and</p>

	GEF Comments	IFAD responses	IFAD's responses at CEO endorsement
	<p>carried out during project identification stage. The states that the development of this PIF has benefited from consultations and discussions with Cote d'Ivoire, IFAD HQ and WCA, FAO CI office, UNCCD/GM, as well as UNDP?. It does not however provide any information on its consultations with Indigenous Peoples and CSOs. Please ask agency to clarify/elaborate further on any of these consultations</p> <p>5. Participant countries and (lack of) Letter of Endorsement (LoE):</p> <p>a. In Outcomes 1.1 and 2.1 (plus in some outputs) Cote d'Ivoire has been identified as one participant country ? however, there is no LoE (though in the Review Sheet the PM said that there is a LoE), neither it is included in the field ?Countries? in Part I ? Project information. Please ask the Agency to include the LoE as well as the name of the country in the field ?Countries? next to ?Global?.</p> <p>b. Output 1.1.4 ?A south-south cooperation and knowledge exchange feasibility conducted? will presumably be implemented in Countries not yet identified. Once those countries are identified during the preparation phase, please include the respective LoEs at CEO Approval stage at the latest.</p> <p>6. On the PMC Proportionality: there is not proportionality in the co-financing contribution to PMC. If the GEF contribution is kept at 10%, for a co-financing of</p>	<p>Gender experts in stakeholders have been included in output 1.1.1 and 1.1.2 to capture gender perspectives in the development of information hub and the community of practice.</p> <p>3- Co-financing: Addressed</p> <p>4 ? Stakeholder: Consultations with IPs and CSOs representatives have taken place during the UNCCD conference in Abidjan but were not documented. Formal consultations will take place during the CEO full project development.</p> <p>5 ? comments addressed Letter of Endorsement now included</p> <p>6- PMC proportionality - addressed</p>	<p>pictures during the national consultation).</p>

	GEF Comments	IFAD responses	IFAD's responses at CEO endorsement
	<p>\$2,400,000 the expected contribution to PMC must be around \$240,000 instead of \$200,000, which is 8.3%. As the costs associated with the project management have to be covered by the GEF portion and the co-financing portion allocated to the PMC, the GEF contribution and the co-financing contribution must be proportional, which means that the GEF contribution to PMC might be decreased and the co-financing contribution to PMC might be increased to reach a similar level. Please ask the Agency to amend either by increasing the co-financing portion and/or by reducing the GEF portion. A more definitive estimation of PMC will be presented and adjusted at CEO Approval stage. (See Figure 3 below)</p>		
<p>GEFSEC DECISION RECOMMENDATION</p> <p>Is the PIF/PFD recommended for technical clearance? Is the PPG (if requested) being recommended for clearance?</p>	<p>April 28, 2022</p> <p>The PIF cannot be recommended yet. Please, address the comments above.</p>		
	<p>May 27, 2022</p> <p>The PIF cannot be recommended yet. We invite the GEF Agency to address the remaining items as soon as possible, as the Quality Control will need some time. Please, keep in mind that the GEF7 Cycle will close in the following two weeks. If not cleared by this time, the project will not be able to be financed under this GEF cycle.</p>		

	GEF Comments	IFAD responses	IFAD's responses at CEO endorsement
<p>ADDITIONAL COMMENTS</p> <p>Additional recommendations to be considered by Agency at the time of CEO endorsement/approval.</p>	<p>April 28, 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Confirm cofinancing; - Confirm sustainability issues; - Provide a comprehensive risk analysis. - Confirm the role of the private sector in the MSP (cofinancing, knowledge management, platforms). - Articulate the proposed tools and mechanisms (platforms, hub) with existing initiatives in view of sustainability. - Develop the South-South exchanges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Confirm cofinancing: addressed with available details at this stage - Confirm sustainability issues: Addressed with additional information regarding collaboration with other existing networks, platforms - Provide a comprehensive risk analysis: Two additional risks have been added to the table, but as noted, a more comprehensive analysis will be done at CEO endorsement after additional consultations with project partners. - Confirm the role of the private sector in the MSP (cofinancing, knowledge management, platforms): Addressed with additional information, including guidance from the GEF PS strategy document. - Articulate the proposed tools and mechanisms (platforms, hub) with existing initiatives in view of sustainability: As noted above under sustainability, addressed with additional information. - Develop the South-South exchanges: Addressed at this stage with additional information, including from STAP publication on Understanding S-S Cooperation for Knowledge Exchange 	<p>Regarding risk analysis, additional information has been provided, including updated information on COVID-19, climate change and the conflict in Ukraine. The project remains a Category C and low risk.</p>

[1] GEF (2017). The Art of [Knowledge Exchange](#): A Results Focused Planning Guide for the GEF Partnership - The guide offers a practical step-by-step blueprint on how to design, implement, and measure progress with regards to knowledge exchange initiatives embedded in projects.

