



Integrated management of degraded landscapes for sustainable food systems and livelihoods in Guinea Forest Region and Upper Guinea

Part I: Project Information

Name of Parent Program

Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration (FOLUR) Impact Program

GEF ID

10600

Project Type

FSP

Type of Trust Fund

GET

CBIT/NGI

CBIT No

NGI No

Project Title

Integrated management of degraded landscapes for sustainable food systems and livelihoods in Guinea Forest Region and Upper Guinea

Countries

Guinea

Agency(ies)

FAO

Other Executing Partner(s)

National Directorate for Fauna and Flora (DNFF) from the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, National Agency for Local Financing (ANAFIC), National Agency for Rural Promotion and Agricultural Support (ANPROCA)

Executing Partner Type

Government

GEF Focal Area

Multi Focal Area

Taxonomy

Influencing models, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Demonstrate innovative approaches, Stakeholders, Civil Society, Non-Governmental Organization, Community Based Organization, Academia, Communications, Awareness Raising, Behavior change, Strategic Communications, Beneficiaries, Private Sector, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, SMEs, Type of Engagement, Information Dissemination, Partnership, Participation, Consultation, Local Communities, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Gender-sensitive indicators, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Women groups, Integrated Programs, Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration, Food Value Chains, Sustainable Food Systems, Smallholder Farming, Sustainable Commodity Production, Integrated Landscapes, Comprehensive Land Use Planning, Landscape Restoration, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Generation, Training, Targeted Research, Capacity Development, Knowledge Exchange, Field Visit, South-South, Peer-to-Peer

Sector

AFOLU

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation

Climate Change Mitigation 1

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation 1

Submission Date

12/2/2021

Expected Implementation Start

6/1/2022

Expected Completion Date

5/31/2027

Duration

60In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

854,835.00

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
IP FOLU	Transformation of food systems through sustainable production, reduced deforestation from commodity supply chains, and increased landscape restoration	GET	9,498,165.00	43,395,420.00
Total Project Cost(\$)			9,498,165.00	43,395,420.00

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

To promote sustainable and comprehensive food systems that are deforestation free and provide ecosystem services, with a focus on palm oil productive landscapes

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
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Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
1. Collaboration for, and development of, integrated landscape management systems	Technical Assistance	<p>1.1 Planning, monitoring and enabling conditions enhanced for integrated landscape management.</p> <p><i>Indicators (and targets):</i></p> <p>(i) # of multistakeholder mechanisms developed or strengthened (at least 25)</p> <p>(ii) # of ha covered by evidence-based participatory ILM plans (150,000 ha) - Contributing to Core Indicator 4</p> <p>(iii) # of policy frameworks updated to foster ILM (at least 3)</p>	<p>1.1.1 Intersectoral and multistakeholder (including private sector) coordination and collaboration mechanisms established and / or strengthened at national and landscape level.</p> <p>1.1.2 Technical capacities of national and local authorities to plan, implement and update integrated green land use plans, enhanced.</p> <p>1.1.3 Integrated land use plans for the target landscape developed based on field and remotely-sensed evidence and on stakeholder engagement</p> <p>1.1.4 Agriculture, forestry and land tenure policies and legal frameworks updated and coordinated to foster ILM, restoration of degraded landscapes and</p>	GET	842,500.00	7,292,878.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
2. Promotion of sustainable food production practices and responsible value chains	Investment	<p>2.1 Agricultural land within mixed rice and palm oil productive landscapes managed sustainably and responsible value chains promoted.</p> <p><i>Indicators (and targets):</i></p> <p>(i) # of ha of landscapes under SLM in production systems (145,000ha). Contributing to Core Indicator 4.3 - this includes the wider area under the plans and direct SLM interventions on 15,000 ha.</p> <p>(ii) # of ha of palm oil plantation in process of certification (5,000ha). Contributing to Core Indicator 4.2</p>	<p>2.1.1 Climate-resilient and ecologically sound intensification models implemented in smallholder production systems of the selected landscape</p> <p>2.1.2 Stakeholders capacities strengthened with knowledge, equipment, tools and trainings for a more efficient and responsible palm oil value chain from producer to buyer</p> <p>2.1.3 Inclusive business models catalyzed (addressing, inter alia, women empowerment, innovative finance, market access) in collaboration with cooperatives and private sector</p> <p>2.1.4 Sustainable palm oil standards, certification and traceability</p>	GET	3,500,971.00	7,084,820.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
3. Conservation and restoration of natural habitats	Investment	<p>3.1 Degraded sites of high environmental value restored and protected</p> <p><i>Indicators (and targets):</i></p> <p>(i) # of ha of degraded farmland and forest under restoration / rehabilitation and improved management. (10,000ha, incl. 2,000ha in partnership with mining sector) - contributing to Core Indicator 3</p> <p>(ii) Metric tons of CO₂e of GHG Emissions Mitigated (6,187,155 metric tons of CO₂eq) - contributing to Core Indicator 6</p>	<p>3.1.1 Restoration practices that will enhance the biodiversity and long-term climate-resilience of degraded forests and agro-sylvo-pastoral systems implemented in selected sites of the landscape</p> <p>3.1.2 Local POs strengthened to identify and run profitable NWFP and other green businesses</p> <p>3.1.3 Innovative arrangements for financing restoration of degraded areas tested, including partnerships with private sector (e.g. mining) and development of bankable projects</p>	GET	3,965,000.00	21,406,748.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
4. Knowledge Management and M&E	Investment	<p>4.1 Knowledge shared at local and international levels (through the FOLUR global platform) and close monitoring of the project</p> <p><i>Indicators (and targets):</i> <i>(i) # of products, tools and approaches developed and effectively shared through the FOLUR IP Global platform (at least 20)</i></p>	<p>4.1.1 Knowledge products, tools and approaches developed and shared through the FOLUR IP Global platform and other relevant platforms.</p> <p>4.1.2 Operational project M&E system in place.</p>	GET	737,400.00	5,103,926.00
Sub Total (\$)					9,045,871.00	40,888,372.00
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
				GET	452,294.00	2,507,048.00
				Sub Total(\$)	452,294.00	2,507,048.00
Total Project Cost(\$)					9,498,165.00	43,395,420.00

Please provide justification

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

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Donor Agency	World Bank	Grant	Investment mobilized	25,000,000.00
Recipient Country Government	National Agency for Rural Promotion and Agricultural Support (ANPROCA)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	5,905,611.00
Recipient Country Government	National Directorate for Fauna and Flora (DNFF)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	5,577,291.00
GEF Agency	FAO - Guinea	Grant	Investment mobilized	1,412,518.00
GEF Agency	FAO-FLRM	Grant	Investment mobilized	500,000.00
Recipient Country Government	National Agency for Local Financing (ANAFIC)	Grant	Investment mobilized	3,000,000.00
Recipient Country Government	National Agency for Local Financing (ANAFIC)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	2,000,000.00
Total Co-Financing(\$)				43,395,420.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

Based on PPG consultations with project teams and institutional partners, the following projects were identified as investment mobilized: - World Bank: Guinea Natural Resources, Mining and Environment Project: 2022-2026 (note: due to the recent Coup D'état, the World Bank is not able to sign off an official co-financing letter from the de facto government, they have however, committed to do so as soon as they are allowed to) - IFAD: Resilience and Market Project in Upper and Middle Guinea (AgriFARM): 2022-2024 - FAO: (i) Strengthening Cross-Border Social Cohesion between Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea for a better understanding and anticipation of risks and the strengthening of trust and collaboration between local actors (CoSocFront): 2022-2023; (ii) Prevention of inter-community conflicts in Forest Guinea through a mutualized economy and improved land governance: 2022; (iii) Support for the Promotion of Youth Entrepreneurship through the creation of poultry farms: 2022-2023; (iv) Large Scale Forest and Landscape Restoration (FAO-FLRM): 2022-2024; (v) Implementation of the Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism (FAO-FLRM) 2022-2025

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

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
FAO	GET	Guinea	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	3,290,564	296,151	3,586,715.00
FAO	GET	Guinea	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	1,707,535	153,678	1,861,213.00
FAO	GET	Guinea	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation	1,334,011	120,061	1,454,072.00
FAO	GET	Guinea	Multi Focal Area	IP FOLU Set-Aside	3,166,055	284,945	3,451,000.00
Total Grant Resources(\$)					9,498,165.0	854,835.0	10,353,000.0
					0	0	0

E. Non Grant Instrument

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)PPG Required **true****PPG Amount (\$)**

299,457

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

26,951

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
FAO	GET	Guinea	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	103,389	9,305	112,694.00
FAO	GET	Guinea	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	53,933	4,854	58,787.00
FAO	GET	Guinea	Climate Change	CC STAR Allocation	42,135	3,792	45,927.00
FAO	GET	Guinea	Multi Focal Area	IP FOLU Set-Aside	100,000	9,000	109,000.00
Total Project Costs(\$)					299,457.00	26,951.00	326,408.00

Please provide justification

FAO would like to request a higher PPG amount considering: - project financing is very close to 10 Millions - most of the baseline information and primary data for this project will have to be generated through PPG financing - Guinea is a least developed country and preliminary assessment for this PPG highlights the need for strong international expertise to complement the national team.

Core Indicators

Indicator 3 Area of land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00	10000.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	4,000.00		

Indicator 3.2 Area of Forest and Forest Land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	6,000.00		

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and shrublands restored

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

Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (incl. estuaries, mangroves) restored

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

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00	150000.00	0.00	0.00

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

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

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes that meets national or international third party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations (hectares)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	5,000.00		

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

Indicator 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	145,000.00		

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) loss avoided

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

Documents (Please upload document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title	Submitted
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Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct)	0	6187155	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)	0	0	0	0

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

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct)		6,187,155		
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting		2022		
Duration of accounting		20		

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

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting				

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

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

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

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 11 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		15,000		
Male		15,000		
Total	0	30000	0	0

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

Guinea, in its submission to the CBD, indicated national targets for 18 of the 20 Aichi goals. The Aichi targets ran from 2010 to 2020 and will be reviewed at the upcoming CBD COP in 2022. All are relevant to the project but the most relevant ones are the following. ? Target 4. By 2020, the Government, businesses, development partners and other stakeholders at all levels have taken action and implemented plans to ensure sustainable production not depleting natural resources ? Target 5. By 2020, the rate of degradation and fragmentation of natural habitats, including forests, is significantly reduced to near zero. ? Target 14. By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, especially water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women and local communities, and poor and vulnerable people. ? Target 15. By 2020 at the latest, the resilience of ecosystems and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks are enhanced, through conservation and restoration measures, including the restoration of at least 15% of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation, and combating desertification. The carbon-balance of this project amounts to -6,187,155 tCO₂e for a total period of 20 years (5 years of implementation and 15 years of capitalization) and for a total area of intervention of

29,807 ha, or -10.4 tCO₂e per hectare per year. The table in Prodoc, pg. 13-14, Annex F summarizes the assumptions of the carbon balance appraisal and makes available the full calculations.

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

1.a Project Description

- a) Global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed

Natural resources status

The reference state of biological diversity in Guinea presents a rich and diverse ecosystem diversity. The main groups of ecosystems identified are terrestrial ecosystems (dense humid forests, dense dry forests and gallery forests, savannas, mountains, forest plantations, agro-systems and built ecosystems), freshwater ecosystems, coastal ecosystems and marine (coastal clear forests, mangroves, island and marine ecosystems) and built ecosystems (towns / villages, industry, mining areas).

The country is endowed with abundant natural resources, featuring high hydroelectric potential, rich minerals (Guinea possesses a large portion of the world's bauxite reserves and significant amounts of iron, gold, and diamonds) and forests. Guinea's exceptional ecosystems and biodiversity are internationally recognized and include four biosphere reserves, the world heritage site of Mount Nimba, 16 designated wetlands of international importance (Ramsar sites), 18 Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBA) and 22 Tropical Important Plants Areas (TIPA). To protect its natural resources, Guinea has established a protected area network composed of two established national parks (Badiar, Haut-Niger), a national park under creation (Moyen-Bafing), 14 natural reserves and wildlife sanctuaries and more than 150 classified forests. Guinea also serves as a major watershed for West Africa, where 22 rivers originate, including the Niger and Gambia rivers.

Guinea is part of the [Guinean Forests of West Africa Biodiversity Hotspot](#). Biodiversity hotspots are only 25 in the world and are characterized by high species richness and endemism. These forests are home to important primate species and key to regulating the country's water supply and providing timber and non wood forest products (NWFP), including shade-grown coffee and cocoa, rubber, and palm oil (Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, 2015).

However, this richness is under threat, as natural resources are over-exploited and the growing the population needs always more land for agriculture. According to Global Forest Watch, in 2010, Guinea had 8.02Mha of tree cover, extending over 33% of its land area. In 2020, it lost 178kha of tree cover, equivalent to 85.2Mt of CO₂ of emissions. Despite reforestation campaigns, the situation remains alarming primarily due to a lack of effective monitoring and policy implementation. Notably, 99% of households use firewood for fuel and, in large cities, such as Conakry, the situation is critical with the destruction of woody vegetation occurring within an increasingly distant radius from the city centre. Estimates indicate that the Ziama and Di'ck' forests are experiencing a loss of 1,111 ha annually. It is also estimated that the extent of dry forests (800,000 ha) is declining by 17% every 15 years or 1.4% (9120 ha) annually.

The rich and diversified fauna, especially rich in mammal species, is threatened as a result of habitat destruction. Natural vegetation cover has also decreased as a result of shifting cultivation (land clearing, slash and burn practices) carried out on sloping land and bushfires which consume thousands of cubic meters per year. A report reveals that several millions of hectares of savannah were burned in the northeastern part of the country in only one year. Soil fertility of the potential cultivable land, estimated at 6.2 million ha, is being constantly degraded. In Guinea, 1.6 million people were living on degrading agricultural land in 2010 - an increase of 25% in a decade, bringing the share of rural residents who inhabit degraded agricultural land up to 22% of the total rural population. Land degradation can severely influence populations' livelihood by restricting people from vital ecosystem

services (including food and water), increasing the risk of poverty and decreasing resilience to external shocks (such as COVID 19 and climatic events).

The forests and biodiversity in the region are severely threatened. The exploitation of wildlife and birds greatly exceeds the rate of natural renewal, leading to the disappearance of certain species. Rainforests, dry forests, sudano-guinean savannahs and mountain ecosystems have sharply deteriorated in recent years and are in a very fragmented state at present. Few relics of primary forest exist today.

Analysis of climate change projections shows that biodiversity will be strongly impacted in all scenarios. The drastic decrease in rainfall and the increase in temperature will have significant impacts on water resources (surface and groundwater) and socioeconomic sectors of the country (Ministry of Agriculture, 2012). According to the evaluation of the GEF Small Grant Program of 2010, the duration of fallows is getting shorter and shorter (from 8 to 10 years in the 1970s to 3 to 5 years in 2010). The negative impacts of climate change on ecosystem goods and services translate into a growing threat to the survival of species, a decrease in productivity, a decline in income and a low capitalization of potentialities negatively influencing access to basic services for local populations. These impacts accelerate the degradation of biological diversity by influencing: (i) the geographic distribution of species; (ii) the phenology of the species; (iii) the interaction between species; (iv) rates of photosynthesis and respiration; and (v) the composition of communities and the structure of ecosystems.

Nevertheless, in Guinea in general and in the project area in particular (which will be detailed in ?vii Target sites selection?) a large array of protected areas have been set up. In the project area there are protected areas with zoning plans including buffer zones and resource management / multiple use areas. In accordance with the provisions of the Ordinary Law L / 2017/060 / AN of December 12, 2017, on the Forest Code and of the Ordinary Law L / 2018/049 / AN of June 20, 2018, on the Code for the protection of wild fauna and regulation of hunting in the Republic of Guinea, the protected areas identified in the project area are following the classification below:

Protected Areas/Domain	Governance Status	Type
State Domain	State	Classified Forest
		Protected Forest
		National Park
		Wildlife Reserve
		Wildlife Sanctuary
		Leased Area
Decentralized Authority Domain	Commune	Forest Group
		Community Natural Forest
		Community Planted Forest
		Protected Natural Forest
		Headstreams protected
		Sacred wetland
		Medicinal Forest
		Sacred Forest

Private Domain	Private	Natural Forest
		Plantation
Intercommunal Domain	Mixt	Ramsar Site

Classified Forest represent 4 937 400 ha in Forest Guinea and 9 666 700 ha in Upper Guinea. In the project area community Forests are present in almost all the communes the project will target.

Agriculture and mining: Key economic sectors linked to natural resources management

Agriculture

Agriculture is the country's main source of employment and is critical for poverty reduction and rural development, providing income for 57% of rural households and employment for 52% of the workforce. Farmers in Guinea largely engage in subsistence agriculture, growing crops on small plots of land to feed themselves and their families. Yet inadequate infrastructure and poor access to agricultural extension services, technologies and inputs, undermine potential productivity. The demand for food outstrips domestic production, forcing the country to turn to international food markets to fill the gap.

At the same time, the growing international demand for some commodities, such as palm oil, linked to commercial agriculture is associated to agricultural land expansion, often in an unsustainable way as based on monoculture.

In the target landscapes, the two major staple crops that are expected to have their culture expended further in the coming years are rice for Upper Guinea and palm oil for Forest Guinea. **Palm oil** accounts for half of all calories consumed from edible oils by Guineans, which corresponds to about seven percent of total daily calorie supply per capita (USAID, 2017). Mostly produced in the tropical rainforest of Guinea Forest region, palm oil is identified by the PNDES as one of the high agricultural value commodities of which production should be encouraged. Eighty-five percent of palm oil is produced from the low-yielding variety Dura growing in natural stands, and the remaining 15% is produced in palm oil plantations (mostly managed by the Guinean Society for Palm Oil and Rubber - SOGUIPAH), from the improved variety Tenera. Palm oil production is characterized by low use of inputs and technology, and takes place in isolated producing areas suffering from the limited availability of workers. Because of the lack of processing infrastructures, oil is mainly extracted by women at farm level using traditional labor-intensive techniques, with ample scope for innovation (as attested by initiatives such as Eleis Farming, a start-up focusing on improved mechanization for oil-making, with reduction of the amount of water used by 80%). Product quality is highly variable and no quality testing facilities are available in Guinea. The limited availability of bottling possibilities alters marketing activities of an overall poorly structured value chain that also suffers from poor road infrastructure (only 5% of roads are paved), and high transportation and distribution costs.

The Agricultural development national policy (PNDA) and the National Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plan (PNIASA), commit to unlock palm oil's potential as major cash crop by increasing production and professionalization along its value chain. Over the recent years, the country's area under palm oil cultivation has increased – although to a limited extent that doesn't yet reflect the growing global demand, especially for certified palm oil. Guinea is now among the top-20 world exporters of palm oil, behind neighboring countries (Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire). Internal instability, including poor governance, political instability, and corruption – that are among the main underlying drivers of poverty in Guinea in recent years – have impacted national production in the recent years. To meet the growing national demand, palm oil imports have been growing steadily since 1995, and increased four times only between 2008 and 2015. Trade policies, such as the exemptions of tariffs on staple foods imports (including edible oils) in alignment with the Common External Tariff of the West African Economic and Monetary Union; European Union ban on palm oils for biofuels starting by 2020 will be influencing Guinean oil importance on the export and on the internal markets. Within an emerging regional market, more Guinean land is expected to fall under commercial palm oil

cultivation, and more forest is at risk. The National Investment Plan for Agriculture and Food and Nutrition Security (PNIASAN, 2018 - 2025) stipulates that national palm oil production was estimated at 251,615 tons in 2015, with an average yield of 7 tons per hectares and plans to increase production by a third in order to reach 336,000 tons in 2030, with an average yield of 9 tons per hectares ? an increase that would need significant yield improvements in order not to cause detrimental changes to landscapes of key production areas. Within this context, the national dynamics engaged through PNIASAN, aiming at strengthening structuration of key agricultural value chains via capacity building, support to the emergence of inter-professional organizations for strategic products and promotion of ?value chains roundtables? to facilitate dialogue across stakeholders and scales will be highly conducive to the project. Further, activities envisioned under PNIASAN to promote certification and labelling of Guinean agricultural products and to strengthen the legal frameworks for Public Private Partnerships to attract private sector investments while ensuring smallholders inclusion will be supportive of the project.

