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

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

Taxonomy
Focal Areas, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Sustainable Agriculture, Sustainable Livelihoods, Ecosystem Approach, Land Degradation Neutrality, Land Cover and Land cover change, Land Productivity, Carbon stocks above or below ground, Influencing models, Deploy innovative financial instruments, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Demonstrate innovative

approache, Stakeholders, Indigenous Peoples, Private Sector, Capital providers, Financial intermediaries and market facilitators, SMEs, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Civil Society, Non-Governmental Organization, Community Based Organization, Academia, Local Communities, Type of Engagement, Participation, Information Dissemination, Consultation, Partnership, Communications, Awareness Raising, Public Campaigns, Behavior change, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Beneficiaries, Women groups, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Generation, Capacity Development, Innovation, Knowledge Exchange, Learning, Adaptive management, Theory of change, Gender results areas, Participation and leadership, Knowledge Generation and Exchange

Sector

Rio Markers
Climate Change Mitigation
Climate Change Mitigation 1

Climate Change Adaptation
Climate Change Adaptation 2

Duration
24 In Months

Agency Fee($)
190,000.00

Submission Date
6/16/2022

A. Indicative Focal/Non-Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Amount($)	Co-Fin Amount($)
LD-2-5	GET	2,000,000.00	2,600,000.00
	Total Project Cost ($)	**2,000,000.00**	**2,600,000.00**

B. Indicative 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	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount($)	Co-Fin Amount($)

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount($)	Co-Fin Amount($)
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[1] in C?te 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. [1] The stakeholders include private sector, NGO, State agencies as SODEFOR and OIPR, among others who are involved in important agricultural value chains in C?te d?Ivoire	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 C?te d?Ivoire (in collaboration with the UNCCD Knowledge Hub and other initiatives). 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[1]), local observer networks[2] in C?te d?Ivoire 1.1.4 A south-south cooperation and knowledge exchange feasibility conducted in Cote d'Ivoire and other countries to be identified	GET	1,050,000.00	750,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Amount($)	Co-Fin Amount($)
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 C?te 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 C?te d?Ivoire are assessed and documented (including gender gaps in access to climate resilient agric value chains, technologies and investments).	GET	768,222.00	1,610,000.00
			2.1.2. Policy coherence is mapped, and tools, investment criteria and incentives developed, shared and used by relevant stakeholders in C?te d?Ivoire and other countries to foster sustainable investments into the most suitable value chains.			
				Sub Total ($)	**1,818,222.00**	**2,360,000.00**

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. Indicative 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($)
GEF Agency	IFAD	Grant	Investment mobilized	200,000.00
GEF Agency	IFAD	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	175,000.00
GEF Agency	FAO	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	25,000.00
GEF Agency	FAO	Grant	Investment mobilized	200,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Government of Cote d'Ivoire	Grant	Investment mobilized	2,000,000.00
			Total Project Cost($)	**2,600,000.00**

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

it will be part of the IFAD program of loan and grant it i s the same also for FAO 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. Considering this is a KM and Learning project, some of the in-kind contributions of IFAD and FAO could be accounted to the cofinancing of the PMC. 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. However other sources ? e.g. from the private sector- will be sought. As noted in this proposal, engagement with the private sector will be an on-going process; taking advantage of platforms and knowledge exchange initiatives. The cofinancing (cash or in kind) from the private sector will be explored during the full design.

D. Indicative 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($)
IFAD	GET	Global	Land Degradation	LD Global/Regional Set-Aside	2,000,000	190,000	2,190,000.00
				Total GEF Resources($)	**2,000,000.00**	**190,000.00**	**2,190,000.00**

E. 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 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

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

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 collosal 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 neighourouring countries (Ghana, Cameroon, Liberia, Sierra Leonne, 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 treatheting thes suitability of major crops in the coming years.[1][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 5,000 (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]

3. 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[7][7]. 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.[8][8] 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[9][9] 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.[10][10]

4. 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.[11][11]

5. 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.[12][12] 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[13][13]. Though the complete picture of the severity and extent of degraded lands[14][14] 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[15][15]). 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[16][16] ? it should be noted that most regions in Africa and South Asia have attained less than 40% of their potential crop production[17][17].