[2] STAP (2021). Understanding South-South Cooperation for [Knowledge Exchange](#)

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

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: \$50,000			
<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)</i>		
	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent To date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>
International consultant (Drafter)	23,700	23,700	
National consultant	7,000	7,000	
National stakeholder consultation	10,000	10,000	
Validation workshop	9,300	9,300	
Total	50,000	50,000	

ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

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

ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

Project title: Knowledge Generation and Management to support the Implementation of the UNCCD COP15 Abidjan Legacy Program (KGM-LEGAP)

Appendix A: Indicative Project Budget Template

Expenditure Category	Detailed description	Component (USDeq.)					Total (USDeq.)	Respon (Exec receivi
		Component 1	Component 2	Sub- Total	M& E	P M C		
		Outcome 1.1	Outcome 2.1					
Works				0			0	
Goods								
	Communication, outreach and awareness-raising including communication equipment to facilitate information collection and dissemination, computers, printers etc	30 000		30 000			30 000	Project Imple
Grants/ Sub- grants								
Global Mechanism, Office of the Ivorian Prime Minister	A south-south cooperation and knowledge exchange feasibility conducted in Cote d'Ivoire and other countries	450 000		450 000			450 000	Global Office of Prime M
International Consultants								
	Mapping of policy coherence, and development and sharing of tools, investment criteria and incentives, shared and used by relevant stakeholders in Côte d'Ivoire and other countries to foster sustainable investments into the most suitable value chains.		400 306	400 306			400 306	Project Imple
	Assessing and documenting best available climate resilient and low emission agricultural value chains, forest and land use and technologies investments, financial models and instrument in Côte d'Ivoire		320 305	320 305			320 305	Project Imple
Local Consultants								
	Developing Information hub and an open-access knowledge platform for targeted investments (in coordination with other existing platforms such as WOCAT with gender experts).	250 000		250 000			250 000	Project Imple
	Establishing and capacitating a community of practice including with gender experts on targeted climate resilient and low emission agricultural value chains, forest and land use, promoting exchange and cooperation among different stakeholders in Côte d'Ivoire (in collaboration with the UNCCD Knowledge Hub	290 611		290 611			290 611	Project Imple
	Mid Term review					9 000	9 000	Project Imple
	Terminal Evaluation					9 000	9 000	Project Imple
Salary and benefits / Staff costs								
	Project Coordinator					55 000	55 000	
	Project Assistant					40 000	40 000	
	M&E Officer			0	49 000		49 000	Project Imple
	Project Finance and Administration Officer					45 000	45 000	Project Imple
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings								
	Annual Progress Reports and Dissemination			0	10 000		10 000	Project Imple
	Steering Committee Meeting				8 000			
Travel				0				
	Travel			0		14 294	14 294	Project Imple
Office Supplies				0				
	Office supplies, computers, other equipment..			0		17 484	17 484	Project Imple
Operating Costs								
	Audit					10 000	10 000	Project Imple
Grand Total		1 020 611	720 611	1 741 222	85 000	181 778	2 000 000	

ANNEX F: (For NGI only) Termsheet

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

ANNEX G: (For NGI only) Reflows

Instructions. Please submit a reflows table as provided in Annex B of the NGI Program Call for Proposals and the Trustee excel sheet for reflows (as provided by the Secretariat or the Trustee) in the Document Section of the CEO endorsement. The Agencies is required to quantify any expected financial return/gains/interests earned on non-grant instruments that will be transferred to the GEF Trust Fund as noted in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy. Partner Agencies will be required to comply with the reflows procedures established in their respective Financial Procedures Agreement with the GEF Trustee. Agencies are welcomed to provide assumptions that explain expected financial reflow schedules.

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

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