The main players in the palm oil value chain are inputs providers, planters, processors, collectors, wholesalers and retailers.

- ? **Inputs providers:** The main inputs for palm oil production are seeds, nursery, fertilizers and equipment for processing. While the variety Dura grows naturally (does not need to be planted), the variety Tenera needs certified seeds. These certified seeds are provided by research centers in Cote d'Ivoire (Centre National de Recherche Agronomique de Lam?) and in Benin (PalmElite). Other inputs and equipment for oil processing are provided by local suppliers. Organic fertilizers are provided by international companies like CUECDA (Cellule Universitaire d'Expertise et de Conseil pour le D?veloppement Agricole). The new comers in this sector are SMEs specialized in palm tree nursery. These enterprises like SELAMMI in Yomou are usually operated by young agroentrepreneurs).
- ? **Palm oil planters:** The Company SOGUIPAH (Soci?t? Guin?enne de Palmier ? Huile et d'h?v?a) is the main industrial producer of palm oil in Guinea. Created in 1987 by the Guinean Government and the private sector, the company produces the improved variety of palm oil (Tenera) through its own plantations (2838 ha) and also via 6000 smallholders (2758 ha), who are involved in its program called ?Plantations familiales?. The company also produces rubber on 8225 ha.

The other palm oil planters are either isolated producers or members of farmers' organizations such as groups, associations of groups, cooperatives and federations. In Forest Guinea, the main farmers' organizations are: 1) FEREPPAH (Federation of palm oil and rubber planters) bringing together 8050 members (17% females) from 21 associations, 220 groups and 11 cooperatives. Members of FEREPPAH operate in all the 7 prefectures of the forest Guinea. They produce both Tenera and Dura varieties. 2) Le R?seau Dura (The Dura Network) brings together 316 members (44% females) from 5 cooperatives. They operate in 5 prefectures (Beyla, Lola, Nzerekore, Macenta and Yomou). The Dura Network only produces the Dura palm oil variety. Although these actors operate in the same region, the sector is poorly organized because of weak collaboration between themselves.

- ? **Processors:** They are those who turn palm grains into oil. This transformation is often carried out by the planters themselves through artisanal techniques. This activity is gathering increasing interest from SMEs which are gradually improving equipment and techniques, such as ?Sophie Anne Company? which produces refined palm oil thanks to its modern equipment and improved techniques. This allows the company to sell its refined oil on supermarkets in major cities across the country and also to export to the United States of America. The oil

produced by SOGUIPAH is entirely sold on local markets. The company also produces soap out of the processed oil.

? **Collectors:** They collect oil from processors on behalf of wholesalers. There are two main categories of collectors:

- Simple collectors (are men and women), who are based in the production areas. They receive money from wholesalers, then buy from local processors and ship the merchandise to wholesalers in urban areas.

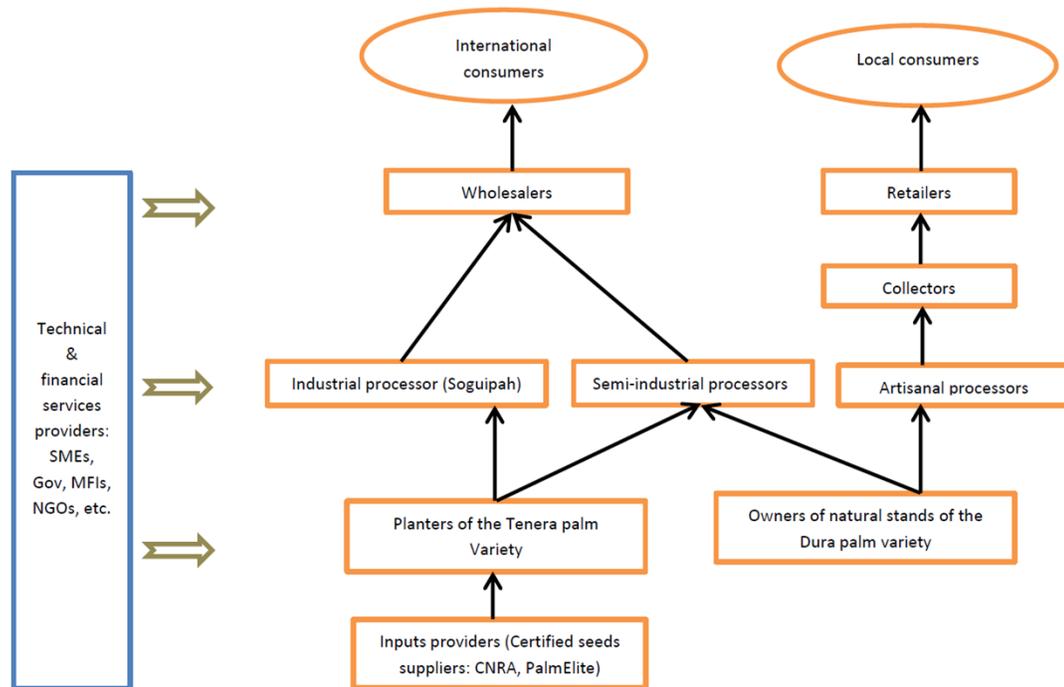
- Retail collectors (more than 80% are women). They play both the roles of collectors and retailers, by selling their palm oil directly to consumers in distribution markets. Some retail collectors store part of the oil purchased during the intensive period of production to sell it later when market prices are more remunerative.

? **Wholesalers:** The majority of wholesalers order their supplies by advancing money to collectors. However, some wholesalers move from market to market to buy or to sell their goods. Wholesalers usually operate a storage warehouse. Some wholesalers export their goods to neighboring countries (Senegal, Gambia, Mali?).

? **Local retailers:** This category is only made up of women seated behind their small tables in different local markets. They are supplied by the wholesalers and collectors. Their unit of measure for purchase is the 20-liter container, while for sales, they use several units ranging from 1/6 of a liter to 1 liter through 1/4, 1/2 and 3/4 of a liter.

? **Technical and financial services providers:** They provide value chain actors with training and several services such as transportation, financial access. This category comprises Government extension services like Service National de Protection des Végétaux et Des Produits de Stockage (SNPVD), Agence Nationale de promotion Agricole et du Conseil Agricole (ANPROCA), Direction Nationale des Eaux et Forêts (DNEF), Office Nationale de Contrôle Qualité (ONCQ), Unions of transporters, NGOs, financial institutions (Banks, Crédit Rural, Finadev, etc.).

The palm oil value chain include a large number of actors often not coordinating their activities creating losses, environmental degradation and unsustainable management practices. The fact that strong producer organizations and private sector actors exist will really be useful to give a structure a communication channel to sustainable practices. Indeed, with the government's stated goal of increasing the amount of oil produced, there is an urgent need to ensure that this is done in a sustainable manner throughout the chain, from producer to seller.



Similarly, **rice** is a key commodity in Guinea in general and in Upper Guinea in particular. Rice is by far the main crop, grown on more than two-thirds of all cultivated land and produced by 80 percent of agricultural households. Guinea, located in the middle of the West African "rice belt," has a diverse set of production environments, each with a different set of issues affecting the potential benefits to the intensification of production. Rice yields are very low and have been stagnant for many years (1.5 t/ha for rainfed rice). Rice productivity in Guinea lags far behind the average for West Africa and in immediate neighbors like Senegal. Only about 5 percent of rice producers use improved seed varieties, and even fewer use fertilizer. Rice is also the main food import. Rice imports, valued at around US\$300 million per year, represent about 20 percent of Guinea's domestic annual rice requirement. Because of its high foreign exchange cost, as well as its importance to food security, rice is the second highest priority crop for the government, after oil palm.

The Guinean government wants to achieve food self-sufficiency for its population through a policy centered on rice production. The vision is to make Guinea the "Thailand" of West Africa. The expansion of rice fields is a major threat to natural areas all along the major rivers basin. In 2015 Upper Guinea was already the region of Guinea producing the most rice (35% of the total production), it is also the region where expansion is the most probable.

In Forest Guinea, rice is grown mainly on hillsides (rainfed rice) but also in the lowlands. Other food crops include cassava, groundnuts, maize, taro, and vegetable crops (chili, okra, eggplant, tomato). In the Toma zone (around Macenta), cowpeas are frequently grown. These crops are generally grown in association with rice. Cassava, planted in association with rice in the first year, becomes a pure crop the following year.

Coffee is one of the main plantation crops in Forest Guinea. Introduced by the French around 1930, Robusta coffee quickly found its way into most plantations in the region, due to the regular income it provides and its lack of competition with hillside rice in terms of work schedule.

In addition to palm and coffee crops, there are kola trees, cocoa trees, banana trees (fruit and plantain), citrus trees and rubber trees. This diversity of crops and activities (since palm oil and raffia wine extraction must be added) is the basis of farmers' production systems.

In Upper Guinea, rice is grown in three different ways:

- *Rice cultivation on the alluvial plain:* practiced along the rivers with cultivation work generally carried out by power tillers and tractors/mechanized as it extends over large areas. Sowing is most often direct and done on the fly with the use of chemical inputs (mineral fertilizers and herbicides). Due to a lack of water control, the low-yielding but very hardy floating rice variety is used by rice farmers. The varieties used are of long cycle (5 to 6 months).
- *Lowland rice cultivation:* This activity is recent in Upper Guinea with the involvement of development projects and programs developing lowlands (basfond) through water management. The lowlands are few in number in Upper Guinea because of the generally flat terrain. The development of the lowlands is innovative, with transplanting recommended by ANPROCA technicians and projects. Yields are relatively high, and in the dry season the area can be used by women for market gardening, which provides more income than rice. The varieties used are of medium cycle (4 to 5 months).
- *Rice cultivation on the slopes:* This is characterized by slash and burn cultivation, clearing the natural vegetation in the dry season. This system has the advantage of producing rice with an appreciable yield in the first year without the application of fertilizers (mineral or organic) or chemical weed killers. On the other hand, it destroys soil organic matter, micro-organisms and vegetation, and ultimately impoverishes the soil. Sowing is done on the fly with short (3 to 4 months) and medium cycle varieties.

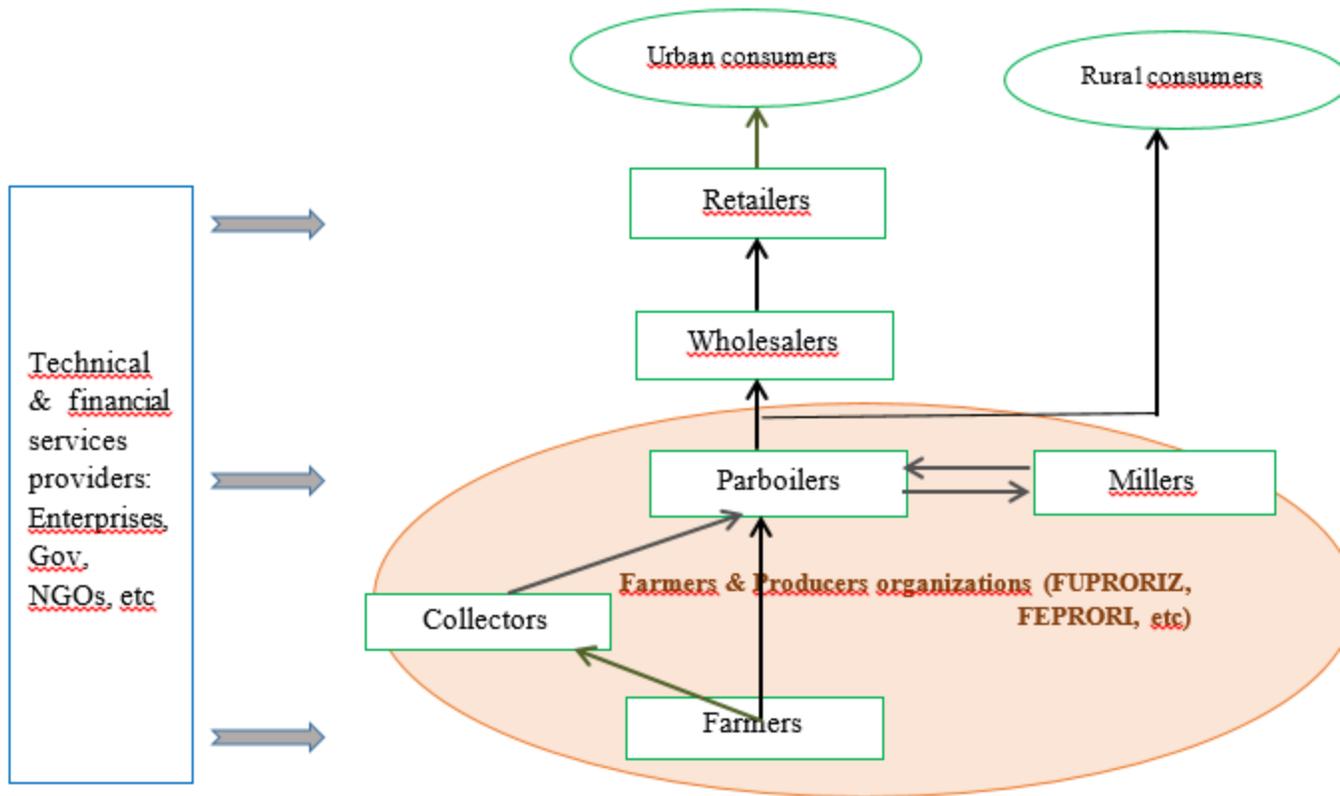
The rice value chain includes farmers, collectors, parboilers, millers, wholesalers / semi-wholesalers and retailers.

In this value chain, operators' strategies are generally geared towards securing income through multi-activity, and many players combine different jobs in order to diversify their sources of income. Thus, there are farmers who are also collectors; some collectors who are millers or parboilers. Some also play both collection and wholesale functions simultaneously.

Several groups and associations of farmers exist in villages and producer associations have been created such as the FEPRORI-GF (Federation des Producteurs de Riz de la Guinée Forestiere), the FUPRORIZ- HG (Federation des Unions de Producteurs de Riz de Haute Guinee) and the Association of rice and fish farming in Forest Guinea promoting agro-ecological models.

Several project such as the ACORH project (funded by AFD and implemented by GRET & MGE) have been supporting the development of the rice value chain and producers organizations. They reinforced the capacity of farmers' associations to create and strengthen links between the rice value chain actors at local and national level. This effort needs to be continued and include more sustainable production practices in order to have a sustainable value chain.

Indirect actors also involved in the rice sector include extension services, NGOs, banks and microcredit institutions (however very few actors in the sector still use them, judging the interest rates to be too high, costs and procedures too complex). These actors do not intervene directly in the production and transformation process, but provide technical trainings, studies, market information, supply of materials and equipment.



Market gardening is an important source of income for women. It used to be practiced on small areas and in addition to rice cultivation on slopes. It is now becoming more and more important for its revenue and nutritional benefits. It is also a very important option used to consider when wanting to increase production without increasing environmental damage and land encroachment. To do so, it is important to both use all the existing agricultural parcels to be best of their sustainable use and rehabilitate others. This is the purpose of market gardening as it can be developed in the low season for rice or/and on abandoned low lands. By using these lands this will limit the expansion into new areas. To meet the multiple objectives of ecosystem restoration, promotion of deforestation free agriculture and sustainable food systems, farming systems diversification is considered critical (polycropping, agro-forestry, crop livestock integration etc). Focusing exclusively on a single commodity value chain approach (palm oil or rice in this case) would lead farmers to production specialization, perpetuating the monoculture-centered models whose environmental and economic limits are abundantly clear today.

The other main crops cultivated are:

- Peanuts: it is generally cultivated on the hillsides at the level of the old rice fields. It is very profitable and viewed by many as a cash crop. It is used in the 2nd year of cultivation after rice in order to restore soil fertility and increase the income of farmers.
- Fonio: it is cultivated on poor soils and in some cases after peanuts. It is less demanding and used during the hunger gap period as it has a short cycle (3 month cycle). Its yield is very low per hectare (around 600 kg / ha).

- Manioc: grown everywhere in Upper Guinea on ridges and flat land. It is the second largest consumer crop after rice. It is consumed either dry or fresh.
- Corn: its cultivation is very demanding in terms of organic matter. It is generally cultivated on small family parcels, in certain lowlands and in association with rice on the hillsides.
- Yam: this culture is practiced on a small scale in all areas of upper Guinea but more widespread in the prefecture of Kankan. It is grown on small ridges at the start of winter and provides an important resource for farmers.
- Cotton: It is an industrial crop practiced in Upper Guinea and Middle Guinea. The expansion of its cultivation is due to the establishment of a large cotton project in Upper Guinea (cotton project) headquartered in Kankan. It is very demanding in mineral fertilizers but because of its immediate profitability, some farmers prefer it to food crops.
- Cashew nut: This crop can grow on poor soils but has better yields on fertile and gravel soils. It is a perennial culture that has gained in popularity in recent years with government action.

Mining

The Guinean mining sector is a government priority, along with agriculture and energy. This sector is based on the high concentration of mineral resources in the country, recognized as one of the most important in the world: bauxite (+ 40 billion tons of bauxite at 40% Al₂O₃), iron ore (+20 billion tons of high quality), gold (700,000 tons), diamonds (40 million carats, generally of jewelry quality) as well as significant showings of uranium, graphite, copper and petroleum. These endowments remain poorly exploited but still, according to the 2018 EITI report, mining revenues represent 31% of government revenues.

In the target areas, several mines are at the exploration stage and might soon become active. The table below, showcase some of the area where exploration is happening:

Region	Prefectures	Mining companies active in the prefecture	Implementation Stage	Rurales Commune (RC)	Mining companies active in the CR	Implementation Stage
Upper Guinea	Kouroussa	SMB Winning (Iron)	Exploration	Komodou	-	-
		Batax Bouna International (Diamond)	Exploitation			
	Kankan	Wega Mining (Gold)	Exploration	Bat? Nafadji	-	-
	Kouroussa	Kouroussa Gold Mine (Gold)	Exploration	Komola Coura	Soci?t? de sondage	Sampling
		Sycamore Mining (Gold)	Exploration			

Region	Prefectures	Mining companies actives in the prefecture	Implementation Stage	Rurales Commune (RC)	Mining companies actives in the CR	Implementation Stage
Forest Guinea	Beyla	Rio Tinto (Iron)	Exploration	Nyonsoridou	Rio Tinto (Fer)	Exploration
	Lola	SMFG (Iron)	Exploration	Bossou	SMFG (Fer)	Exploration
		Zali Mining (Iron)	Exploration			
		West Africa Exploration (Iron)	Exploration		CC Energy (Fer)	Exploration
		Sama Ressources (Graphite).	Exploration			

Despite its advantages for the Guinean economy (contribution to public revenue, job creation), mining has negative impacts on neighboring communities and on the environment. These impacts are mainly land degradation, water and air pollution, limitation of access to water resources, expropriation of cultivable land, loss of livelihoods and socio-economic imbalances in local communities. The main impacts are as follows:

? Land degradation: Surface mining is done with the use of heavy machinery and dynamite to release large masses of earth that cover the ores (for bauxite, gold and diamonds for example). This leads to the loss of forest cover and land degradation. In some artisanal gold and diamond mining areas, land and river degradation is even more severe. Often environmental protection measures are ignored and no restoration action is carried out after the abandonment of these sites that can't be turned back to crop or grazing land, the main livelihood of local communities.