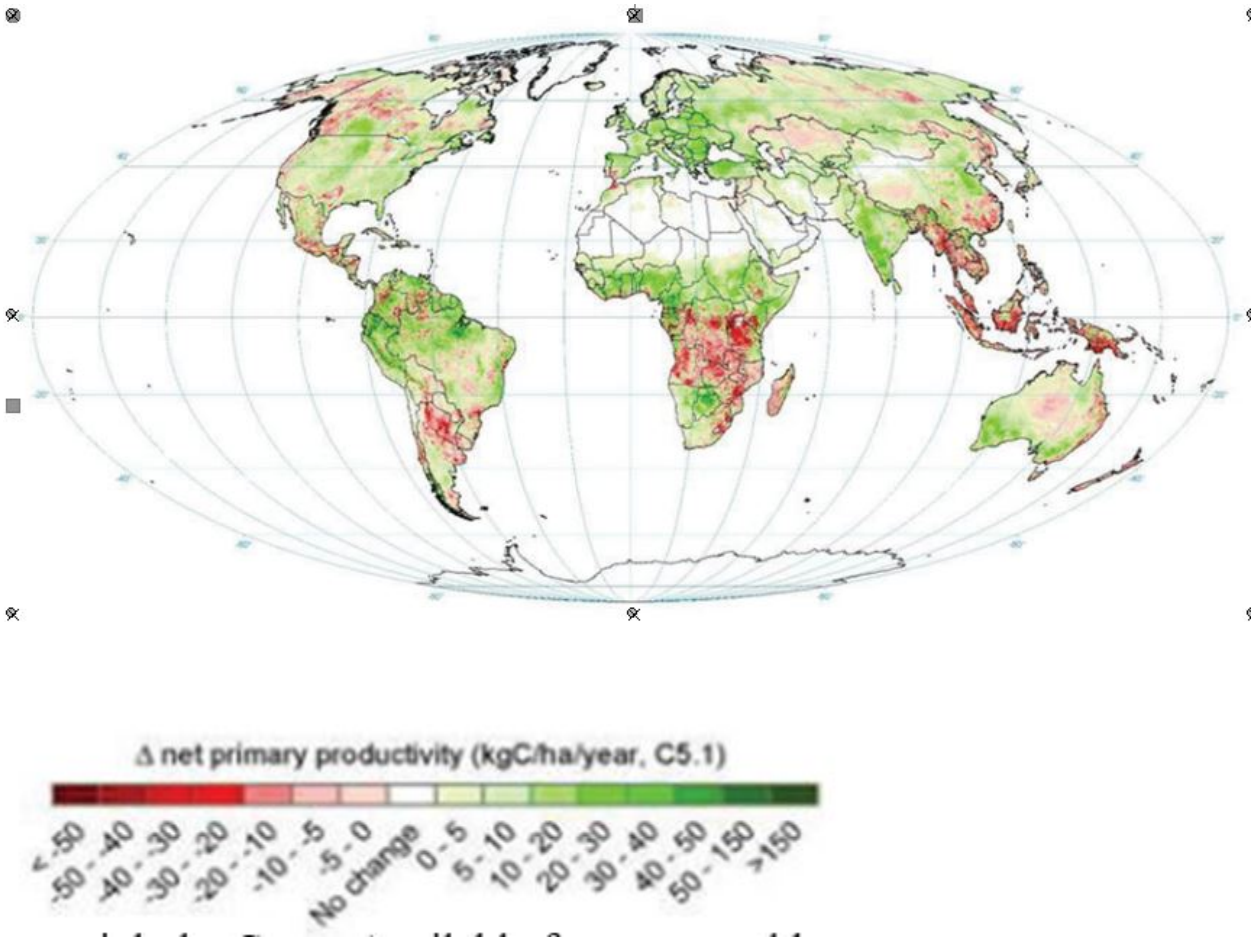


Figure 1 showing level of global land degradation in terms of change in net primary production (1981-2006)

6. Global agriculture production is at the crossroads. 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[18][18] - 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.[19][19] 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.[20][20]

7. 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 collosal loss in ecosystem service values ranging between $6.3 trillion and $10.6 trillion[21][21] - 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[22][22] and are home to two billion people[23][23]. They contain 44% of the world?s cultivated systems and 50% of the world?s livestock[24][24]. They also hold 30% of the total area of sites of important biodiversity and 35% of the global Biodiversity Hotspot Area[25][25].

8. 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.

9. 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[26][26] 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[27][27]. This push for commercial agriculture will expand production systems that will contribute to further land degradation, deforestation, GHG emissions and biodiversity loss.