? Water and air pollution: The use of chemicals pollutes waterways and is not yet subject to strict control by state technical services lacking sufficient technical and financial resources. This poses a serious threat to the flora and fauna whose lives depend on these rivers. Air pollution is evident in the Boké region where bauxite mining is fully developed. Indeed, the dust produced by the extraction and transport of bauxite invades homes and fields, causing concern among families and health professionals.

? Limiting access to water resources: The influx of migrants to mining areas increases the pressure on water resources. This significantly reduces the access of local populations to the water they need for drinking, bathing or cooking. Water scarcity means that women, who are most often responsible for collecting water, have to walk greater distances or wait for long periods to access alternative sources (wells, public boreholes, etc.).

? The expropriation of cultivable land without adequate compensation and loss of livelihoods: Using the lack of clear protection for customary land rights, mining companies consider rural land to remain, in legal terms, "the property of the state", which gave them the right to use it. This interpretation allows them to acquire land without the informed consent of farmers or without adequate compensation for the loss of livelihoods to local communities

? Socio-economic imbalances: Mining attracts many people from a variety of backgrounds (usually young people looking for work). But the absorption capacities of this unskilled labor force by mining

companies are relatively weak. Thus, the high rate of unemployment combined with the precarious living conditions in the mining areas cause socio-economic imbalances with serious consequences on the lives of local populations (violence, theft, crime, prostitution, drugs, alcohol abuse, diseases, etc.)

As detailed in component 3 of this project document, the government is well aware of this, and the Environmental Code incorporates the principles of precaution, public participation, non-regression, prevention and the "polluter pays" principle, according to which: "Any natural or legal person whose activities cause or are likely to cause damage to the environment shall bear the costs of preventing, mitigating and repairing the pollution and other environmental degradation for which it is responsible. To this end, it must ensure all measures of reinstatement." According to article 16 of the same code: "Private companies and public and mixed companies carrying out industrial and/or commercial activities are required to integrate environmental concerns into their operating, production and responsible management systems, in accordance with the requirements of sustainable development. They also ensure:

- ? Reduce to a strict minimum the negative effects of their activities on receiving environments and ecosystems;
- ? Conduct periodic environmental audits of their facilities and activities;
- ? Require their suppliers and service providers to integrate the environmental dimension into the services and products they provide;
- ? Provide transparent and reliable information on environmental management;
- ? Certification of their companies ."

Article 143 of the Mining Code requires mining permit holders to prevent or minimize any negative effects due to their activity on health and the environment, including noise emissions harmful to human health, water, air and soil pollution, degradation of ecosystems and biological diversity, and prevention and treatment of any spills."

When they obtain a concession, mining companies must carry out an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and follow the recommendations for the measures necessary to mitigate all or part of the project's impacts on the affected environments, including an environmental monitoring plan and, if necessary, a land reclamation program. Thus, each mining company is required to develop an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) and to follow it. ESMPs are evaluated by the ?Bureau Guin?en d'Etudes et d'Evaluation Environnementale? (BGEEEE), some examples of which can be found by following this link: <https://bgeee-mecf.com/index.php/pges/> .

However, monitoring the implementation of the ESIA and ESMP recommendations is often difficult. In order to monitor mining activities throughout the country, particularly in areas farther from the capital, prefectural environmental monitoring committees have been established since 2012, but they often lack the technical and logistical means to ensure a proper follow up.

Global environmental problems, root causes and barriers

More than 80% of the country's active population is engaged in the exploitation of natural resources that procure food, fiber, feed and fuel (PNIASA 2013-2017) to a quickly growing population (2.8% population growth rate in 2018, World Bank). In the selected landscape, direct and indirect drivers of land degradation and biodiversity loss stem from this high reliance of human activities on natural resources and from eco-climatic variations.

As demographic pressure increases, and with it the needs for food production, especially for certain key commodities such as palm oil and rice, the productive capacity of landscapes decreases. Under the

pressure of agricultural expansion for cash and food crops, uncontrolled bush fires and fertilizer use, logging for fuelwood and charcoal, and mining activities, a vicious cycle of degradation of land and forests is perpetuated. Ecosystem services are dwindling, natural habitats are disappearing and living conditions, especially for the most vulnerable, are worsening. Political instabilities and the global influence of climate change only worsen these phenomena.

From 2001 to 2018, Guinea lost 16% of its tree cover, equivalent to 1.32Mha, and leading to 306Mt of CO₂ emissions (Global Forest Watch). Concomitantly, the state of land over 18.40% of the country has degraded (SDG 15.1, FAO calculations). Deforestation, forest and land degradation resulting in land productivity losses are costing the country about 12% of its GDP, and are mainly caused by agriculture and mining, the two sectors that drive Guinea's economy. Unsustainable agricultural practices for production of staple food crops (rice, maize, cassava, palm oil) and export commodities (palm oil, cashew nut, mango, coffee, rubber?), coupled with inappropriate land uses, population pressures and climate change are negatively impacting the country's soils fertility, biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides to the rest of the region. Frameworks to support harmonious land use planning through Local Development Plans at communal level and management plans for Protected Areas are not sufficient to address these pressures. The ecosystems of Guinea – also referred to as the 'Water Tower' of West Africa – are under threat: the source of transboundary rivers (e.g. Niger and Senegal rivers) critical for agriculture regionally and the country's Protected Areas, recognized of global importance, are at risk of being further damaged.

The key environmental problems are as follows:

Deforestation and forest degradation linked to agriculture expansion

Expanding agriculture drives about 80% of deforestation worldwide and is estimated to have already cleared or converted 27% of tropical forests, with particularly severe impacts on biodiversity because tropical forests support about 70% of terrestrial plant and animal species. According to FAO (2015), tropical countries lost 7 million hectares per year between 2000 and 2010, with conversion of forest land to agriculture comprising 73% of the land use change. Moreover, following conversion the vast majority of agricultural lands are not sustainably managed.

Together with population growth, the national and international demand for food keeps growing, putting an increasing pressure on natural resources through subsistence and commercial agriculture. Indeed, for subsistence agriculture, to satisfy their growing food needs, local populations rely on the expansion of agricultural land, shifting cultivation and overgrazing that are degrading the productivity of soils and their ability to produce the needed quantities of staple food crops (in particular rice, maize, cassava) for local consumption, ultimately resulting into further forest encroachment and degradation. When looking at the maps of land productivity and land degradation presented in Annex E, there is a strong correlation between the 2 in the focus zones of the project, showing that agricultural expansion is also linked to low land productivity. Unsustainable practices, often happening when a high and fast yields are sought, such as for some key commodities (rice, palm oil, etc.) in high demand, only worsen this phenomenon, by driving land to unproductivity fast. Expansion is then seen as the easy solution to keep producing to the same level. With a strong push from the Guinean government to achieve food self-sufficiency for its population through a policy centered on rice production, there is a risk that land encroachment will only increase. Supporting sustainable practices bringing higher yield and less land degradation has a key influence on land encroachment reduction.

According to FAOSTAT, rice and palm oil are in the top 5 of the most harvested crops in Guinea (rice represent 27% of all the harvested crops and is the most rapidly growing staple food) and the demand is growing both nationally and internationally. The rice production in Sub-Saharan Africa went from 17.03Mt in 2008 to 26.31 Mt in 2018 and according to Africa Rice, this increase is mainly due to rice area expansion. Indeed when looking at the map of agricultural expansion, Guinea shows a 1-2% annual rate of agriculture expansion which is more than its neighbors Senegal and Sierra Leone.



Figure 3 Annual rate of Agriculture expansion in West African countries (1973-2011)

According to the National Strategy on Rice cultivation in Guinea, issued in 2019, rice is considered a strategic commodity because it is the staple food for the population. Thus, thanks to the bold actions taken by the authorities, rice production has increased significantly in recent years, from 1,465,700 tons in 2008/2009 to 2,340,000 tons in 2017/2018. In the same period, the area planted increased from 1,484,268 ha to 1,711,889 ha. The increase in production is mainly due to the expansion of the area planted, as the yield per unit area is still very low (1.25t/ha). Despite this increase in domestic rice supply, the fact remains that demand is far from being satisfied, as evidenced by the continued evolution of import levels from 401,244 MT in 2011 to 604,578 MT in 2017, an increase of 51%.

This is due to the fact that demand is growing faster than supply. To reverse this trend, the government will take incentives to increase the production and improve the quality of local rice to make it more competitive on the market. In 2019, the surface used to cultivate rice had increase even more to reach 1,924,161 according to the national statistics.

As explained in the National Strategy, 3 main regions have been selected to increase their rice production: Low, Upper and Forest Guinea. Forest and Upper Guinea being the top priorities. Indeed, the strategy details: Indeed, in order to fight against the negative effects of climate variability resulting in a reduction of rainfall, the choice of Forest Guinea is explained by the possibility of to be able to carry out supplementary irrigation and development. From this point of view, it should be noted that the potential land available for development is 461,804 ha, of which only 5% is developed. In addition, it is the largest rice production area (41%). A second priority area is Upper Guinea due to the existence of a potential for rice cultivation, estimated at 180,000 ha of alluvial plains the Niger River and its tributaries, to which must be added 108,600 ha of lowlands and a strong poverty reduction effect. This clearly indicates that apart from yield improvement, the strategy relies also heavily on land expansion. This has to be done with a clear planning at landscape level and sustainability in mind to avoid and ecological then an agronomical disaster.

Most of the expansion is currently linked to subsistence agriculture and small commercial agriculture for commodities like rice. In Upper Guinea, rice is mainly produced along the Niger river bed, threatening the river itself on which millions depends.

For Palm oil, an increased number of small and medium enterprises are found in Forest Guinea, either relying on small producers (cluster model) and/or having their own plantations as well.

The growing international demand for cash commodities, such as palm oil, linked to commercial agriculture, generates both a tremendous development opportunity and additional detrimental pressure

on land ? especially for the cultivation of palm oil in Guinea Forest region and rice in Upper Guinea. With a growing national and international demand for palm oil, accrue pressure to further expand palm oil plantations, especially in Guinea Forest Region (Guinean region with the highest yield potential), is expected within the next few years. Rapid expansion of this commodity would lead to the generalization of unsustainable practices that can be witnessed in the palm oil sector in neighboring countries and throughout the world. Over the recent years, Liberia and Ghana have seen large portion of their territory being dedicated to palm oil, seen as a strong commodity to boost the economy. Guinea is following with a strong political commitment expressed in the PNDA and the PNIASA to unlock palm oil's potential as major cash crop by increasing production and professionalization along its value chain. Worldwide around half of oil palm expansion since the early 1970s has involved forest clearing. The remainder replaced cropland, pasture, and other land uses, some of which indirectly led to forest clearing to accommodate these displaced activities (IUCN 2018). Moreover, freshwater systems in and around plantations are polluted by fertilizer and pesticide runoff. IUCN (2018) presents the considerable body of global research on negative biodiversity impacts of expanding oil palm plantations. Converting complex forest ecosystems to simple monocultures reduces tree diversity by 99%, thereby eliminating habitat for a wide range of animal species. Biodiversity loss is exacerbated by hunting and trapping of wildlife in plantations; habitat loss can also intensify human wildlife conflict in the wider landscape and lead to further killing. As identified by the GEF 7 IPFOLUR Liberia project led by Conservation International, in the Northwest Liberia Landscape, at the frontier with Guinea, the immediate threats are expansion of commercial palm oil plantations into intact forest ecosystems, continued uncontrolled agricultural expansion by communities relying on shifting cultivation, and related extractive livelihoods such as charcoal production and bushmeat hunting. The Government of Liberia has identified the northwest region as a key agricultural production zone under the Liberia Agricultural Transformation Agenda (LATA) for a range of crops, with an emphasis on oil palm. The potential for conflict between pending oil palm development and closed canopy natural forest is significant. At least 50% of the total concession area of about 290,000 hectares is covered by dense forests with more than 40% tree canopy density. The importance of Northwest Liberia for both biodiversity as well as agricultural production highlights the value of soil ecosystem services that are at risk if uncontrolled expansion of unsustainable agriculture continues. The situation is the same in Guinea and it is to be expected that the Guinean Forests will be under the same threats.

Government's objectives to significantly increase national palm oil production bears a high risk to replace traditional systems based on low impact harvesting of natural palm stands into less sustainable commercial monoculture plantations. Deforestation of the last primary forests of Guinea, deforestation of secondary forests currently harboring natural palm stands, shifting of current agricultural practices (oil palm on fallow land, perennial agroforests) into palm mono-cropping are to be expected. Liberia is working to avoid this type of plantation but promote sustainable approaches involving family farming. Nevertheless, if large mono-culture are detrimental to the environment, expansion linked to small scale and low efficiency palm oil farming and processing are also extremely harmful as they require more land for the same final yield. The entire value chain from production to transformation and consumption has to be made more sustainable.

The selected frontier landscape, bordering Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia who are major producers of palm oil in the region, might be further pressured by commercial commodity-driven deforestation to respond to this growing global demand. Forest Guinea is also the main area for both palm oil production in Guinea and intact forest ecosystem, potentially representing expansion grounds Fertilizer pollution, repetitive burning, logging for fuelwood and charcoal not allowing for natural regeneration contribute to further degradation of the ecosystems

As seen above the agricultural expansion, linked to increased food production, is having a strong impact on the land turned into agricultural land but not only. Indeed the over-use of fertilizers and the uncontrolled fires (initiated for farming purposes or accidental) further degrade the land and prevent it to regenerate even if left fallow.

In the remaining forested zones, logging for fuelwood and charcoal highly disturb the ecosystem and the remaining biodiversity. The high market value of charcoal (fuelwood), especially in mining areas, leads to accelerated carbonization without selection of plant species or tree age. The practice of cutting wood to be charred becomes semi-industrial with the use of chainsaws. In addition to the desire for dense and hard local forest species, with high calorific value such as Azob? de savanna (*Lophira alata*), Vene or Senegalese rosewood (*Pterocarpus erinaceus*), Somon (*Uapaca somon*); the pressure is still on the wood of *Lannea* sp. (*Bemb? en manika*) for carbonization. The latter plant species is a non-timber forest product whose berries are edible and eaten by monkeys and local populations and whose seed trees are under great pressure, all of which is detrimental to the survival of the species.

The abusive and uncontrolled use of agricultural inputs (fertilizers, insecticides, pesticides) as well as the improper handling of agricultural tools (sprayer) led, according to the actors met, to the observation that the water is contaminated and polluted by them. This has been observed and reported in particular with regard to the deaths of domestic animals drinking during the dry season in stream waters polluted by fertilizers. The use of poisoned baits against birds has led to a significant drop in the populations of grain-eating birds (doves and passerines), which nevertheless ensure bio-regulation function by eating insects and caterpillars fond of young crop shoots. Because of this, an important part of the trophic chain might disappear, causing significant damage to crops and a great biodiversity loss or humanity.

A very significant decrease in the aquatic fauna (fish, mammals, reptiles) in backwaters formerly full of fish due to the improper application of herbicides and insecticides has been observed. This phenomenon has been reported in several rivers, such as the Dion river in K?rouan? prefecture as well as the Milo river in Kankan prefecture.

Vicious circle of land degradation and climate vulnerability

Land degradation is a serious problem in Guinea having implications on the sustainability of agricultural production if not addressed. FAO defines land degradation as "the reduction of the capacity of the land to provide ecosystem goods and services and to assure its functions over a period of time for its beneficiaries".

The strong linkages between forest and land degradation issues has been proven; the reduction of forest vegetation mainly due to conversion of forests to other land uses is leading to the loss of productivity, reduced water yield, and increased flooding in agricultural lands.

Ecosystem degradation also has significant implications in terms of vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters. Deforestation of watersheds undermines the roles of forests in buffering variations in hydrological regimes and river flows, which are likely to become increasingly pronounced with the changing climate. This is posing increasing risks to populations living downstream. The degradation and loss of forest cover increases the vulnerability of local populations to climate change and variability and to natural disasters and doesn't allow them to benefit from ecosystem-based adaptation (EBA).

The combined problem of degradation in agricultural and forest lands initiate a vicious circle of degradation only aggravated by climate change and other exogenous phenomenon.

Mining and other activities with strong impact on the environment

Mining has a high environmental and social cost. In terms of environment, its ecological footprint includes deforestation and watershed disturbance to create the mines and associated infrastructures, deterioration of water quality (e.g., due to transport of heavy metals from mining), air pollution, etc. The social costs are also high on health for example (e.g., premature mortality and morbidity due to air

and water pollution) and social tensions linked to benefits sharing and lack of employment opportunities.

The government is taking action to try to mitigate these threats, as each mining company is required to conduct an environmental impact study before the operation phase. An environmental and social management plan is drawn up and supposedly executed by each mining company. This environmental management plan is theoretically subject to periodic evaluations by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD), notably through the Guinean Bureau of Environmental Studies and Assessment (BGEEE). But these are currently not enough implemented and follow up on to solve the environmental and social issues linked to mining in Guinea.

Biodiversity loss and lack of connectivity between islands of biodiversity

The main driver of biodiversity loss is habitat loss. As explained in the paragraph above, the loss and degradation of natural habitat stem from deforestation due to conversion of forest areas to agriculture, poor agricultural practices, incoherent agricultural and natural resources policies, irresponsible mining, fire, and infrastructure development. Weak management of protected areas and other natural habitats are also contributing factors to the loss of biologically important habitats of globally threatened species and unique ecosystems.

Degraded land and the annual cropping systems have very low levels of biodiversity, and offer little in terms of habitat or connectivity potential for the globally important species that are found in the adjoining forest areas. As a result, even if those remaining forest areas were subject to effective protection, they would be left as disconnected 'islands': the ranges of their constituent species would continue to be limited to the forests themselves, and there would be limited opportunity for genetic flow between forest islands. Both of these factors would seriously jeopardize the long term viability of the populations of these species (this is especially critical in the case of species with few remaining individuals such as the pygmy hippopotamus).

These environmental issues can be linked to the following **root causes and barriers** that need to be addressed:

No multi-actor coordination mechanisms on integrated land management & integrated landscape vision and management plan leading to conflicts and poor management of different land units

Currently a number of plans exist at national level but are sector-specific approaches to development, incentive and planning frameworks that impede compatibility between interests of productivity, food security and environmental sustainability. This is true at national level but also at prefecture and communal level. The different plans represent different interest and in the absence of a spatial plan dedicating certain land areas to specific land use, long term planning for land restoration and sustainable natural resources management is compromised.

An example are the repeated issues with herders: the practice of transhumance of zebu herds from the Republic of Mali to Guinea in the Prefectures of Kankan, Mandiana, B'yla, NZ'r'kor?, Lola in search of better pastures, causes significant damage to flora and vegetation and even to wild fauna due to the strong pressure of livestock on plant resources (flora and vegetation) by trampling and the practice of pruning the crown of appetizing trees and shrubs. Multi-actor coordination mechanisms could help define transhumance paths which are less destructive.

At communal level, Local Development Plans (LDP) are developed but don't include a clear zoning agreed by all stakeholders. When they do, they include some green activities, very often these are not implemented as not prioritized when funding is limited. Some coordination mechanisms exist to discuss specific topics but they should be enlarged to really engage all the key stakeholders at national, prefectural and commune level to develop a shared vision for the landscape and its sustainability for the benefit of people. A lack of coordination leaves open the way to degradation and deforestation to expand unsustainable and low-yield agricultural practices often linked to key commodities such as rice and palm oil.

The absence of effective coordination mechanisms at national and local levels, also lead to fragmented implementation of key programs that fails to effectively address threats to biodiversity and natural resources decline. It also fails to consider connectivity within the corridor. It is manifested by programs being implemented with little or no consideration to addressing threats to habitat loss, maintaining ecosystem flows, fragmentation, conversion of high conservation value forests to agriculture. Thus, current biological corridors remain a mosaic of disjointed land management units often with incompatible objectives.

Where coordination mechanisms exist, such as the National Inter-ministerial Committee for the Coordination of Forest and Landscape Restoration, or are in the early development stage such as the Rice Route table, they need to be revitalized and be made more accessible to accommodate needs at local level too.

This barrier is represented in the Theory of Change (Prodoc Annex A3) as:

- ? Few multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms on integrated land management
- ? No integrated landscape management vision and plan leading to conflicts and mismanagement of plots

Little policy guidance, available data and capacity to plan and implement land management at local level

Many plans and directives linked to sustainable land use exist but they are usually not specific and not ready to be translated into action in the field. As described above, the government set in place a lot of strategic direction tending towards a more sustainable use of land but it is not translated into actions to be implemented in the field and local actors are very often not even aware of these strategies. At national level several efforts were made to clarify rural land tenure, one of the key element needed to build a long term vision and invest in land (these are described in the Context section of the Prodoc). In addition the World Bank and French Development Agency are currently both working to support the Government with urban and rural land tenure policy. However, additional efforts are needed to bring this information to the communal level to avoid conflicts and plan in a way that is clearly beneficial for all land users.

Communities are missing the basic knowledge and means to enforce policies which would be key to reduce deforestation and land degradation. For example, if the policy on fire management was addressed and the public agents had the means to enforce the law, the number of unintended/uncontrolled fires would greatly decrease. The law enforcement could also happen by the communities themselves if they would be made aware of the law and would have the means to meet on a regular basis during coordination meetings.

Also there is no comprehensive system where maps and data on land use and changes are available to be able to support land use planning and monitoring. This make the land use planning exercise more complicated.

This barrier is represented in the Theory of Change (Prodoc Annex A3) as:

- ? Little local policy guidance, data availability and capacity to plan and implement sustainable land management

Lack of training and resources for public services, at national and decentralized levels, to monitor and support sustainable agriculture and forest management

Guinea has a very decentralized system with public support systems existing at prefecture and commune level. Unfortunately the public agents in charge of agriculture (under ANPROCA) and forest (under DNFF) often lack training, mostly on sustainable land use practices (including agro-ecology, agro-forestry and forest and landscape restoration) and the means to bring them to the

communities (even very basic transportation means are missing). The system is in place but it has not been as efficient as it could if the public agents had the right trainings and means to work.

Some ANPROCA agents have experience in Farmer Field Schools establishment but they haven't had the means to share the knowledge widely with their ANPROCA colleagues and other decentralized agencies colleagues. This is a missed opportunity the project should build on.

This barrier is represented in the Theory of Change (Prodoc Annex A3) as:

? Low capacity of public services to ensure support for the implementation and monitoring of sustainable landscape management

Low productivity levels and lack of interest, incentives and technical capacity of farmers to sustainably intensify agriculture (ie rice and palm trees) and manage natural spaces

Agricultural growth has been driven by the expansion of cultivated land at an estimated rate of 3 percent per year, consistent with the increase in the rural population. Farms are small, producing primarily for household consumption and yielding very little marketed surplus. About 70 percent of farms are smaller than 0.5 ha, and subsistence farmers work 95 percent of the total cultivated area. Less than 8 percent of cultivated land is planted with improved seed, and fertilizer use is among the lowest in Africa. This has a dire impact on land use. Indeed, low productivity means more land needed for the same production. Many options exist to sustainably increase the agricultural production and even diversify it on the same land to increase revenues. Some of these techniques, linked to agro-forestry and agro-ecology, have been successfully tested on small scale in Guinea but haven't gone to scale. The needed mindset change has to be incentivized.

The lack of long-term incentives has often led to weak community engagement in sustainable agriculture implementation and natural resource management. A system of incentives is essential to encourage private or land tenure holders in critical areas within the landscape to pursue sustainable natural resource management and contribute to providing or expanding biological corridors as pathways of key species while ensuring improvement in ecosystem services and resilience.

Little attention has yet been paid to identifying alternative, more sustainable, ways for ensuring genuine and long-term buy-in. This is mainly due to (i) a lack of awareness on the benefits coming from sustainable land management and restoration and (ii) the lack of technical and financial support to initiating a transition to more sustainable systems. As mentioned above the extension systems don't yet have the capacity to technically support the transition to sustainable agricultural intensification. Large scale capacity building efforts on sustainable agricultural intensification and forest and landscape restoration have not yet been set in motion, due to the lack of trainers and invitational financing. Indeed, this transition requires some upfront financing linked to awareness raising, capacity building and some initial inputs in some cases. Communes have limited budget and often have to focus on more 'social' activities (health posts, schools, etc.) rather than engaging in sustainable green activities that are longer term. The support to green windows in the PDL and AIP would be key to quick start a process. This lack of initial investment prevent from gathering the additional revenues from sustainable intensification and put at risk the ecosystem on which any agricultural system depends.

Guinea's agricultural value chains are poorly integrated. The sustainability efforts on one side can be diminished by the inefficiency at the other end of the chain, what can be discouraging. The connections between actors in production, processing, transformation, storage, commercialization, and exports are tenuous or nonexistent, and value chains are poorly structured and organized. A new development approach could improve the integration of agricultural value chains by focusing on enhancing upstream and downstream linkages. Such an effort will require strengthening existing producer and professional organizations connecting them to other value chain actors.

This barrier is represented in the Theory of Change (Prodoc Annex A3) as:

? Lack of technical and financial capacity of farmers to intensify agriculture in a sustainable way, incl. rice and palm, and manage natural areas

- ? Fragmentation and lack of development of value chains leading to unsustainable production systems

Lack of financing and commercial incentives (certification or business opportunities for example) to support sustainable agricultural intensification and forest and landscape restoration for livelihoods benefits

Incentives for the transition to more sustainable food systems can come in many forms but they are mainly linked to improved revenues from the landscape thanks to improved practices and the restoration of natural spaces. Currently natural spaces and restored lands aren't seen as productive land despite their ecosystem services function. Nevertheless, they are the collection place for a high number of very important Non Wood Forest Products (NWFP) for example. Currently NWFP value chains are still very informal and therefore aren't gaining scale and recognition that could allow them to reach their full potential. This is also true for other business linked to natural spaces and sustainable practices (for example ecotourism or certified products). The lack of economic incentives linked to natural or restored areas prevent them to stand against agricultural land encroachment. Inclusive green businesses currently don't receive particular attention as they might not be as immediately commercially interesting as other type of business. Nevertheless, they are key to create long-term value from sustainably managed landscapes, contributing to promote them.

Other commercial incentives are linked to the development of certified products, that can be sold at a higher price, benefitting all the stakeholders along the value chain. The promulgation of more sustainable palm oil practices, for example reducing the labor and increasing the yield per tree, can have a very important impact on avoiding land degradation. Farmers and communities need support to put in place the new technic and get long term benefits from them through certification schemes. Efforts have already been made to develop certification elements for the Dura oil but they need to be pursued to reach a certification level allowing the producers to get financial gains from their efforts. Similar efforts can be done for the Tenera oil. This effort should also be pushed by the government in line with their commitment to sustainable palm oil, putting strong targets backing up their strategy lines.

Financing streams can come from revenues from the landscape products or from outside inputs. Up to now some innovative financing options (linked to credit lines, crowdfunding and others) have been tested in Guinea for some agricultural practices but they have not yet been applied to sustainable agriculture and forest and landscape restoration, leaving this sector quite underfunded.

This barrier is represented in the Theory of Change (Prodoc Annex A3) as:

- ? Lack of funding and incentives for sustainable land management
- ? Lack of a certification system to promote a sustainable palm oil

Knowledge and Information on the status of natural resources, the benefits of environmental services and the means to support those are inadequate and not disseminated

Several projects on natural resources management and sustainable agriculture have already been successfully led in Guinea. Nevertheless it is difficult to find information about them and good practices aren't readily available to be upscaled. Some knowledge already exist but it is not translated into knowledge products adapted to the wide range of stakeholders which should be involved in integrated land management and FLR: from policy maker to small landowner. As this work isn't happening in Guinea, it is not translated either outside of Guinea at regional or international level. Guinea isn't integrated in the sharing knowledge processes happening and is losing the opportunity to both reinforce its programs and showcase its good practices to the world.

This barrier is represented in the Theory of Change (Prodoc Annex A3) as:

- ? Inadequate and unshared knowledge and information on the status of natural resources and sustainable management options

? Lack of ownership and knowledge of the benefits of environmental services

b) Baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects

i. Policy context

Guinea is very committed to sustainable land and natural resources management and is a signatory to the three Rio Conventions and has high-level commitments (cf section 7. Consistency with National Priorities).

In order to reach these Goals, Guinea has developed a high number of plans and strategies. The overarching Vision Guinea 2040 supported by the National Plan for Economic and Social Development (PNDES) aims at sustainably managing Guinea's natural capital while transitioning towards an economy based on high value agricultural productions and sustainable agricultural practices. Indeed, this is clearly mentioned as "promoting sustainable and productive agriculture, guaranteeing food and nutritional security, hence prioritizing SDG's targets 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4 and 2.5". SDGs target 2.4 being : "By 2030, ensure the sustainability of food production systems and implement agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, contribute to the preservation of ecosystems, strengthen capacities to adapt to climate change, extreme weather events, drought, floods and other disasters and gradually improve the quality of land and soil". Vision 2040 states that "every effort must be made to limit deforestation" in Guinea and specifically targets the fight against climate change and the preservation of the environment (objective 5.3), through sustainable production methods and the conservation of ecosystems.

The National Environment Policy (PNE) and the National Investment Plan for Environment (PNIE) promote restoration of degraded forests and landscapes and environmentally-sound agriculture ? commitments also highlighted in the agricultural sector frameworks. Indeed, the PNE encourages the restoration of degraded landscapes and forest areas, the involvement of populations in forest conservation, and environmentally friendly agriculture.

Closely aligned with the PNE, Guinea's Forest and Wildlife Policy (PFFG) emphasizes the role of forests and trees in economic, social and environmental well-being, with a focus on the conservation and restoration of forest ecosystems. The country also officially launched the REDD+ process in September 2017 and the Ministry of Forests, Water and Environment is engaged in developing its REDD+ readiness plan. The country also mentions sustainable forest management (including afforestation and reforestation) and REDD + in its first Nationally Determined Expected Contribution (NDEI) under the UNFCCC as a means to mitigate climate change and reduce emissions.

In the National Policy for Agricultural Development (PNDA), it is clearly noted that natural resources in Guinea are currently under great pressure due to several factors combined. Rainfed land and forests are threatened by population pressure, inadequate agricultural practices and mining activities while agro-pastoral spaces are shrinking over time due to climate change, the development of agricultural activities, mining concessions and urbanization. Therefore, the National Plan for Agricultural Investment and Food and Nutrition Security (PNIASAN) 2018-2025 particularly takes into account cross-cutting areas such as gender, environmental and social dimensions to strengthen the efficiency and sustainability of the actions to be undertaken. The PNIASAN is particularly important as it is defining the budget resources allocated in the midterm to the Ministries of Agriculture, Livestock and Animal production, Fisheries, Aquaculture and Marine Economy as well as the Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests. PNIASAN is a comprehensive tool, formulated during a participatory and inclusive process. It is structured into five programs, 19 components and 88 actions:

? Program 1: Increase in the productivity of the main crops through the improvement of agricultural practices and the modernization of infrastructure and productive facilities

- ? Program 2: Improving access to growth markets and structuring of the value chains of the main agricultural sectors
- ? Program 3: Strengthening the resilience of the agricultural sector and improving the food and nutritional security of vulnerable populations
- ? Program 4: Development of human capital and promotion of young people and women in the agricultural sector
- ? Program 5: Improvement of governance and support for the agricultural sector.

Supporting the sustainability activities under this plan is particularly relevant when working on Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR) and sustainable food systems. The national dynamics engaged through the PNIASAN, aiming at strengthening structuration of key agricultural value chains via capacity building, support to the emergence of inter-professional organizations for strategic products and promotion of 'value chains roundtables' to facilitate dialogue across stakeholders and scales will be highly conducive to the project. Furthermore, activities envisioned under PNIASAN to promote certification and labelling of Guinean agricultural products and to strengthen the legal frameworks for Public Private Partnerships to attract private sector investments while ensuring smallholders inclusion will be supportive of the project.

ii. Decentralization and institutional context in Guinea

According to the provisions of the 1991 Fundamental Law, as amended and supplemented by the constitutional referendum of November 11, 2001, "the territorial organization of the Republic is constituted by territorial constituencies and local authorities. The territorial constituencies are the regions, prefectures, sub-prefectures, districts and neighbourhoods. The local authorities are the urban and rural communes. The creation of territorial divisions, their reorganization and their operation are matters for regulation. The creation of local authorities and their reorganization fall within the domain of the law" (Article 88, revised in 2001, of the constitution).

Decentralized authorities have been in place since 1992, following a program initiated in 1986. A new Local Government Code (CCL) was adopted in May 2006 by the National Assembly and revised in 2017.

Guinea is divided into 4 major natural regions, which are themselves subdivided into Prefectures:

- Lower Guinea or Guinea Maritime (10 prefectures);
 - Middle Guinea or Fouta Djallon (8 prefectures)
 - Upper Guinea or the Guinean Savannah (8 prefectures) and
 - Forest Guinea or Southern Guinea (7 prefectures)
- Administratively, Guinea is subdivided into seven (7) administrative regions which are
- Bok? (5 prefectures)
 - Kindia (5 prefectures)
 - Mamou (3 Prefectures)
 - Lab? (5 Prefectures)
 - Faranah (4 Prefectures)
 - Kankan (5 Prefectures)
 - NZ?r?kor? (6 Prefectures)

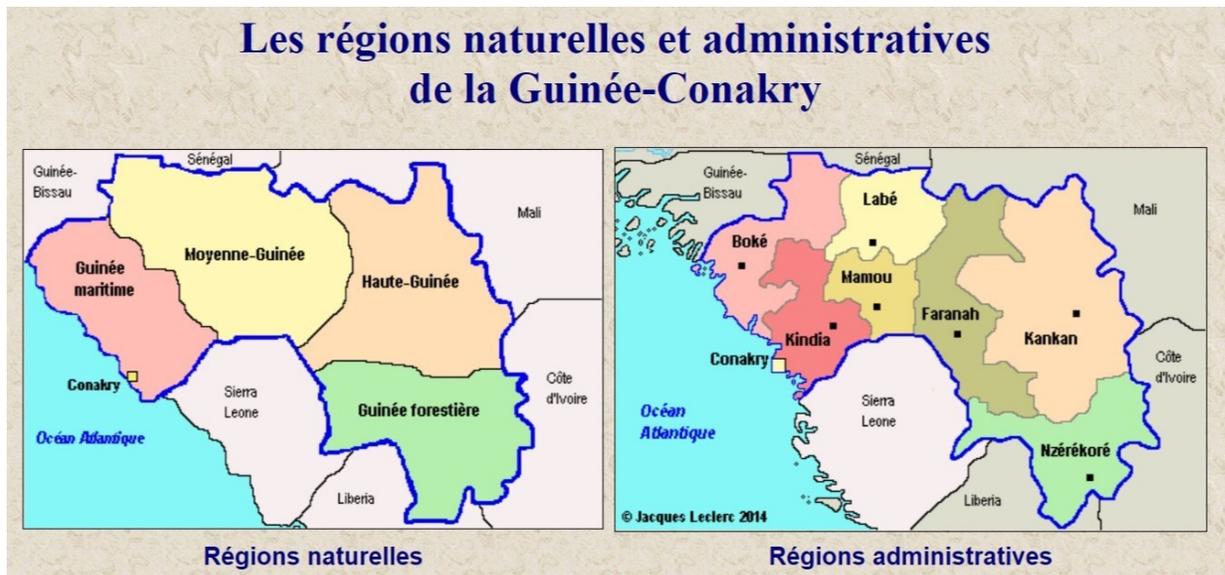


Figure 4: Natural and administrative regions in Guinea

There are 33 prefectures, under which there are 304 rural communes and 38 urban communes, including the 5 communes of Conakry. The new code specifies the arrangements for decentralized territorial administration and introduces a new distribution of powers and resources between the central and devolved administration and local authorities, and broadly resumes the previous overall architecture. The urban and rural communes (RCs) are thus found, with the same common characteristics: "They have legal personality, their own authorities and resources" (CCL, art. 2), with an unusual clarification: "Each commune is made up of all the citizens who have their domicile on its territory". These communes "are freely administered by elected councils, which regulate on their behalf, through the decisions resulting from their deliberations, the affairs within the competence of the local commune". The communes contribute with the State to the administration and planning of the territory, to economic, social, health, cultural and scientific development, as well as to the protection of the environment and the improvement of the living environment. The resources of the communes come from local taxation: direct taxes, various taxes and income from the land or exceptionally from subsidies, donations, legacies and loans.

Communes have specific bodies, namely the commune council and its executive arms (art. 84, CCL). The name of these bodies varies according to whether the commune is urban or rural. The executive powers are in the hands of the president of the council, who is either the mayor or the president of the RC, depending on the case (art. 84, CCL). Unlike before, all councillors are now elected. The local executive is elected by the local council from among its members (art. 132, CCL).

The communes themselves are subdivided into districts (1,700 rural districts) and over 300 neighbourhoods. The Local Development Plans (LDP) are defined by the local consultative committees (local elected officials of the rural communes) for a period of 5 years. These plans are the basis for the commune's Annual Investment Program (AIP). They allow the communes to receive public funds via the National Agency for Local Financing (ANAFIC) to implement activities. In the target area, each commune receive an average of 100,000 to 200,000 USD/year according to their AIP to implement their LDP.

Currently the LDP are being revised to be "greener". Communes need support for this exercise and to fund the green/sustainability activities which are often not prioritized against immediate social needs when the budget of the commune isn't large enough to be able to cover all the desired activities. In order to implement their plans, the communes are supported by local decentralized technical agency

such as the National Agency for Rural Promotion and Agricultural Support (ANPROCA) for agriculture and the National Directorate of Fauna and Flora (DNFF) for Forests.

Previous experiences in sustainable land uses : sustainable agriculture, forest and landscape restoration, etc

Over the last decades, several initiatives and projects have been led in Guinea to support sustainable food systems, land tenure and forest and landscape restoration. The section below present the key past projects/initiatives on which this project can build. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), based in Guinea since 1977 has been a key actor these fields.

- Sustainable agriculture

FAO has successfully implemented in the past 3 years sustainable agriculture related projects with a strong emphasis on promoting sustainable ways of production (agro ecology, nutrition sensitive agriculture, etc.) while promoting a sustainable extraction of natural resources (land, water, soil, etc.). These different projects have built the capacity of government staffs and farmers for a gradual change of paradigm and implemented agro ecological approaches such as kitchen garden, Farmer Field Schools (FFS) and more.

The Capacity Building for Rice and Palm Oil Sector Organizations (Acorh) project was initiated in 2009 in Guinea in response to the rise in commodity prices in 2007 and 2008. Its actions have supported the development of two sectors that are crucial to family nutrition and food security in Guinea: rice and palm oil. The project supported the production, processing and marketing of rice and palm oil and contributed to the structuring of these sectors. Awareness-raising activities on good nutritional practices were also included. The Acorh project lasted until 2015 and covered Upper Guinea, Forest Guinea and Lower Guinea with funding from the European Union and the French Development Agency. In order to preserve the environment in the long term, the project has trained producers in the rational use of phytosanitary products and in integrated pest management. The Acorh project has laid the groundwork for further reflection on the introduction of agro-ecological practices. Similarly, the improved steaming techniques disseminated by the project to groups of women have contributed to a tangible reduction in the use of firewood and water.