10. 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

11. C?te 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.[28][28] C?te 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.[29][29] 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.[30][30]

12. 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.

13. 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 C?te d'Ivoire include the invasive species and epizootics.[31][31]

14. In C?te 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, 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.[32][32]

15. 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.[33][33]

16. 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.

17. 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.[34][34] 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.

18. 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).[35][35] 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).

Map 1 Hotspots of land degradation in Cote d?Ivoire

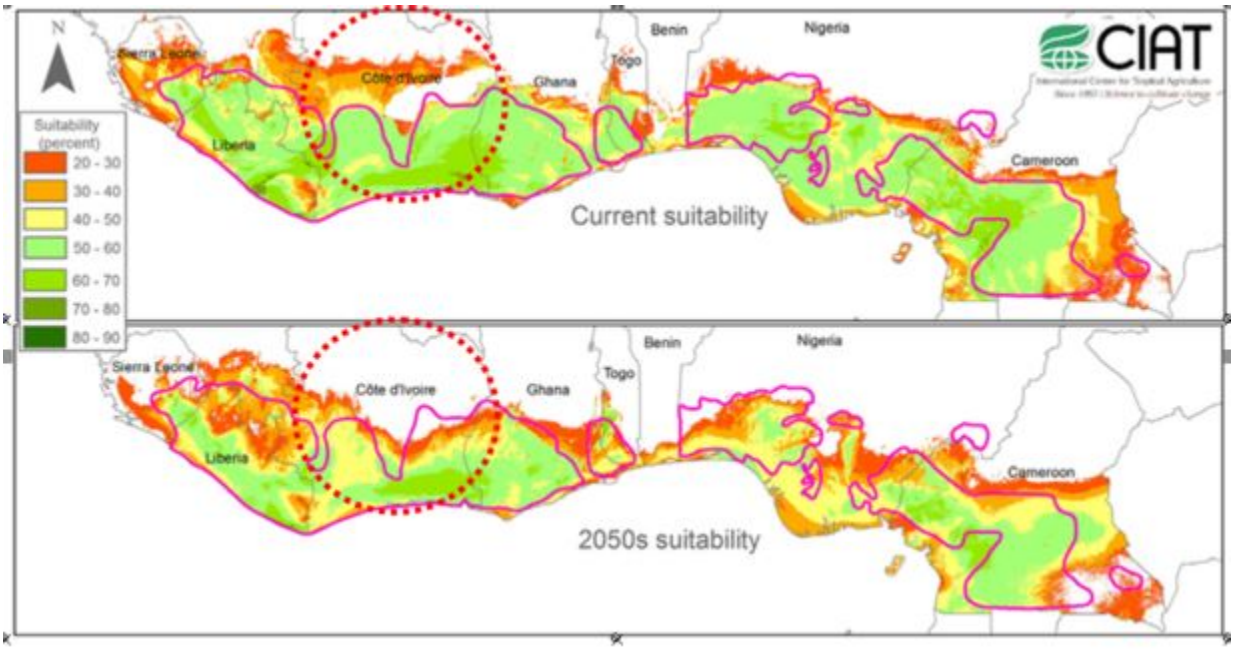
19. GoCI recognises that transformative projects and programmes combined with innovative financing opportunities are central to the successful actions to achieve LDN in the country. Therefore, this proposed project is a precursor to more transformative interventions that will lead to improved biodiversity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

20. 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.

21. 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.[36][36] 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.[37][37] 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.[38][38]

22. 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.[39][39] 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).[40][40] 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.



Map 2 Shift of cocoa production landscapes due to climate change

23. 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.

24. 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.

25. 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.[41][41] The PIF captures the proposal of all 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.

26. 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.[42][42]

27. 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.[43][43]

28. 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 linnnked 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

29. **Barrier 1: 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**. There is limited institutional capacity in the government and local communities in developing countries pariculalty in Cote d?Ivoire and other countries to design and maintain platforms with the 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 knowleddge amanagement . 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.

30. **Barrier 2: Limited knowledge of best practices and learning on climate resilient and low emission agricultural value chains, forest and land use.** . 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 platform**s** 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 C?te 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 C?te d?Ivoire.

31. **Barrier 3: Limited Investment Tools and incentives to foster sustainable investment into the most suitable value chains.** In most of the developing countries, and C?te 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 adadequate assesement 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.