The SARA project on Food security, resilience and agro ecology in Guinea lead by the NGO GRET and financed by the European Union happened between 2016 and 2019. The overall objective of the project was to strengthen the resilience and autonomy of family farmers and small rural entrepreneurs in the local agricultural sectors in Middle and Forest Guinea. The project contributed to securing their food and income in the face of strong environmental constraints (health crises and climate change). The project trained farmers on improved agricultural practices in middle and forest Guinea. This project trained farmers on sustainable practices and developed a set of specifications for the production of Dura palm oil, as well as a good practices guide for the production and extraction of palm oil.

The National Support Program for Agricultural Stakeholders (PNAAFA) is a national program that initially targeted Forest Guinea and Middle Guinea. It was then extended to the other two natural regions (Maritime Guinea and Upper Guinea). Funded with \$77 million from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OFID), the overall objective of the program was to improve the incomes and food security of the rural poor in Guinea in a sustainable manner. Specifically, it aimed to improve the productivity and competitiveness of the activities of the rural poor through the professionalization and empowerment of their organizations in the development of promising agricultural sectors.

In the first phase, the PNAAFA provided support to agricultural sectors such as rice, oil palm and rubber in Forest Guinea, potatoes, onions and corn in Middle Guinea, rice and market gardening in Upper Guinea, and rice and market gardening in Lower Guinea and in the Faranah Region, through the relevant farmers' organizations

Within the framework of the oil palm sector, support has mainly been provided to the Regional Federation of Palm Oil and Shea Butter Producers of Forest Guinea (FEREPAH). The PNAFA has thus contributed to the creation of the Support Center for the Production of Plant Material in Bangoueta (GF). This center has an important didactic character for the producers of the area, with theoretical and practical trainings in different production techniques (grafting, setting up of nurseries, etc.). These trainings are provided by the lead farmers trained with the support of National Institute of Agronomic Research (IRAG) of Seredou and National Agency for Rural Promotion and Agricultural Support (ANPROCA). The services of this center are today requested by the government within the framework of the presidential initiative for the production of other plants such as coffee, oil palm, etc.

The Development of the Vegetable Sector in Lower and Upper Guinea (DEFMA) project, mainly funded by the European Union, started on January 1, 2017, was the result of a partnership between Guinea 44, the Belgian NGO Trias and the British NGO United Purpose. The action was carried out in the regions of Upper Guinea and Lower Guinea for a duration of 42 months by the intervention of local NGOs that were mainly the operators of implementation of activities in the field (AGUIDEP, ATC, FUMA-HG, AGUISSA, ADIC, ASER, CRAB, APEK-Agriculture, RGTA - DI, CRRAF). The main objective of this project was to contribute to the economic and sustainable development of the market gardening sector by strengthening the capacities of CSOs (Civil Society Organizations) and producers' organizations. In its implementation, the following practices were used: crop association, the home garden, "seasonal" rice-market gardening rotation, mulching, fertilization with farmyard manure, use of vegetable ash in vegetable gardens, and composting.

The DEFMA project has helped strengthen the organizational capacities of groups and unions of farmers' organizations, the mastery of technical itineraries and the introduction of agroecology. It also favored the structuring of markets that could generate income for women farmers, with an emphasis on strengthening governance, protecting the environment and promoting gender equality.

All these projects and others have allowed to introduce the basis of agro-ecology and test approaches such farmer field schools and strengthening value chains. Learning from the successes and failure from these projects are key for the success of this project.

- Restoration and biodiversity conservation

In 1960, the Inter-African Conference on Soils was held in Dalaba, Guinea, in the Fouta - Djallon massif, under the leadership of the Commission for Technical Cooperation in Africa (CTCA) and the Scientific Commission in Africa (SCA), with funding from the Foundation for Mutual Assistance in Africa (FAMA). Soil degradation and the loss of biodiversity and associated ecosystem services in sub-saharan Africa was already a subject of international concern.

Following the recommendations from this international meeting, and the independence, activities to stop land degradation and support biodiversity were launched through pilot actions on hillside watershed, stone cordons following the contour lines, perimeter hedges on farms, protection of spring heads, and agro-sylvo-pastoral associations.

Progressively, river basin development, biodiversity conservation and natural resource management projects were initiated and implemented since 1980 with financial and technical support from the European Union, USAID, World Bank, United Nations Environment Program, Italian Cooperation, FAO, UNESCO, etc.

Specific to the development of the Niger and Gambia river basins, the regional development program of the same name was financed by the European Union in Upper and Middle Guinea from 1993 to 2005.

The implementation of this project allowed the formulation and implementation of technical models for forest and ecosystem restoration, which were tested starting in 1993 and scaled up progressively until today.

These technical models include: (i) protecting natural forests and create village forests with multiple purposes, (ii) production and dissemination of plant material, (iii) management and control of bush

fires, (iv) creation of village forest groups, (v) enrichment of fallow lands, (vi) cultivation in corridors, etc.

These technical models have been very well received by local village communities because of their ecological, economic and socio-cultural benefits.

In 2018, FAO introduced the notion of Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR) through its project that supported capacity building on FLR, FLR project elaboration (REDD+ GCF, GEF7) and institutional assistance with the creation of the National Inter-ministerial Committee for the Coordination of Forest and Landscape Restoration and the revision of national policies and structures. This project broadened the scope of forest restoration to forest and landscape restoration looking at a landscape in its entirety and supporting the sustainability of all the different types of land uses. It is currently supporting the development of the first FLR Opportunities Assessment in the Faranah prefecture. This is particularly important to familiarize stakeholder to the engage in participatory land use planning and restoration options development. This work will also be an important guide to develop Integrated Land Management Plans in Faranah and around.

- Land tenure

With an estimated population of 12,559,623 (INS projection, 2020) over an area of 245,857 km², the Republic of Guinea, like many countries in the West Africa region, faces several challenges in the management of land issues, in particular due to the lack of a coherent land policy.

In 1992, the Republic of Guinea made the choice to put an end to the State's land monopoly by giving the right to all legal persons to own land in accordance with the Code Foncier et Domanial (CFD). However, the problem of land management in Guinea, particularly in rural areas, is complex due to the traditional land tenure practiced by the various rural communities. Under the influence of factors linked to the change of political regime, demographic expansion, the increase in the number of livestock, the expansion of market relations, the emergence of a land market profit, the development of sustainable investments in agriculture and the intensity of artisanal, semi-industrial and industrial mining activities, these questions are even more burning.

The last decades have also been characterized by increased pressure on land and natural resources, resulting in growing competition leading to regular and sometimes violent land disputes.

The 28-year record of implementing the Land Code shows that many challenges still need to be taken up in order to establish genuine responsible and sustainable governance of land resources. The authorities and structures in charge of implementing the Code Foncier Domanial in particular fail to prevent the anarchic occupation and illegal sale of public and pastoral lands. Thus, the purchases of state estates, and agricultural and pastoral land by land speculators are increasingly important.

In rural areas, where traditional rights remain deeply rooted, land issues quite often oppose farmers, herders, artisanal and rural operators. They also see the confrontation between rural populations and large farming and mining companies.

At the heart of the issues is the land control disputed by the numerous actors involved in the land and property management sector: central and decentralized administrations, local communities, customary owners and other public or private users, each using all the necessary means within its reach to mark its territory and proclaim its legitimacy. Land management plays a key role for the Guinean economy, attracting a very large number of investments, both from large companies, SMEs and families. Faced with this situation and to best respond to the aforementioned challenges, the Guinean Government, with the support of its technical and financial partners, has recently initiated several projects which all aim to launch a land reform process of a transparent, inclusive and participatory nature, with a view to developing and adapting legal instruments to achieve sustainable food security. The study on "the land situation in the agricultural sector and in rural areas" carried out over the period from March to July 2016, with funding from the French Development Agency (AFD) and under the technical direction of the Ministry of Agriculture and consulting firms INSUCO-GRET carried out a diagnosis of the challenges of rural land in the four natural regions of the Republic of Guinea. The diagnosis and the legal review allowed for a realistic description of the land issue and the forms of land tenure insecurity

in the country. A roadmap was drawn up on the basis of the said diagnosis specifying the path through which a rural land policy and legislation will be developed to meet the challenges of securing land tenure for all users of rural land in the Republic of Guinea.

Within this framework and in order to facilitate an open, peaceful and supported dialogue, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in partnership with the Guinean authorities, with the scientific support of the Agricultural and Rural Prospective Initiative (IPAR) and the facilitation of ACORD Guinea, have supported Guinean actors since 2018 for:

- ? The organization of technical meetings and frameworks with all the actors working on land, including the private sector and farmers' organizations ;
- ? Capacity building on the Voluntary Guidelines for Responsible Governance of Tenure in Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security ;
- ? The establishment of the multi-stakeholder dialogue platform for responsible land governance at the national level followed by the development of an action plan (2018-2019);
- ? The establishment of thematic groups for discussions on land issues, and analyzes of legislative and regulatory texts ;
- ? The definition of a clear methodological orientation in order to contribute to the development of an action plan for the holding of the General Assembly on Land Tenure ;
- ? The harmonization of the different land tenure roadmaps (one of the Urbanism Ministry and the other from the Agriculture Ministry).

The Ministry of Agriculture issued a revised version of its land tenure roadmap in May 2021 that will be a great basis of work for the project. The Voluntary Guidelines for responsible governance of land tenure systems applicable to land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security (Voluntary Guidelines) tool is a relevant element for addressing the issues and challenges to be taken up in the context of land issues and food systems. Its popularization and its use in lower and middle Guinea sufficiently prove its effectiveness in the prevention and resolution of land disputes.

Associated baseline projects and initiatives

The country has stepped up its commitments to halt degradation and deforestation, and to restore degraded landscapes. Building on Guinea's call to halt deforestation in its Vision 2040, the overarching National Plan for Economic and Social Development (PNDES) aims at sustainably managing Guinea's natural capital while transitioning towards an economy based on high value agricultural productions and sustainable agricultural practices. The National Environment Policy (PNE) and the National Investment Plan for Environment (PNIE) promote restoration of degraded forests and landscapes and environmentally-sound agriculture ? commitments also highlighted in the agricultural sector frameworks. Over the last few years, Guinea has significantly advanced its Rio conventions agenda.

The strong commitment of the country is demonstrated through the mission of key Ministries and ongoing projects on which this project will build. The project will leverage external baseline investments largely focused on preventing deforestation, promoting agriculture production and productivity for food security and improved livelihoods in agroecosystems where palm oil and rice are a key crops, and facilitating the decentralization processes. While these respond to and recognize the problems of land degradation that affect the landscape, they are not adequate to maximize global environmental benefits nor to address issues operating across landscape, between sectors and among diverse stakeholders. The proposed FOLUR Country Project is well positioned to capitalize on these ongoing investments, by adopting good practices, replicating successful approaches, drawing on expertise and integrating with existing Government led coordination and project implementation systems.

The **Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD)** is responsible for the design, development, coordination and implementation of government policy in the areas of environment,

water and forests and sustainable development and ensure its follow-up. The Ministry has departments working at the national level but also decentralized offices working at the level of prefectures and communes.

The **National Directorate of Fauna and Flora (DNFF)** is a MEDD Department whose mission is to:

? develop and implement the government policies in the areas of conservation and sustainable development of forest, sylvo-pastoral resources in lands subject to the forest regime, as well as the development of hunting, continental fish farming and national parks and reserves.

? coordinate the establishment of institutional mechanisms for the preparation, execution, monitoring and evaluation of government policies in the fight against desertification

? participate in the development and implementation of government policy on rural development.

DNFF has agents at the national level as well as at prefecture and communal level supporting communes to manage their natural resources. The project will support these agents ensuring they have the capacities and means to restore and sustainably manage natural resources and land.

National Agency for Rural Promotion and Agricultural Support (ANPROCA) is a public institution under the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock. Its mission is to elaborate, implement and monitor the governmental policies in terms of rural promotion and agricultural development. ANPROCA has a national unit as well as decentralized services to be as close as possible to the beneficiaries. ANPROCA has 8 centers at the regional level, 33 centers at Prefecture level as well as 3 training centers in Bamban / Kindia, Yatia /Faranah and Tindo/Faranah. The project will support the local agents ensuring they have the capacities and means to promoting climate resilient and sustainable agriculture.

The **National Office of Parks and Reserves (OGPR)** is responsible for the implementation of the Government's policy on the conservation and enhancement of biological diversity in national and transboundary protected areas including areas of hunting interest around the protected areas and to ensure the follow-up. OGPR has agents in all the national parks and reserves and collaborate closely with the DNFF agents on buffer zones management.

ANAFIC invests annually into communal budgets within the selected landscape. The **National Agency for Local Financing (ANAFIC)** was created in 2017 with the mandate to (1) manage the National Fund for Local Development (FNLD) that transfers financial resources to communes according to their Local Development Plan (PDL) and Annual Investment Program (PAI) and (2) provide technical backstopping to communes in their local planning and investments. Enhanced autonomy of communes is a major achievement of decentralization and the result of a long process, supported for 10 years by AFD, World Bank and IFAD through the Programme of Support to Rural Communities (PACV) and more recently by AFD through the Project to support ANAFIC (PANAFIC). Benefiting from well-established procedures and recurrent resources (mining taxes in particular), ANAFIC is entitled to fund communal investments related to education, health, agriculture, livestock, SFM, land use planning and urban development. The GEF project will build on ANAFIC's mandate and strengthen communal capacities to plan and implement green investments.

Guinea Natural Resources, Mining and Environment Project (2021- 2027) World Bank Total USD 65 Million. This project will support Guinea to protect and invest in its natural capital. Activities will focus on environmental management and technical assistance for a sustainable development of the mining sector. This project is articulated around three main components, namely : (A) improvement of the policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks of the mining and environment sectors ; (B) Policies, institutions, governance and economic inclusion of the mining sector ; and (C) Natural resources and environment management. Component C focuses on (i) building institutional capacities of MEDD for improved management and monitoring of PAs ; (ii) strengthening environmental and social standards of MEDD ; and (iii) developing appropriate tools for improved PAs management across the country and piloting them in targeted zones. Those targeted zones include: the Niger river basin (Upper Niger National Park and Ramsar sites of Niger Source and Niger-Tinkisso); Guinea Forest Region (Pic de Fon, Mont Nimba, Di?ck?, B?ro); Kounounkan and marine Protected Areas. As the WB project under its Component A, this project will also work on increasing coordination and participatory planning between the different land use sectors (agriculture, forest, environment, infrastructures,?) at national and local level as increased coherence is the only way to reach sustainability at landscape level. It will support improved sustainable agriculture and forest management for enhanced livelihoods and global benefits (through carbon sequestration for example). The support to private sector engagement in more sustainable practices, and mostly the mining sector is key to this project as mining has a strong (and most likely increasing) land footprint. Guinea has already taken steps to incentivize mining to take more sustainable way and this project will help to do so. The activities of this project will be complementing the World Bank activities under Component B with a strong planning and restoration angle.

The GEF project will specifically work in buffer zones of PAs targeted by the World Bank project under its Component C in the selected landscape. The project will participate to land restoration but also to reducing land degradation risk through the implementation of sustainable agriculture and forestry.

The FAO has several ongoing projects that will be contributing important lessons learnt and expertise to the project. Through the ?Strengthening Cross-Border Social Cohesion between C?te d'Ivoire and Guinea for a better understanding and anticipation of risks and the strengthening of trust and collaboration between local actors (CoSocFront)?, important lessons will be learnt on integrated natural resources planning and the development of coordination mechanisms. Indeed as for this project, it reinforces the coordination mechanisms focusing on land conflict resolution, which are the main multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms currently existing at local level in the project area. The project could also share multi-stakeholder consultation mechanisms in the Lola and Nzerekore Prefectures for example. . The ?Prevention of inter-community conflicts in Forest Guinea through a mutualized economy and improved land governance? focuses on conflict management and land tenure issues resolution. By setting up the bases of improved land governance, including multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms, it will bring an important contribution to the work of this GEF project on multi-stakeholder engagement and land tenure clarification. Finally, as this project has a strong angle supporting entrepreneurship, it will benefit from the lessons learnt and possible exchanges with the ?Support for the Promotion of Youth Entrepreneurship through the creation of poultry farms? project. Even if the thematic will be different the work done by this project on identifying the incubators and other structures able to support entrepreneurship and entrepreneurs will best the GEF project to identify faster the best partners to engage with. Also this project will set up small business plan and business action plans that can be used to develop similar one for sustainable agriculture and restoration oriented businesses.

The **Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism (FLRM)** of FAO is also supporting several projects on the continent as well as regional and global initiative the project will benefit from. It is part of the leading team of the FAO work under the UN Decade for Restoration, with a particular focus on knowledge management and capacity building as well as monitoring. These themes are particularly relevant for this project that will benefit for all the UN Decade activities and dedicated Technical Assistance on topics such as Integrated Land Management, Farmer Field Schools for FLR, FLR management etc.

Further to the above mentioned investments, the project will develop strong partnerships with key **private sector players** in the selected landscape:

SOGUIPAH, the Guinean Society of oil palm and rubber tree that was created in 1987, is currently the only agro-industrial palm oil player in Guinea. SOGUIPAH has an overall concession of 22 000 hectares in Guinea Forest Region, of which about 12 000 could be exploited and 2 500 are planted with commercial oil palm (Tenera) of high yield. SOGUIPAH also supervises family plantations (1 400 over 1 771 ha) and has contracts with small private plantations (1 047 over 1 737 ha). SOGUIPAH also owns and manages an oil extraction plant, producing and directly selling palm oil to local traders (from Nzerekore), and a small soap factory.

The GEF project will partner with SOGUIPAH in order to promote sustainable agriculture practices within its network of smallholder farmers and to strengthen the palm oil value chain by improving the cluster model that includes small enterprises, smallholder farmers, financial and non-financial services providers. Furthermore, SOGUIPAH will play a critical role in the certification scheme development, strengthening dialogue within the palm oil value chain and supporting the agenda for the adoption of climate smart agriculture practices by all the stakeholders.

SMFG, the Society of Iron Mines from Guinea, manages since 2003 an iron-mining concession of 625 hectares in the Mounts Nimba in Guinea Forest Region. The operation of the mining site, located in the close vicinity of protected areas where human activities are strictly regulated and bordering Liberia, will generate pressures on this biodiversity-rich landscape. SMFG has a community development project that is in line with the GEF project's objectives. Indeed the SMFG is currently leading the following activities on Mount Nimba: Stabilization and rehabilitation of disturbed lands; control of bush fires on the mountain; control of invasive species, support to the restoration of the D?r? Forest through reforestation. As part of its community development program, SMFG is planning projects that include land restoration activities around the villages. The main intervention of these projects are :

- Participatory village land planning (followed by actual SMFG support),
- Study on the regional development of the Lola prefecture, and
- Investments in agro-industry (Impact Agri).

Through this community development project, a partnership between SMFG and the GEF project will help promote best practices of sustainable agriculture, biodiversity protection and land restoration around the mining sites.

Also, the GEF project will partner with SMFG and other public and private stakeholders to develop innovative funding mechanisms such as competitive funds, crowdfunding to finance best green projects developed by community-based organizations and enterprises (mainly run by women and youth).

Some other key private partners such as **Simfer (Rio Tinto)**, **SMB** and **Kouroussa Gold Mine** have been contacted during the project preparation phase and have expressed a strong interest to collaborate with this project as part of their community development activities. For example, KGM supports community development micro-projects and as part of its community support program, Rio Tinto established the Rio Tinto Foundation in 2014. This Foundation, which is an independent non-profit organization, aims to promote socio-economic development in Guinea. Its establishment is part of Rio Tinto's ongoing effort to catalyze support local economic development. The Rio Tinto Foundation has a nationwide presence and is active throughout the country. To maximize the Rio Tinto Foundation's impact in communities, the Foundation focuses some of its efforts on the agricultural sector, specifically on projects that increase the country's food self-sufficiency and agricultural productivity. The Foundation does not implement projects; it supports local actors and gives them the means to carry out socio-economic development projects through a competitive fund.

The project will also collaborate with the private sector to define new possible financing streams for sustainable agriculture and restoration building on existing credit lines such as the one already developed by the Islamic Bank of Guinea for medium sized agriculture or on online crowdfunding

platforms gathering the Guinean diaspora support. More information on this is available under the Description of Output 3.1.3. on Innovative Finance

More details on private sector existence and potential collaboration can be found on the Private section of this document (Part II, 1.a. 4).

- c) Proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project and the project's Theory of Change

Theory of change

Under the current scenario, as population pressure increases, and with it the need for food production, especially for key commodities such as palm oil and rice, land is degrading at an alarming rate, forest degradation increases and the productive capacity of landscapes is diminishing. Ecosystem services are dwindling, natural habitats are disappearing and living conditions, especially for the most vulnerable, are worsening. Under the pressure of agricultural expansion for cash and food crops, uncontrolled bushfires and pesticide use, logging for fuelwood and charcoal, and mining activities, a vicious cycle of degradation land and forests is engaged. Political instabilities and the global influence of climate change only worsen these phenomena. Indeed, the project intervention area is already vulnerable to many climatic hazards including floods and bush fires. Rising temperatures and changes in rainfall patterns have been observed and are expected to increase in the future, which will have impacts on the agricultural sector if no adaptation measures are taken..

A real mindset change is needed in order to break the vicious circle and reach the project goal of having productive and resilient landscapes (especially those including palm oil and rice production) sustainably managed in Forest Guinea and Upper Guinea; land degradation is slowed or reversed through inclusive food supply systems, no longer causing deforestation and well integrated into landscapes providing ecosystem services beneficial to all.

IF - multi-disciplinary, participatory and integrated landscape management plans are developed and implemented; consistent and gender-responsive technical assistance on natural resource management, sustainable land use, green value chains and alternative livelihoods opportunities, are provided to local communities enabling them to implement sustainable agriculture and restoration activities; and entrepreneurship and knowledge sharing are promoted allowing for upscaling - THEN food systems will be sustainable and livelihood enhanced- BECAUSE decentralized institutions in Upper and Forest Guinea have the technical and logistical capacity to implement the law and support communities and communities themselves have the skills to implement the plans and greener value chains.

The Theory of Change is presented in Prodoc Annex A3 sets out the causal logic and relationships between the project's outputs (goods and services delivered by the project) and immediate project outcomes (changes resulting from the use of project outputs by key stakeholders), medium and longer-term changes and states, and the project's ultimate desired impact (fundamental, durable changes in environmental and social benefits).

Component 1 is looking at overcoming the following barriers:

- Few multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms on integrated land management;
- No integrated landscape management vision and plan leading to conflicts and mismanagement of plots;
- Little local policy guidance, data availability and capacity to plan and implement sustainable land management;

- Low capacity of public services to ensure support for the implementation and monitoring of sustainable landscape management.

The current situation: A lack of a common vision for land management within the landscapes leads to conflicts and often to unsustainable use of plots with, for example, significant encroachment on natural areas (including protected areas), and often uncontrolled use of inputs and fire. Existing population pressure and the need for basic commodities such as rice (particularly in Upper Guinea) and palm oil (particularly in Forest Guinea) result in high pressure on land and land degradation. The government supports agricultural intensification to meet domestic and export needs. Political will to support integrated land management and more sustainable land management, particularly in agriculture, exists, but this is not translated into concrete measures that can be applied on the ground. The decentralization processes supported by the government, and in particular the commune level supported by technical agencies (ANPROCA for agriculture and DNFF for forests), offer a great opportunity to empower communes to manage their resources sustainably.

The main obstacles to the restoration of degraded landscapes and their sustainable management are the lack of

- specific coordination around a vision and an integrated management of the landscapes, involving all the actors, even the most vulnerable ones, at the national level as well as at the local level (prefecture and commune).
- capacity building for both managers and local actors in the planning and implementation of integrated land management plans.
- policy coherence and concrete leadership for the implementation of more sustainable pathways and a vision for sustainable landscape management.
- of data needed for integrated land planning. Data is often unavailable or lacks capacity at the local level to process it.

The situation with the project under Component 1: The proposed project will structure the political will to increase production in a sustainable manner. To this end, sustainable management and land restoration plans will be defined at the communal level and monitored in a participatory and inclusive manner, based on solid data (*in full compliance with the FOLUR IP Theory of Change*). The implementation of these plans will be supported (also through components 2, 3 and 4) and closely monitored.

To do this:

- Coordination groups on sustainable land management will be supported. The aim is not to create new groups but to support existing groups by including other actors and supporting reflection on sustainable landscape management at the national, communal (13 communes) and village levels.
- The capacities at the national and communal levels of both government officials and civil society will be strengthened for the planning, implementation and monitoring of ILM plans.
- ILM plans are developed for the 11 selected communes. The implementation of the plans will be monitored by the above-mentioned coordination groups with the support of local ANPROCA and DNFF agents. These plans will provide an important basis for greening the LDPs and ensuring that the AIP include sustainable activities.
- Public policies will be made coherent to support truly integrated management, the obstacles to this management such as issues around land governance will be studied and good political intentions (such as that of the PNIASAN) will be translated into concrete actions.

- A data management system (collection and use) for planning and monitoring and evaluation of ILM in Guinea will be developed. This system will include impact measures to measure progress on international conventions.

The main assumptions linked to a proper implementation of Component 1 are the following:

- Partners are ready to collaborate;
- Opportunities to develop a shared landscape vision exist and are attractive.

Component 2 is looking at overcoming the following barriers:

- Low capacity of public services to ensure support for the implementation and monitoring of sustainable landscape management, focus on sustainable agriculture in Component 2;
- Lack of technical and financial capacity of farmers to intensify agriculture in a sustainable way, incl. rice and palm;
- Lack of a certification system to promote a sustainable palm oil;
- Fragmentation and lack of development of value chains leading to unsustainable production systems.

The current situation: Guinea has an extremely low productivity rate, half that of Mali, and one of the lowest in Africa. However, the need for agricultural products is steadily increasing with population growth. This increase is reflected in an expansion of the agricultural area rather than an improvement in yields and farming techniques. This expansion has an extremely negative impact on forests and natural areas that are key to the provision of environmental services on which crops depend.

Current agricultural production in Guinea relies heavily on unsustainable (shifting cultivation, overgrazing) and inefficient practices (lack of access to inputs, improved varieties and mechanical tools). Producers have few opportunities for capacity building, as the national agricultural extension system is weak, and no access to funding to improve their practices. Several projects, including the SARA project, have developed sustainable agriculture techniques applicable in Upper Guinea and Forest Guinea. These experiments are still on a small scale and need to be included in a broader sustainable management framework at the landscape level in order to be sustainable.

Two commodities dominate the landscape, or are likely to dominate it in the near future, following political will. These are rice in Upper Guinea and palm oil in Forest Guinea. The increase in demand for these commodities poses a risk to the sustainable management of landscapes and may increase the vicious circle of landscape degradation. The major risk is the increase in cultivated areas to the detriment of natural areas. In particular, for palm, if the Dura variety, growing endemically and managed within traditional plantations, is replaced by the Tenera variety, with better yields but less taste, cultivated in monoculture on large areas. The cultivation of both rice and palm also results in the release of excessive inputs and environmentally damaging processing waste. The impacts of these sectors on the environment are multiple and growing.

Attempts to develop sustainable palm oil chains have not yet been fully successful. In the absence of inclusive political and technical support and strong cooperatives, palm oil producers and processors remain largely disconnected from sustainable palm oil techniques and chains.

The benefits derived from the increased importance of certain sectors do not extend to all stakeholders, especially the most vulnerable, including women and youth. However, for an integrated and sustainable

management of the landscape, all actors must participate and benefit from the implementation of a common vision.

The situation with the project under Component 2: In order to implement integrated management plans, sustainable land management and restoration practices must be applied where needed within a specific framework.

To do this, the project will promote the adoption of sustainable agricultural intensification (and restoration in Component 3) techniques in the 13 selected communes of Upper and Forest Guinea by training ANPROCA agents, and establishing farmer field schools and lead farmer networks. The proposed sustainable agriculture techniques will be mainly those that have already proven successful and that the project will be able to expand. In addition to large-scale training, 10,000 ha of degraded land will be cultivated in a sustainable manner to prove on a large scale that it is possible to obtain good yields in the long term, to ensure a real sedentarization and to avoid the clearing of new areas. These sustainable agriculture techniques will target rice and palm oil in particular, promulgating models that combine several types of crops for higher agricultural yields and maximization of ecosystem services. This will turn rice and palm oil from threats to assets within sustainable landscapes.

The entire palm oil chain (producers, umbrella organizations, vendors, etc.) will be supported (as favored by FOLUR IP's Theory of Change) from production to sales in order to promote more efficient and environmentally friendly production without sacrificing yields (improved processing). This work will focus on the Dura variety, grown in family farming systems (and still representing more than 80% of production) to make these systems more sustainable. With the support and experience in Liberia (link to GEF 7 project), it will also define standards for larger Tenera plantations (as is the case with SOGUIPHA) to ensure that if they are developed this is done in the most inclusive and environmentally friendly way possible.

In parallel, the process of standard, certification and traceability for Tenera and Dura oils will be developed and producers will be accompanied in the certification process. The objective is to have 5,000 ha of palm oil plantations certified or in the process of certification by the end of the project. Links with buyers of certified oil will be created in order to launch this new competitive sector.

In order to ensure a landscape that benefits all, inclusive businesses (including Producers? Organizations) that are pillars of sustainable landscapes will be supported not only in starting or expanding their operations but also in seeking additional funding.

This work will benefit from the policy frameworks supported in Component 1 but will also contribute to the translation of policy intentions into concrete and popularized actions.

The expansion of sustainable agricultural intensification will be beneficial to the environment and local populations and will also benefit biodiversity, as habitats will be protected on the one hand and expanded on the other, notably through practices such as agroforestry that can create corridors between islands of biodiversity.

The main assumptions linked to a proper implementation of Component 2 are the following:

- Stakeholders are ready to collaborate and implement new practices
- Government wants to push sustainable palm oil and stakeholders are ready for it

Component 3 is looking at overcoming the following barriers:

- Low capacity of public services to ensure support for the implementation and monitoring of sustainable landscape management (focus on natural resources and forests in component 3);
- Lack of technical and financial capacity of farmers to manage natural areas;

- Fragmentation and lack of development of value chains leading to unsustainable production systems;
- Lack of funding and incentives for sustainable land management.

The current situation: Existing forest and protected area management frameworks have proven insufficient to keep remaining habitats of threatened species intact and to maintain the provision of vital ecosystem services. This is particularly true in the buffer zones of protected areas. Agricultural (including livestock) and mining activities have a large ecological footprint due to land occupation, unplanned land clearing, damage to vegetation cover, land, wild and domestic wildlife, and surface and groundwater resources. In a context of agricultural and mining expansion, the preservation of natural resources does not appear to be an immediate issue. However, the drastic reduction of natural areas leads to a reduction in ecosystem services and the entire landscape, including agricultural areas, suffers.

Focused on short-term management, local actors are not aware of the methods and opportunities related to the restoration and rational management of natural areas. The income-generating activities directly linked to these areas are still too informal and not very powerful to defend these areas.

In general, restoration activities are considered non-productive and non-essential in the short term and do not attract funding. In some prefectures, the mining sector is involved in the restoration of natural areas, through direct activities and contribution to funds. With mining activities still in their infancy in Upper Guinea and Forest Guinea, this is a good time to work with these companies on more sustainable practices and restoration activities.

The situation with the project under Component 3: Having natural areas preserved is essential for the sustainable management of landscapes and the survival of biodiversity. The project will raise awareness of the importance of natural lands for their agricultural and commercial activities but also for other activities related to restored lands (PNFL, cultural activities, etc.). These trainings will be done in conjunction with those on sustainable agriculture and integrated landscape management to make it clear that they are a package. As much as possible, the demonstration plots will be close to those used in the school fields.

Farmers will be trained in restoration techniques that have been tested in other projects and that have proven successful, as well as in other techniques that the project will define according to the particular issues of the selected sites. Degraded sites of high environmental importance will be restored and protected through funding from communal budgets and other sources.

As restoration will be more integrate din communal development planning, the project will look for long term financing options for restoration:

- ? through the creation of economic interest related to the restored land, where on the restored land it is possible to have an economic activity (harvesting/benefiting from NWFPs, developing ecotourism, etc.).
- ? via innovative financing options, such as crowd-funding, which has already proven successful in Guinea, or specialized lending or match-making operations. The project will support both small local initiatives and one or two larger projects to scale up this work.

The project will support the development of enabling conditions for innovative financing and will support the efforts of private companies willing to engage in this direction. This work will benefit from the policy frameworks supported in Component 1 but will also contribute to the translation of policy intentions into concrete and popularized actions.

By restoring the natural spaces essential to the development of favorable living conditions, biodiversity will once again be able to flourish and offer its benefits.

The main assumptions linked to a proper implementation of Component 3 are the following:

- Strong experts are available to build capacities;
- Stakeholders are ready to collaborate and implement new practices;
- Financing options for integrated land management exist.

Component 4 is looking at overcoming the following barriers:

- Low capacity of public services to ensure support for the implementation and monitoring of sustainable landscape management;
- Lack of technical and financial capacity of farmers to intensify agriculture in a sustainable way, incl. rice and palm and manage natural areas;
- Inadequate and unshared knowledge and information on the status of natural resources and sustainable management options;
- Lack of ownership and knowledge of the benefits of environmental services.

The current situation: Lack of capacity and information on sustainable landscape and plot management practices is a recurring problem. As is the lack of awareness of the direct impact of unsustainable practices on the living conditions of those who practice them.

Information exists but is not centralized because it is managed project by project. The knowledge isn't share in a systematic way using means that are appropriate to each target audience.

Also, due to its absence from regional and international forums, Guinea cannot share its experiences with other countries, nor can it benefit from the experiences of others.

The situation with the project: To overcome the lack of capacity and information, specific materials adapted to each type of target audience will be developed (videos, audio content, technical sheets, etc.) using both existing knowledge in Guinea and elsewhere and the project's achievements. The adaptation of the materials and messages will allow the project to reach its target audiences directly.

The project's achievements will be discussed with the project's stakeholders during participatory systematization workshops. The products of these workshops will be widely disseminated.

The project will ensure active participation in person and online in knowledge sharing and strengthening activities proposed by the FOLUR PI at the regional and international level.

The main assumption linked to a proper implementation of Component 4 are the following:

- Stakeholder are ready to gather, share and receive knowledge

Through the implementation of the project, the following midterm impacts are expected:

- Participatory integrated land management plans implemented at the landscape level
- Active participation of public authorities in the development of integrated land management
- Dissemination of good agricultural practices in productive landscapes
- Expanding sustainable palm oil, rice and other commodity chains to reduce the impact on deforestation
- Increased financial flows supporting green business and restoration

- Virtuous circle of national and international communication to support sustainable landscapes

Through the implementation of the project, the following longterm impacts are expected:

- Integrated planning for the restoration and sustainable use of forests and landscapes
- Reduction of threats to ecosystems and sustainability of production systems
- Improved living conditions for forest and natural resource dependent populations with diversified livelihoods
- Maintain or increase ecosystem services in productive landscapes
- Deforestation-free palm oil and rice value chains

Project description

The project objective is to promote sustainable and comprehensive food systems that are deforestation free and provide ecosystem services, with a focus on palm oil productive landscapes. In order to achieve this the project will be implementing the activities as explained above and detailed below. The project will support and reinforce the decentralization efforts led by the government of Guinea. The project will support activities at national level to ensure national coherence and replicability. In terms of local planning and implementation of the field activities, the project will support the communes, through agriculture and forest extension officers (respectively from ANPROCA and DNFF) to be able to plan for integrated natural resources management and restoration activities, integrating these activities into their Local Development Plans (LDP) and their Annual Investment Plans (AIP). The project will support these activities through budget given by ANAFIC to each commune in order to implement its AIP. Usually the green investments aren't prioritized in communal budget, this project, and the sustainable financing mechanisms it will create, will start a new dynamic of green activities planned, implemented and monitored at communal level. In order to achieve these results the capacities of local agents of the 3 agencies (DNFF, ANPROCA and ANAFIC) will be built. Once the model is proven successful it will be easily replicated in all of the other communes.

The expected results at the project level are the following:

Indicators	Final target
# of ha of land covered by participatory ILM plans supporting sustainable food systems	150,000
#communes implementing a Local Development Plan (LDP) and an Investment Plan including integrated land management activities	13
# of ha of land restored following the implementation of the ILM plans (contributing to Core Indicator 3)	10,000
# of ha under improved practices following the implementation of the ILM plans (Contributing to Core Indicator 4)	15,000
# tCO ₂ e emissions mitigated through project activities over a 20-year period (direct) (Contributing to Core Indicator 6)	6,187,155
# of direct beneficiaries (disaggregated by gender) (Contributing to Core Indicator 11)	30,000 (15,000 women)

Component 1: Collaboration for and development of integrated landscape management systems

In this component, the proposed project will structure the political will to increase agricultural production in a sustainable manner. To this end, sustainable management and land restoration plans will be defined at the communal level and monitored in a participatory and inclusive manner, based on solid data. The implementation of these plans will be supported (also through components 2, 3 and 4) and closely monitored.

Outcome 1.1 Planning, monitoring and enabling conditions enhanced for integrated landscape management.

Indicators	Final target
# of multistakeholder mechanisms, with equal representation for male and woman, developed or strengthened to plan and monitor ILM and FLR	25
# stakeholders trained in ILM planning and implementation	300 (including 150 women)
# of ILM participatory plans developed	13
# of policy frameworks updated to foster ILM	3
# of integrated national land use planning and monitoring system	1

Output 1.1.1. Intersectoral and multistakeholder (including private sector) coordination and collaboration mechanisms established and / or strengthened at national and landscape level to plan and monitor ILM and FLR

In order to ensure a common vision for land management in a landscape, the various stakeholders must meet frequently and agree on a long-term vision for that landscape. There are many existing coordination mechanisms at the national, regional, prefectural, communal, and local levels, but very few of them bring together all the actors interacting within a landscape and address integrated landscape management, sustainable agricultural intensification, and forest and landscape restoration.

The project will build on existing groups to ensure sustainability and strengthen them in terms of participation (by adding new partners, especially from the private sector) and thematically.

The existing groups that can be reinforced are the following:

At the national level, a **National Inter-ministerial Committee for the Coordination of Forest and Landscape Restoration** (CNCRPF) was created in 2019. This committee, placed under the chairmanship of the Ministry of the Environment, Water and Forests, is responsible for coordinating programs for the restoration of forest and landscapes in Guinea. As such, it is responsible for:

- animation and support of forest and landscape restoration initiatives;
- support for the assessment of opportunities for forest and landscape restoration;
- overseeing the development of the national forest and landscape restoration strategy;
- validation of programs and projects related to forest and landscape restoration;
- supporting the national FLR team in mobilizing financial resources;

- the organization of mid-term reviews of various forest and landscape restoration programs and projects;
- the synergy of different interventions in landscape restoration.
- capitalize on the results, political, technical, legal instrument and harmonize the interventions of the different actors.