2) The baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects

32. The MSP is focused on C?te 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 inititiaves 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 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.

33. 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 C?te 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.

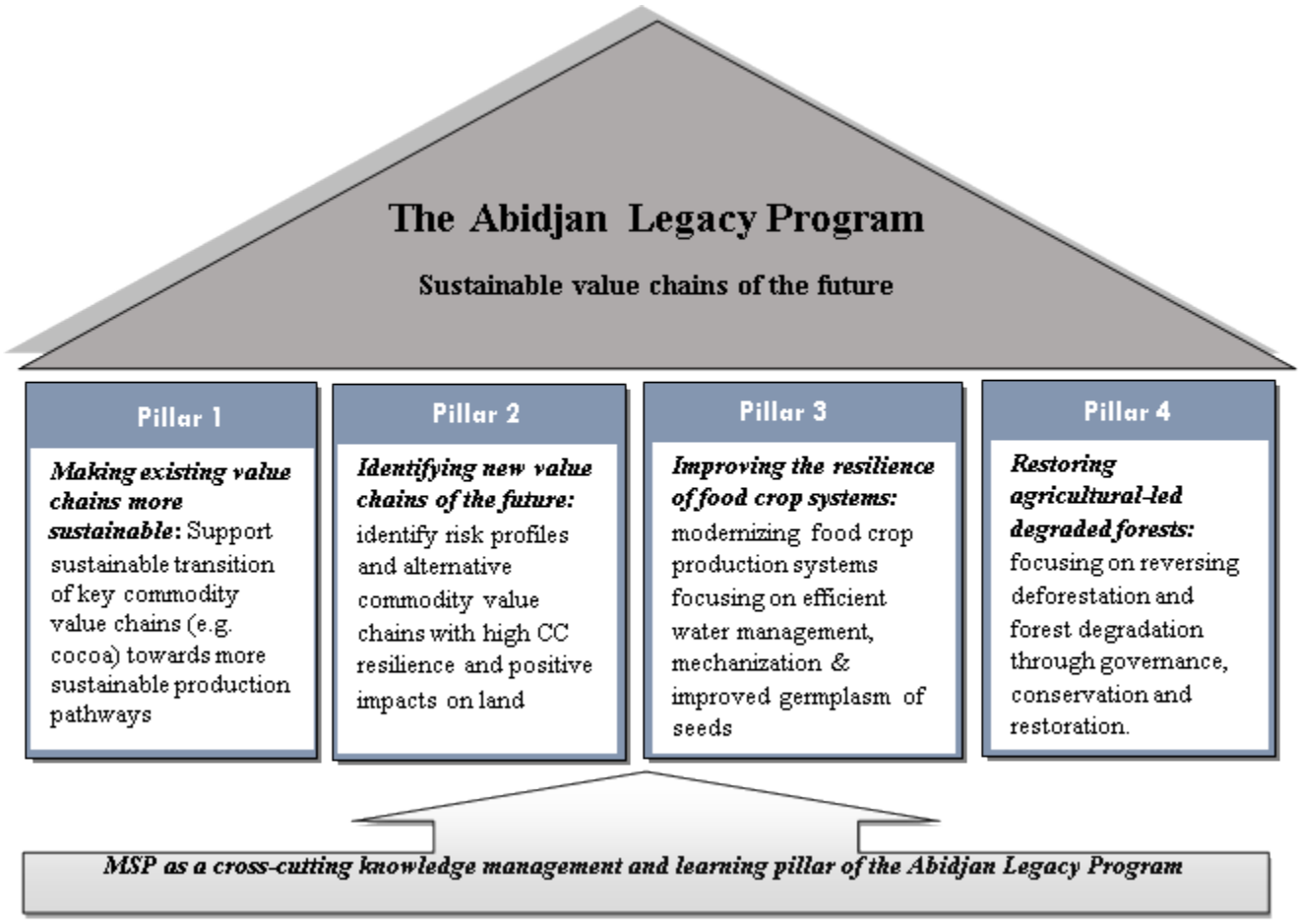
34. These initiatives and programs provide an opportunity but also are a wealth of experiences land degradation, land restoration, livelihoods, private sector involvement in agricultural value chains that the proposed MSP will utilize to generate and disseminate knowledge that will support the implementation of the LP ? this priority will benefit from existing networks such as the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT)[44][44] 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 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.[45][45]

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

35. 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 C?te 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.