This group reports and makes proposals to the **National Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development (CNEDD)**. The FLR group works closely with the Climate group which has approximately the same membership to ensure alignment of activities.

At the regional and prefectural level, important groups for sustainable land management exist, such as

- The **Prefectural Committees for Monitoring Environmental and Social Management Plans (CPSES)**, whose mission is to monitor and supervise the implementation of Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) for projects carried out in the various prefectures;
- The **Permanent Framework for Stakeholders Consultation on Food Security and Nutrition (CPCSAN)** for the Kankan region proposed by the World Food Program (WFP) and ratified by the Governor of the region. It integrates all the sectoral technical services that come under the Governorate. Its role is to assist the governorate in the effective involvement of sectoral services, CSOs and the private sector in the implementation of the PNDES and other national and sectoral policies related to food security at the regional level for a harmonious and balanced development.

At the commune level, **Claims Management Committees (CGR)** or **Local Consultative Committees (CCL)** and at the local level **Conflict Management Committees** are effective coordination mechanisms.

[Activity 1.1.1.1 Strengthening of the group on Forest and Landscape Restoration \(FLR\) at the national level](#)

Within the framework of the project, at the national level, the CNCRPF will be strengthened so that it can best represent the various governmental, non-governmental, and private actors that have an impact on land use. Its objective will be to support the development of an enabling environment for the integrated management and restoration of productive landscapes in Upper and Forest Guinea. This group will support all aspects of the project by creating knowledge exchanges (best agricultural and restoration techniques) and links with certain actors (i.e. at regional and international levels such as linkages with the Round Table for Responsible Palm Oil and buyers of certified oil, for example). It will also monitor the work at the public policy level (Output 1.1.4.) to ensure its relevance and dissemination. Land tenure issues, which are key when it comes to land use, will be at the centre of discussions at both national and local levels. The work of output 1.1.4 will be supporting this work.

[Activity 1.1.1.2 Strengthening commune-level groups for Integrated Land Management \(ILM\) planning and implementation](#)

On the ground, the communal level seems the most appropriate for defining integrated land management plans and the local/district level for implementing these plans. Within this framework, the existing coordination groups at the commune level will be expanded and strengthened for the planning and implementation support of ILM and FLR. These groups support the mayor and his deputies who are responsible for defining the Local Development Plans (PDL) in collaboration with the local communities. Supporting them on ILM and FLR issues will help them strengthen this dimension in the

LDPs and associated Annual Investment Plans (AIPs). Representatives from the prefectures and regions will be invited to these meetings to report on progress and obstacles encountered at the communal level.

Activity 1.1.1.3 Strengthening district/village level groups for ILM planning and implementation

At the local level, conflict management committees will be expanded to have representation from all land users. These committees will serve as platforms for discussion, exchange and decision making on the planning and implementation of integrated land management plans. It is at these meetings that decisions will be made on the implementation of various sustainable agriculture and landscape restoration activities. These coordination committees will also be in charge of monitoring regulations and popularizing the tools created by the project so that the regulatory frameworks are known by all in order to limit conflicts and risks to natural areas. Local implementation of regulations by better-informed stakeholders can have a significant impact on threats to natural resources. For example, raising awareness on rules/legislation for bushfire management, wood & charcoal collection and access to bushmeat could lead to greater social and communal control to limit these phenomena. A better knowledge of public policies in terms of land governance could also lead to discussions and agreements between actors, facilitating a calmer climate around these sensitive issues and increasing the confidence of local stakeholders investing in their lands.

The Project Management Unit (PMU) will be in charge of expending and supporting these groups and resources are allocated to allow for regular meetings.

Output 1.1.2. Technical capacities of national and local authorities to plan, implement and update integrated green land use plans, enhanced

Activity 1.1.2.1 Organization of national and local workshops on ILM planning and implementation

Integrated land management is a new topic and few stakeholders are yet able to implement it. In order to promote this key element of the project, sensitization and training workshops will be organized for authorities at the national level and at the commune level, the scale at which integrated land management plans will be developed. These training sessions will cover the following topics: what is integrated land management, why is it important, what are the roles of the different stakeholders, what is an integrated land management plan, its development process, the main steps, the stakeholders directly involved in its development, the stakeholders involved in its implementation and the monitoring mechanism of the plans.

The trainings will take place over 2 days, in Conakry at the national level and in each of the 13 selected communes at the local level. They will involve 25 participants each (with a male/female parity). The participants in these trainings at the national and communal levels will be staff from national or decentralized technical services (such as ANPROCA and DNFF agents), as well as respected local personalities strongly involved in land management who will then be able to support these processes and the other national and local stakeholders involved. These participants will be key to the management and facilitation of integrated land management groups at the local and national levels (see output 1.1.1. above).

These trainings, supported by international expertise, could be delivered by the DNFF at the national level and by NGOs or institutions at the local level, as the topic of integrated land management is still new in Guinea. The NGOs and institutions present in the project's target areas and competent in the field of integrated land management are the following

- ? **Institut Sup?rieur Agronomique et V?t?rinaire de Faranah (ISAV/F)** which has Masters? programs in Land Conservation Management and Integrated Ecosystem Management Methods. The objective of this Masters is to carry out activities of management and restoration of the lands allowing to stabilize the producers to lower the pressure on natural resources in particular the slopes, the hills, the banks of the big rivers as well as the heads of source.

- ? **R?seau d'Appui au D?veloppement Communautaire et ? l'Education Civique de Guinée (RADEC-GUINEE)** in Kanan, which has experience in capacity building on many topics including good governance, natural resource management, agriculture, conflict prevention, management and resolution, and Producers Organisation support techniques (animations with visual aids, advice and close follow-up, organization, structuring and functioning).
- ? **Association for the Protection, Improvement and Enrichment of Forest Resources (APARFE)** in Kissigoudou, which focuses on supporting community development through sustainable management and rational use of natural resources (protection and preservation of the environment, promotion of sustainable agriculture, fish farming, local governance, valorization of non-timber forest products, income-generating activities (IGAs) as well as capacity building (animation, awareness raising and training in rural areas).

Output 1.1.3. Integrated land use plans for the target landscapes developed based on field and remotely-sensed evidence and on stakeholder engagement

The implementation of integrated land management plans is key to ensuring that each parcel of land has a long-term, agreed-upon use by different land users. This prevents the uncontrolled expansion of commodity crops such as rice or palm oil. It helps maintain ecosystem services and better integrate crops into a sustainable landscape.

Activity 1.1.3.1 Organization of workshops to raise awareness and train local actors in ILM

Following the training of national and local authorities (Output 1.1.2.), local stakeholders will first be sensitized on the project in general and on their roles and responsibilities in integrated land management, and then on the planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of integrated land management.

These trainings will take place in each commune and will specifically engage key stakeholders in the commune's targeted district for which an integrated land management plan will be implemented. These workshops will be similar to those described in Output 1.1.2 but will be adapted to the local level. These workshops will be organized in synergy with the development of ILM plans (activity 1.1.3.1. below) as a direct application of the good practices discussed during the workshops.

Activity 1.1.3.2 Development of local ILM plans (at least 13)

Integrated land management plans will be developed with the help of local partners who will be the same as those involved in the training to ensure consistency of activities. Government facilitators such as those from ANPROCA and DNFF, for example, will be trained in the field and will be able to replicate the techniques for defining integrated land management plans in other communes/prefectures.

In order to carry out these plans, socio-economic studies of the village territory will be conducted and participatory mapping of the plan area will be carried out (based on accurate GIS maps). For the collection of the data, technical capacities on the application of appropriate tools (SEPAL, Collect Earth OpenForis) and methods (Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM), Green Negotiated Territorial Development (GreenNTD) for land use assessment and planning will be strengthened. These data will be integrated into the database developed in Product 1.15.

At landscape level, the project will use proven methods for participation and engagement of local stakeholders, such as the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) to develop integrated landscape management plans. This methodology is currently being applied in the District of Faranah, this experience in the area of the project will be very useful as it will provide local data and experience on how to collect and organize data. In order to develop the plans, all existing geographic and socio-economic data will need to be used. For this it will be important to make an inventory of these data (in collaboration with Output 1.1.5.). For example, climate data from the UNDP/GEF project "To strengthen the climate monitoring capabilities, early warning systems and information for responding to climate shocks and planning adaptation to climate change in Guinea" will be particularly

important to ensure that these plans take climate change into account. Considering that the project will support districts in 13 communes in the definition of integrated land management plans, more than 150,000 ha of land will be covered by ILM plans developed in a participatory manner and based on solid data. It is on the basis of these plans that the location of sustainable agriculture and restoration activities will be decided and implemented.

This activity will be led by external partners, most likely NGOs involved in the ILM training. They can be supported for the data gathering and GIS data by other NGOs or contractors. This activity is one of the keys of the project success and should get the attention of all the implementation partners and PMU members.

Output 1.1.4. Agriculture, forestry and land tenure policies and legal frameworks updated and coordinated to foster ILM, restoration of degraded landscapes and deforestation free agricultural development

Activity 1.1.4.1 Coordinating different public policies to support ILM

Guinea has many policies related to sustainable development (see Part II 1.a Context v. Policy Context). The aim is to make these policies coherent, since some of them may be contradictory, particularly when it comes to land tenure. This will involve a study of agricultural and forestry policy instruments and a focus on changes that could be made to strengthen the sustainability of land use. To this end, a study will be conducted and recommendations will be made that will be taken up by the national group on FLR during roundtables dedicated to the topic.

Activity 1.1.4.2 Supporting the application of enabling policies on agriculture, forest and tenure

As detailed in the context section, the intentions of the government in favour of sustainable management of natural resources are clear in national level policies. However, this is not disseminated/promoted at the level of the prefecture and communes, limiting the impact of these measures, particularly in terms of agriculture and forestry (sustainable agriculture and reduction of deforestation) and land management.

Land tenure and agreed use is a key topic when working on sustainable land management. It is even recognized in the National Economic development plan (PNDES): "Land tenure security and equitable access to the earth remain an imperative to eliminate hunger and poverty, sustainably support socio-economic development, and maintain social peace between the different user actors. This perspective calls for a review of the legislative and regulatory framework in this area, in particular: the Land and Land Code must be revisited to allow coherent management of land holdings in rural areas through a better defined rural land component". Since the issuance of the PNDES, several organizations such as the World Bank and the French Development Agency are working with FAO on the topic and a roadmap was drawn up specifying the path through which a rural land policy and legislation will be developed to meet the challenges of securing land tenure for all users of rural land in the Republic of Guinea. It is within this framework that the FAO introduced in Guinea the Voluntary Guidelines for responsible governance of land tenure systems applicable to land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security. The lessons learned acquired from the land tenure national platform set in motion by FAO will be leveraged to convert the existing policies into actions. This project will support the application of these Guidelines at the local level where they are the most needed in close collaboration with the WB and AFD and following the revised Land Tenure Roadmap issues by the Ministry of Agriculture in May 2021. The project will participate in the definition of the new land tenure policy until 2023 and its application starting in 2024. The project will ensure the dissemination and popularization of this work (together with AFD that has already planned the development and popularization of the agricultural land policy) and the existing policies supporting rural land tenure and voluntary guidelines for responsible governance of land tenure. As specified in the Roadmap, local level coordination groups will be involved in the definition of the land tenure tools and will be a good means of disseminating this information. Indeed, the clarification of land tenure issues is a key element for integrated landscape management.

The project will also support in component 3 the certification processes of palm oil at the national level, implementing the governmental will of sustainable development of the sector as indicated in the PNIASAN.

These 2 activities will be supported by a policy expert recruited by the PMU and through workshops at the local levels. The NGO ACCORD has experience in land tenure discussions and should be involved in the process.

Output 1.1.5. Integrated national land use planning and monitoring system including forestry data in place with data sharing protocols, and used to report on national and international commitments (Rio conventions and LDN Targets, Bonn Challenge, AFR100)

Guinea does not currently have an integrated land use monitoring system. Some independent databases exist, but access to them is often restricted.

This is the case for the MEDD databases on meteorological data or the SIM-SIPAG platform for monitoring food prices of the National agricultural statistics agency (ANASA) supported by the World Bank. Partnerships and memoranda of understanding will need to be established with these organizations in order to share data. However, some data are also available to all, such as those of the National Statistics Institute, which groups together data on various development or growth indicators. As a first activity, a survey of available data in Guinea should be conducted.

The REDD Readiness project in Guinea supported by the Green Climate Fund and led by FAO, which is expected to start in 2022, will also be an important source of data generated during the establishment of the reference state. These will include land use, land use change, status maps, land use maps, etc., as well as statistics on forest cover change.

To overcome the lack of an integrated data management system (collection and use), a system for planning and monitoring-evaluation of ILM in Guinea will be developed. It will be a web-based portal that will present the evolution of land status and key data for land management such as the location of important biodiversity areas, socio-economic data, etc. It will include data collected at the local (see Component 2 and 3), national and international levels via platforms such as Collect Earth Open Foris, the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT), etc. This system will be located within MEDD/DNFF. It will be used for both planning and monitoring of integrated land management and will include impact measurements in order to follow progress on international conventions commitments (Rio Conventions and NDT targets, Bonn Challenge, AFR100). It could be implemented by an external entity such as UNIQUE, which has done similar work in different countries.

Component 2: Promotion of sustainable food production practices and responsible value chains

In order to implement integrated management plans developed in component and supported by a strong enabling environment, sustainable land management and restoration practices must be applied where needed within a specific framework. The component 2 focuses on the adoption of sustainable agricultural intensification techniques in the 13 selected communes of Upper and Forest Guinea by training ANPROCA agents and establishing farmer field schools and lead farmer networks. The proposed sustainable agriculture techniques will be mainly those that have already proven successful and that the project will be able to expand. They will cover a large set of sustainable agricultural intensification practices. Rice and palm oil are two commodities on which the project is particularly focusing due to their current and projected impact on the landscape. The project will be supporting sustainable palm oil value chain and certification processes. This includes supporting inclusive business economically sustaining a livelihood linked to improved eco-friendly practices.

Outcome 2.1 Agricultural land within mixed rice and palm oil productive landscapes managed sustainably and responsible value chains promoted

Indicators	Final target
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# stakeholders implementing climate-resilient and ecologically sound agricultural practices (including sustainable rice, agroforestry with palm trees, etc.) ? including 50% of women	13,000
# ha of palm plantation (Dura and Tenera) under improved practices	3,500
# groups trained and equipped for improved palm oil transformation	15 (at least 50% of the groups are female-led)
#inclusive business (small and large) with a sustainable and growing activity (50% female led)	20 (50% female led)
# ha of palm oil plantation in process of certification	5,000

Output 2.1.1. Climate-resilient and ecologically sound intensification models implemented in smallholder production systems of the selected landscape over 10,000 ha

In order to widely disseminate sustainable agricultural intensification practices, the project will support and strengthen ANPROCA's network of agents, which is present in all regions, prefectures and rural communes of Guinea. ANPROCA currently has 1,036 agents and a large network of agricultural advisors at all levels including the communal level. It works in close collaboration with the National Institute of Agronomic Research (IRAG) and development NGOs. It has agricultural advisors who contribute greatly to the dissemination of agricultural techniques.

The technical and logistical capacities of these agents at the communal level will be strengthened to be able to animate a large network of farmer field schools and lead farmers in order to be able to directly modify the agricultural practices on 10,000 hectares.

The funds necessary for the implementation of certain sustainable agriculture practices will be managed directly by the communes, which will have received them from ANAFIC, according to their Annual Investment Plan. This will allow a real appropriation of these new practices at the local level.

Activity 2.1.1.1 Identification of the implementation sites and engagement of the concerned communities and stakeholders

Within the pre-selected districts and based on the ILM plans, areas suitable for sustainable agriculture intensification and restoration will be identified. Communities and landscape stakeholders will have already been sensitized to sustainable landscape management and agreements will be signed with the communities where activities will take place. Communities will receive capacity building and inputs for sustainable agriculture, restoration, sustainable oil palm cultivation, etc., and in exchange, they will commit their land and labour for agricultural and restoration activities.

This activity will be carried out by the project management unit in close collaboration with the decentralized services in charge of monitoring the implementation of the projects (ANPROCA, DNFF) and will ensure the inclusion of women and youth in the activities.

Activity 2.1.1.2. Strengthening the technical capacities and means of ANPROCA agents to support sustainable agriculture

? Update existing practices tested by the Acorh/PNAafa/DEFMA projects and adaptation to the local context

The project will build on the achievements of the ACORH, PNAafa and DEFMA projects (cf section Part II/1.a/1./vii Previous experiences) that have already developed and tested curricula on sustainable agricultural intensification:

- The ACORH project (Amélioration des capacités des organisations des fili?res riz et huile de palme - 2009/2015) has developed good practice guides for rice and palm oil. It has also disseminated agro-ecological practices and the rational use of pesticides and fertilizers.
- The PNAFAA project (Programme National d'Appui aux Acteurs des Fili?res Agricoles), whose objective was to improve the income and food security of the rural poor in a sustainable manner, contributed to the creation of the Support Center for the Production of Plant Material (Centre d'Appui ? la Production de Mat?riel V?g?tal) in Bangoueta (Forest Guinea). This center has an important didactic character for the producers of the surroundings, with theoretical and practical trainings to the different production techniques (grafting, setting up of nurseries, etc.). These trainings are provided by farmer leaders trained with the support of the IRAG of Sereidou and ANPROCA.
- The main objective of the DEFMA project (Development of the Market Gardening Sector in Lower and Upper Guinea) was to contribute to the economic and sustainable development of the market gardening sector by strengthening the capacities of CSOs (Civil Society Organizations) and producer organizations. In its implementation, the following practices were used: crop association, the home garden, "seasonal" rice-market gardening rotation, mulching, fertilization with farmyard manure, the use of vegetable ash in vegetable gardens, and composting.

After an extensive study, the ACORH project selected 16 practices presented below, 10 of which were selected and tested (highlighted in blue) by 44 lead farmers with the support of the S?r?dou research center. These techniques allow for sustainable agricultural intensification by combining several crops, which increases yields on a plot without depleting the soil. The agroecological practices are simple, inexpensive and easily appropriated by the producers. In most cases, these practices have been identified and tested with farmers. The constraints related to weed control, the harmful effects of pesticides and the high cost of chemical inputs in general are deterrents when simple and productive alternatives are presented.

Agro-ecological zone	Agroecological practices tested by the RPs (in light blue) among the identified practices
Rice-growing hillside	Rice-pulse (peanut, cowpea or soybean) - rice succession (with a short cycle variety)
	Succession (rice-pigeonpea)-pigeonpea-(pigeonpea-rice) with alternate strip association
	Mucuna or Pueraria used as green manure
Rice plain	Pueraria used as green manure
	Rice-pulse-rice rotation with stubble burial
	Off-season market gardening in the plains

Lowland rice fields	SRA (improved rice growing system) / SRI (intensive rice growing system)
	Rice and duck association
	Vegetable and pulse associations in off-season
Palm oil slope	Development of young palm groves with food crops in rotation
	Agroforestry association palm and pigeon pea
	Soil cover by Pueraria
	Enhanced firebreaks (with cowpeas, peanuts or mucuna)
All zones	Biopesticides against pests and diseases in the field
	Compost of rice straw and/or palm stalks with or without animal manure
	Agroecological methods of cowpea seed conservation

Based on the curricula developed by the previous projects, ANPROCA with the support of IRAG, and in consultation with the communities will define the most appropriate practices for the project's pilot districts and, thanks to the experience of the previous projects, will revise the curricula to ensure that

they are as effective as possible. The chosen practices should support sustainable agricultural intensification but also have a positive impact on carbon sequestration and biodiversity and be as accessible to women and youth as to men.