36. With a national scope in C?te 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.

37. 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.



38. The goal of the Abidjan Legacy Programme is to ensure that commodity value chains are futureproof, resilient and inclusive. In C?te 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

39. The Abidjan Legagcy ?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 PIF 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[46][46] 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 C?te 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 sustaianable value chains (through Component 2).

40. 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

41. Overall, the MSP will focus on enhancing the ability of relevant stakeholders in C?te 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 C?te d?Ivoire increasingly take up Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) businesses. Suppporting 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

42. 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 C?te 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:

43. Component 1?s outcome is as follows:

? Outcome 1.1: Different stakeholders[47][47] in C?te 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

44. 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:

a) 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 with existing networks such as WOCAT and the UNCCD Knowledge Hub. This aspect will be further developed and refined at CEO Endorsement after additional consultations with project partners and after gathering additional information. However this MSP will seek synergies and support existing platforms ? interoperability will be explored to avoid duplication of efforts. Gender elements will be taken into account.

b) set up a digital platform to encourage exchanges between government 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 dimension will be integrated.

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

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[48][48]), local observer networks[49][49] in C?te d?Ivoire but also from other countries in the Africa region and Worldwide. To sustain it, the community of practice will be housed under a renowed existing platform that will manage and maintain it. This will be decided at PPG in coorditaion with the Government of Cote d?Ivoire. A community of practice will open up to a broad range of stakeholders ranging from smallholder farmers to large corporations in C?te d?Ivoire ? to inspire behaviour change in the production systems, and create an opportunity for demonstrating best practices in target value chains. Therefore, 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.[50][50] Additional information at CEO endorsement will be furnished to refine the private engagement in this project.

45. 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

? 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. Countries will be identified at PPG. The South-South exchange programs will also serve as opportunities for engagement and learning from the private sector so that global best practices in C?te d?Ivoire can be supported and domesticated

46.

47. The MSP will use a three-plonged 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.[51][51] 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.[52][52] 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.[53][53]

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[54][54]), local observer networks[55][55] in C?te d?Ivoire. Activities include the following:

a) Establish an integrated e-learning platform for the community of practice on AFOLU businesses and to be sustainaed by the chamber of commerce of cote 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 C?te 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.

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

48. 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:

49. Component 2?s outcome is as follows:

? 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

50. 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[56][56].

? 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.

51. 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.

52. 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.

53. 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.

54. The project will improve the ability of stakeholders in C?te 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 a feasibility.

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

55. 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.

56. 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.

57. 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.

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

58. *Under the baseline scenario*: Agriculture continues to 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[57][57] - 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[58][58]. 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.

59. *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 C?te d?Ivoire?s momentum towards achieving its national LDN targets.

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

60. 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.

61. 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.

62. 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.

63. It is reiterated here that this MSP a cross-cutting knowledgement 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:

? 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 5,000 individuals, inclusive across the gender divide to ensure 50% representation of both males and femals;

? 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[59][59]; 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.

64. 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 catalysizing the generation of socioeconomic and environmental benefits in production landscapes.

65. 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.[60][60]

7) Innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up

66. *Innovation:* 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.

67. *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 platfoms 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 to be further refined at CEO endorsement after additional consultations. Synergies and or interoperability will ensure sustainability of the MSP? outcomes because these will be supported by already existing and enduring institutional arrangements.

68. *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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[47] The stakeholders include private sector, NGO, State agencies as SODEFOR and OIPR, among others who are involved in important agricultural value chains in C?te d?Ivoire

[48] 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, Forestrie, agriculture), offtakers and traders (Walter Matter, Alter Eco), Wild Chimpanzee Foundation, (WCF) and Notre Foret, Notre Avenir (NOFNA).

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

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

[54] 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, Forestrie, agriculture), offtakers and traders (Walter Matter, Alter Eco), Wild Chimpanzee Foundation, (WCF) and Notre Foret, Notre Avenir (NOFNA).

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

[56] Using the FAO platform TECA online platform that gathers successful agricultural technologies and practices to facilitate knowledge exchange and help family farmers in the field.

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

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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

N/A

2. Stakeholders

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

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Yes

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none of the above, please explain why:

In addition, provide indicative information on how stakeholders, including civil society and indigenous peoples, will be engaged in the project preparation, and their respective roles and means of 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 C?te 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

1. The development of this PIF at this stage 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). Further discussions with other partners will take place during full project design.

Consultations with IPs and CSOs representatives have taken place during the UNCCD conference in Abidjan.

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Briefly include below any gender dimensions relevant to the project, and any plans to address gender in project design (e.g. gender analysis).

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 C?te 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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[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 C?te d?Ivoire

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

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

improving women's participation and decision-making; and/or Yes

generating socio-economic benefits or services for women. Yes

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

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

Please briefly explain the rationale behind your answer.

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. 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.

3. 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.

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

5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the Project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the Project design (table format acceptable)

1. At this stage of project development, the following have been identified as risks associated with the proposed MSP.

Potential Risk	**Level**	**Proposed measure (to be further developed during the project design)**
Social and political instability	Low-Medium	It is difficult to ascertain country-level political and socioeconomic in/stability which may have spillover effects ar 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.
Finacial 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 as way as to allow for price fluctuations.
Surges in COVID impede regional capacity development workshops	Low	Capacity building workshops will 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 (to be further developed during the project design)
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.

Potential Risk	Level	Proposed measure (to be further developed during the project design)
COVID -19 Risk	Medium to low	? 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

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 C?te d?Ivoire?s cashews dropped a record 47 per cent due to the decline in demand in domestic markets, while demand for cocoa beans from C?te 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.

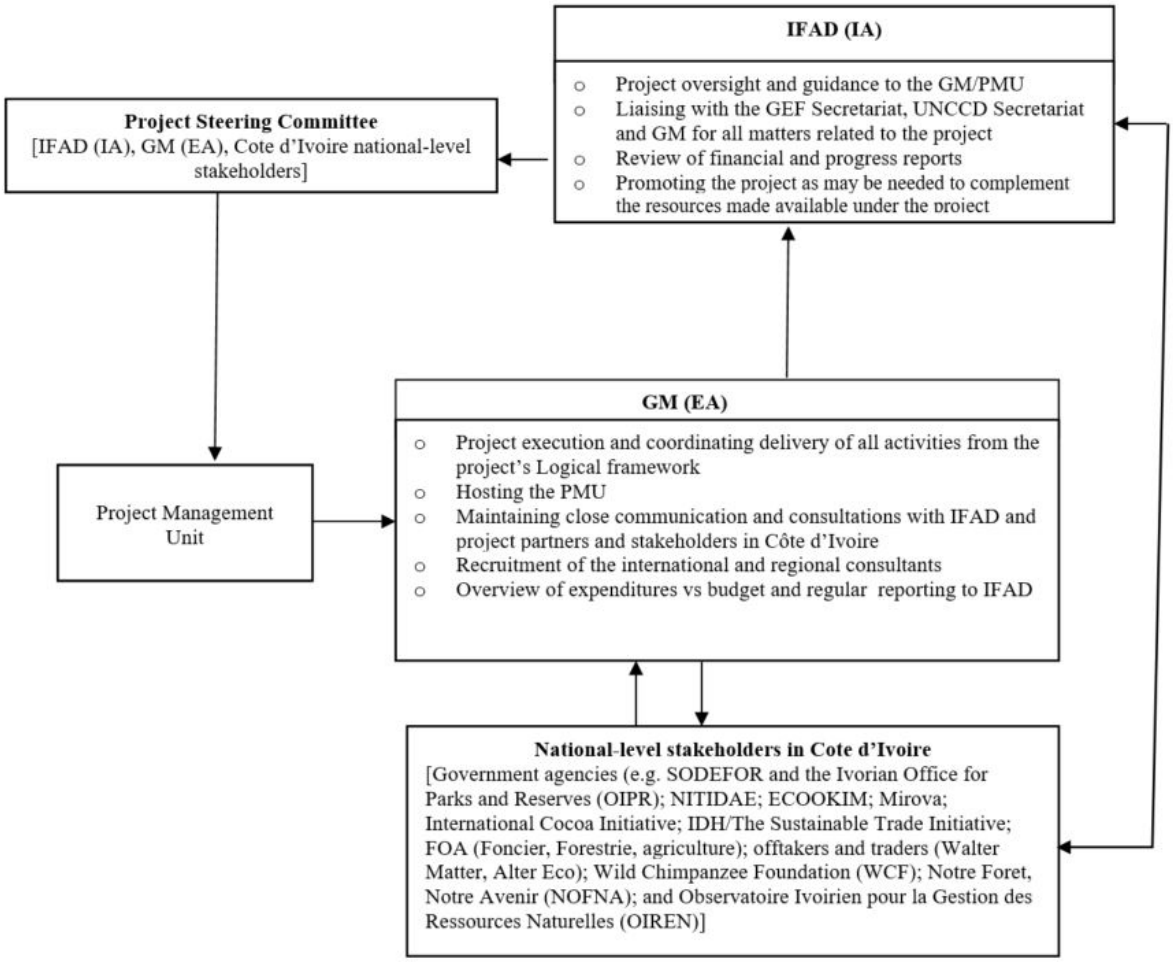
Despite those risks and impacts, covid recovery allows for mainstreaming resilience, sustainability, agroecology, and ensure local production and shorter and more efficient value chains are built.

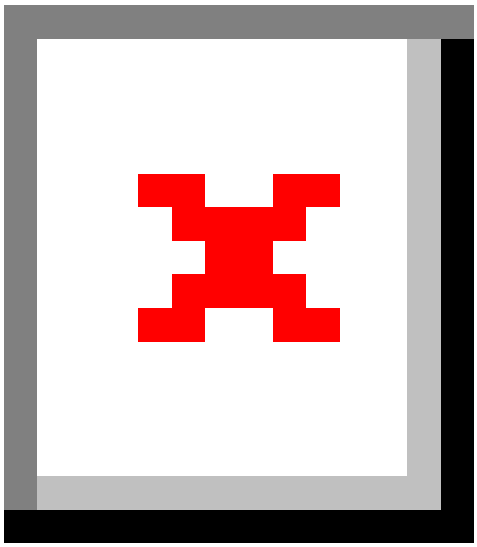
6. Coordination

Outline the institutional structure of the project including monitoring and evaluation coordination at the project level. Describe possible 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. During full design, the executing entity will be identified. 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 (this structure will be validated during PPG after additional consultations and considerations). During PPG the implementation arrangements of the project will be refined:


IFAD (IA)
Project oversight and guidance to the GM/PMU
Liaising with the GEF Secretariat, UNCCD Secretariat and GM for all matters related to the project
Review of financial and progress reports
Promoting the project as may be needed to complement the resources made available under the project
Project Steering Committee
[IFAD (IA), GM (EA), Cote d'Ivoire national-level stakeholders]
GM (EA)
Project execution and coordinating delivery of all activities from the project's Logical framework
Hosting the PMU
Maintaining close communication and consultations with IFAD and project partners and stakeholders in Côte d'Ivoire
Recruitment of the international and regional consultants
Overview of expenditures vs budget and regular reporting to IFAD
Project Management Unit
National-level stakeholders in Cote d'Ivoire
[Government agencies (e.g. SODEFOR and the Ivorian Office for Parks and Reserves (OIPR); NITIDAE; ECOOKIM; Mirova; International Cocoa Initiative; IDH/The Sustainable Trade Initiative; FOA (Foncier, Forestrie, agriculture); offtakers and traders (Walter Matter, Alter Eco); Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF); Notre Foret, Notre Avenir (NOFNA); and Observatoire Ivoirien pour la Gestion des Ressources Naturelles (OIREN)]



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.

6. 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. The project will be closely linked with baseline initiatives described in the section on the baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects. During PPG, this section will have additional project and initiatives.

7. Consistency with National Priorities

Is the Project consistent with the National Strategies and plans or reports and assesments under relevant conventions?

Yes

If yes, which ones and how: 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 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

Outline the knowledge management approach for the Project, including, if any, plans for the Project to learn from other relevant Projects and initiatives, to assess and document in a user-friendly form, and share these experiences and expertise with relevant stakeholders.

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. 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/Approval	MTR	TE
Low			

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

Provide preliminary information on the types and levels of risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the

project (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and describe measures to address these risks during the project design.

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 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.[1]

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

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Submitted

Part III: Approval/Endorsement By GEF Operational Focal Point(S) And GEF Agency(ies)

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S): (Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter with this template).

Name	Position	Ministry	Date
Alimata KONE	Permanent Secretary GEF OFP	MINISTERE DE L?ECONOMIE ET DES FINANCES	6/16/2022

ANNEX A: Project Map and Geographic Coordinates

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project intervention takes place

N/A