? **Training of ANPROCA agents as advisors/facilitators for sustainable agriculture systems**

In each of the rural communes concerned by the project, two ANPROCA agents will be identified and will receive theoretical and practical training on sustainable agricultural practices, including market gardening and agro-forestry (particularly in systems with palm trees). This training will be provided by the Bordo agricultural research center in Kankan for agents from Upper Guinea and the Sereidou regional agricultural research center for agents from Forest Guinea. This training session will last five days, including two days of theory in classrooms and three days of practice and observation in the experimental fields of the research centers. Training materials will be designed for this purpose and will be made available to ANPROCA's agricultural advisors. A researcher and his assistant will ensure the training in each center.

? **Training of ANPROCA agents on the implementation and management of Farmer Field**

Schools (FFS)

The Farmer Field School (FFS) is a group of 20 to 25 people meeting once a week to cultivate a training plot throughout a growing season and learn together to solve production problems. The principle is to grow a healthy crop, to observe all the interactions around the plant, to identify potentialities and constraints, to experiment with solutions and to choose the most promising technical itinerary best suited to the context of the producer. FFS facilitates the integration of techniques, taking into account both the capacities of producers and the natural resources available. The FFS allows empirical learning about agricultural production techniques in relation to the ecosystem. This approach is very well known and appreciated in Guinea by technical services, producers' organizations and NGOs. This approach has already proven itself and allows for a wide dissemination of best practices.

After the training on sustainable agriculture practices, ANPROCA's agents will benefit from training on the FFS establishment and management in order to be able to promote sustainable intensification agricultural practices with producers. The training will take place in Faranah for the 26 facilitators. This training will last throughout the period of a field school (several months) with return trips to the training center to exchange and improve the training. ANPROCA will be in charge of this training because it already has experience in establishing FFS. This training will allow the knowledge and experience of some agents to be shared more widely.

To ensure that the FFS will be established in the right way, support by an international expert (provision of pedagogical material, progress monitoring, etc.) and a national expert will be provided. Materials will be developed and made available to facilitators.

[Activity 2.1.1.3. Awareness raising and training of stakeholders on sustainable and climate-smart agricultural practices and establishment of FFS and lead farmers' networks](#)

? **Raising awareness on sustainable and climate-smart agricultural practices**

Sustainable agriculture options are still little known in the project area despite the very promising experiences mentioned above. An effort to raise awareness among the population will therefore be necessary to create a movement in favor of sustainable practices. Awareness campaigns will therefore be conducted jointly by ANPROCA agents and environmental NGOs present in the project areas. A campaign will be conducted at the beginning of the project to launch the project and recruit motivated farmers for the FFS. Another one will be conducted at mid-project to continue the momentum and launch the lead farmers' network in order to increase the impact of the project. During these awareness sessions, women and young and vulnerable people will make up 50% of the audience. This sensitization will be done in conjunction with the one planned in component 3 on the promotion of restoration.

? **Identification of sites and setting up of farmer field schools**

Each ANPROCA agent will take care of 6 FFS over a period of 3 years. In total, 156 FFS of an average of 0.25 ha will be installed by the agricultural advisors trained by the Bordo and Seredou agricultural research centers in the 13 rural communes covered by the project.

25 learners, at least 50% women and youth, will be identified by FFS with an emphasis on the "voluntary" aspect. The exact themes of these FFS will vary according to the context and will be defined with the communities once the target areas are definitively decided.

The learners will meet at least once a week around the FFS to follow the different steps of the technical itinerary with the facilitator. Regular supervision missions will take place to ensure that the activities are going well and that the technological packages are being put into practice.

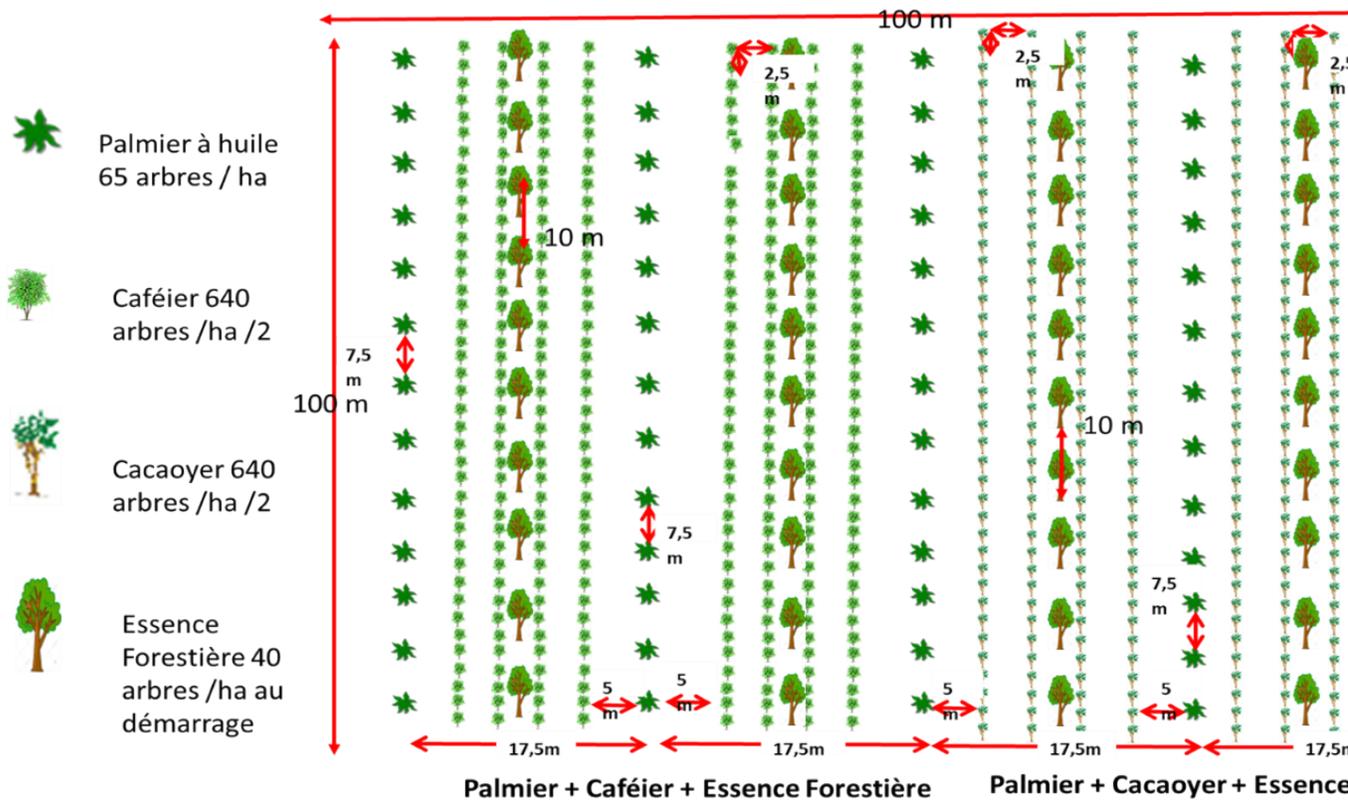
During the FFS implementation particular attention will be paid to the FFS conditions of success[1]:

- Identify motivated people who are facing production constraints and challenges, and then organize meetings to raise awareness and inform producers about the FFS concept, its advantages and requirements; involve the targeted groups of producers in all stages of the FFS installation;
- The following selection criteria must be met in order to choose the right learners: be a member of a farmers' organization, know and know how to use the crop chosen for the FFS, be available at least one morning per week, have a willingness to adopt innovations and share them (understand and give back), be literate (for at least 20% of the people chosen);
- Identify "resource" people who are willing to participate in the FFS process and make a significant contribution to the search for solutions to alleviate producers' constraints (researchers, technicians, extension workers);
- Consider the following criteria when selecting a FFS facilitator: fluency in the local national language (oral and written), experience in agriculture, facilitation skills - report writing, availability and patience, and ease of contact with the research;
- Choose innovations and technical solutions that are adapted to the context, whose effects are scientifically recognized and that respond to the constraints uncovered in the diagnosis. To this end, products and equipment to implement these FFSs must be available nearby; collect appropriate didactic material to explain and make the technique well understood;
- Take into account the occupations and concerns of women and men: in the programming and description of activities, for the implementation of conditions of accessibility of the site, for the organization of work, but also in the choice of technologies and the definition of training schedules;
- Select men and women to carry out the functions of animation and facilitation with a view to equitable involvement of producers according to their role in the crop concerned.

The technology packages developed will be based on the greatest needs of the site. Issues related to the sustainable cultivation of rice and palm oil will be central in these regions.

For palm oil, a specific FFS is planned, covering a larger area of 1ha. It will involve setting up agro-forestry zones associating the oil palm with the coffee or cocoa tree and forest species in a special reasoned arrangement to build agro-forestry systems. One of the possible model is presented below:

Schémas du dispositif des parcelles d'Apprentissage – GEF-Mano / IRAG - GUINEE



The objective of the participatory approach is to get the village community to experiment with the practice in their own area starting in the second or third year of the project. A community agroforestry nursery will be developed in a participatory manner. The seedlings from this nursery will be sold at preferential prices to the farmers who have participated in its installation. The project plans to offer this particular FFS in 6 sites, mainly in Forest Guinea.

? Dissemination of good practices: organization of open days and identification and training of Lead Farmers

At the end of the FFS, an open day mobilizing 70 people per FFS will be organized to raise awareness and share the results with the community. On this occasion, 5 lead farmers, including at least 2 women, will be designated and presented to the community.

Lead farmers are selected producers who are resident, credible and capable of conducting training. Their role is to train other farmers in the community on the technical messages transferred to them by the coaching services during the FFS. They contribute to the dissemination of innovations within their community and remain present in the community on a long-term basis. This approach, which is well known to the actors and technical services, has already been successfully tested in Guinea.

Each lead farmer will be trained and monitored by ANPROCA and commit to train between 3 and 5 other farmers per year for 3 years, which will allow to reach 10,000 farmers. In order to ensure the best conditions for these trainings, these lead farmers will benefit from a specific training on the role of lead farmer and facilitation techniques. They will also benefit from a "mentor" type follow-up from ANPROCA and IRAG agents.

The FFS and lead farmers experience in general, and in West Africa in particular, has shown that the sustainability rate of this type of methodology is very high because it is very practical, hands-on and

field-based. The farmers themselves can see the results and their economic, social and environmental benefits.

In order to maximize the FFS impact, they should be developed in close collaboration with farmers' groups and associations. These organizations often already have extensive experience in knowledge dissemination methods and even in FFS. Indeed, farmers in Guinea are often organized into groups and umbrella associations/federations. A good example of this is the Federation of Rice Producers' Unions of Upper Guinea (Fédération des Unions de producteurs de riz de Haute Guinée), whose vision is "Rice producers living off sufficient and sustainable production, grouped together in a well-managed regional organization and effectively defending their interests at the regional, national, sub-regional and international levels. This Federation, which operates in 8 prefectures of Upper Guinea and 57 rural communes, has 44,287 members, including 13,990 women and 27,326 young people in 1,549 grassroots groups and 135 unions. It has already received support from various projects that have strengthened the capacities of its members in a large number of areas (integrated water and pesticide management, production intensification ...) and even has two agro-ecology advisors. Other umbrella organizations could be very interesting to increase the scope of the project such as

- FEPRORIZ (Federation of Rice Producers' Unions)
- FUPROBEK (Federation of Unions of Shea Butter Producers of Upper Guinea)
- FUCPIS (Federation of Cooperative Yam and Sesame Producers)
- FUPROMA (Federation of Maize Producers' Unions of Upper Guinea)
- FEREPPIAH (Regional Federation of Oil Palm and Rubber Planters)
- FUMA (Federation of the Maraichères of Upper Guinea-FUMA)
- REHDURA GF (Dura Oil Network of Forest Guinea)

The project will also work in close collaboration with other projects in the target areas that are working to open up and promote markets so that production can be sold while limiting losses. These include the AGRIFARM project supported by IFAD. Partnerships could also be set up to ensure outlets for some commodities. In Guinea, for example, FAO has set up a partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP) to ensure that WFP programs are supplied with rice from sustainable agriculture. This partnership has 2 pillars: (i) WFP's commitment to procure sustainable rice locally and (ii) the improvement of rice production systems in a sustainable manner with a particular focus on adaptation to the new climatic conditions and the signing of agreements between producers and WFP-supported processors to deliver a product according to the quantity and quality set in the agreement. This system helps to strengthen the resilience of local producers by increasing their income while strengthening the food and nutritional security of the children who benefit from it in school canteens. This type of partnership could also be sealed during the coordination meetings at the national, communal and local levels promoted by the project (see component 1).

This activity will be led by ANPROCA with the support of IRAG for some parts of the capacity development as described above.

[2.1.1.4. Support for longer term settlements and reduction of agricultural expansion](#)

The dissemination of sustainable agricultural intensification practices through the FFS and lead farmers' networks will help improve soils and reduce the expansion of agricultural areas. The project will also support other key activities to increase longer term settlement of agricultural production, avoid its expansion and adapt to climate change. Indeed, climate change also leads to a modification of cultivation conditions (increased flooding periods, etc.) and requires adaptations.

? Lowland development/rehabilitation

The lowland areas are important for agriculture, especially for women's market gardening. Unfortunately, more and more often these areas are abandoned because they are damaged by floods. The agricultural zones are then extended on the hillsides which were until then natural and/or forested zones. It is therefore important to rehabilitate the lowlands by improving water management. The two techniques used will be:

- ? Type 1: Plot planning and dike construction (for rainwater)
- ? Type 2: Type 1 + drain installation in the lower part to accelerate the evacuation of water during the flood

In addition to reducing encroachment on the hillsides, in exchange for the rehabilitation of 60 ha (the average costs/ ha being around 3,000 to 3,500 USD/ha), the communities or beneficiaries will commit to the protection or rehabilitation of at least 3 ha of watershed or degraded agricultural land. In these areas, the project will make available fruit or perennial crop plants to serve as a buffer zone as well as a source of food and income. The farmers benefiting from the low land rehabilitation programs will have to commit to maintenance.

? Capacity building of seed farmers (SF) for the production of seeds adapted to the current climatic conditions

This support consists of setting up a sustainable system for supplying quality seeds, particularly in the face of climate change, to rice producer groups/unions. Thirty-three seed growers will be selected and trained within the FFS on the technical itinerary for producing quality seeds. With the support of the agricultural research centers, resilient farmer seeds that are valued by the communities will be selected and then produced. These farmers will be supported technically and with inputs to produce quality seeds that meet both climatic requirements and consumer taste. In the project area, some farmers have been supported by the SARA project in growing and managing improved rice seed. These farmers will be an excellent base for replicating and expanding this activity.

A portion of the improved seed production will be purchased by the project for distribution to other farmers engaged in FFS and sustainable agricultural intensification practices. This will provide both (i) a direct outlet and incentive for seed farmers to open seed stores and (ii) quality seed for farmers to receive and grow in their own fields, significantly increasing the impact of the project.

2.1.1.5. Implementation and scaling up of sustainable agriculture practices

At the end of the FFS and thanks to the lead farmers, many farmers will have acquired new sustainable agriculture techniques. Some of these techniques can be applied immediately because they do not require any particular investment, while for others, the project plans to support the launch of certain activities, provided that they can then be maintained without the project.

Like the low land rehabilitation support activities, these activities will be managed at the communal level, with budgets coming from communal funds paid by ANAFIC according to the PDL and PAI. All these activities will be supervised by the ANPROCA communal agents trained by the project. In particular, these activities will include :

? Technical and input support to rice farmers in the application of agroecological practices:

Mucuna used as green manure for rice on the hillside. 2800 ha covered

In most cases, slash-and-burn agriculture is applied on the slopes, sometimes with tree falling, causing massive destruction of the ecosystem, and fallows are becoming shorter and shorter as the population grows.

The use of cover crops or green manures will allow producers to control erosion, soil fertility, weeds, etc. The presence of these plants contributes to the reduction of bush fires. Each beneficiary will commit to harvest the Mucuna seed and both reuse it and distribute it to others through the network of lead farmers for the following 4 years.

? Technical and input support to rice farmers in the application of the agroecological practice:

Rice - Pulse - Rice succession. 2800 ha covered

The succession of rice - pulse - rice is also a practice that settles the farmers. The nutrients absorbed by the rice are largely compensated by the pulse (groundnut or cowpea), which is also a source of income for the producers.

The positive effects of these techniques (reduction of operating costs, improvement of yields, protection of the ecosystem) coupled with the advisory support of ANPROCA agents will encourage appropriation by producers and eventually large-scale extension. Here as well, each beneficiary will commit to harvest the legume seed and both reuse it and distribute it to others through the network of lead farmers for the following 4 years.

? **Support to rice-fish farmers**

The rice-fish farmers receive technical support from the PISCOFAM project and need to obtain small equipment for the installation and maintenance of their ponds. The project will provide equipment, as rice-fish farming is particularly important for settling and not expanding onto the hillsides. To ensure the sustainability of this equipment, management committees will be formed at the level of the beneficiary groups to ensure that a low cost rental system is established. The funds generated by this rental fee will allow for the renewal of the equipment. The acquisition of the equipment will contribute to an extension of the rice-fish perimeters, an increased protection of the water sources and a liberation of the hillsides. This support will cover 250 ha.

? **Support for the development of market gardening**

Market gardening is an important activity for women, especially after the rice harvest. The women are aware of the effects of chemical inputs on market gardening produce due to the reduction in storage time. Through the FFS, they will learn simple agro-ecological techniques they can apply within their group and their respective perimeter.

Ten women's market gardening groups will be identified by CR according to their dynamism in the field and their proximity to a water source to be supported with small tools. A total of 130 groups will be involved, i.e. at least 2600 women beneficiaries for 1,300 ha. Systems for renting tools will also be set up in order to have the necessary funds to renew the tools and ensure the sustainability of the project.

It is important to note that all the necessary inputs and tools will be sourced locally and in particular from the inclusive small and medium enterprises that are supported by the project, thus creating a real dynamic within the landscape.

Output 2.1.2. Stakeholders' capacities strengthened with knowledge, equipment, tools and trainings (e.g. FFS at farmer's level) for a more efficient and responsible palm oil value chain from producer to buyer

As noted in the Context section, there are two main varieties of palm oil in Guinea: Eighty-five percent of palm oil is produced from the low-yielding Dura variety that grows in natural stands and is managed by small farmers, and the remaining 15 percent is produced in oil palm plantations (mostly managed by the Soci?t? guin?enne de palm ? huile et d'h?v?a (SOGUIPAH)), from the improved variety Tenera. The Dura variety has a lower yield but organoleptic qualities that are highly appreciated by consumers.

Southern Guinea is the country's palm oil production area par excellence. Oil extraction is an economic activity practiced mainly by women, which makes it a major contributor to household income and food security.

The palm oil sector is organized around these two main varieties with strong federations such as the Dura Network, an inter-professional organization that brings together groups and unions committed to producing 100% dura oil of better quality, or the F?d?ration R?gionale des Planteurs de Palm ? Huile et H?v?a (FEREPHA). As for SOGUIPAH, it is the most important industrial activity around palm oil, but other medium-sized companies are becoming more and more important in the project area.

The palm oil industry includes many actors:

- growers (self-sufficient, large growers, investors, small growers),
- climbers (who collect/cut the bunches from the natural palm trees),
- extractors,

- collectors/merchants (single, shippers, retailers)
- wholesale traders (from the assembly and distribution markets, shippers, exporters),
- retailers, transporters.

In addition to the operators of the artisanal sector, indirect actors include support structures (project, government technical services, etc.), input suppliers (pre-sprouted seeds, fertilizers, insecticides, etc.), and manufacturers of agri-food equipment (mixers, oil presses, crushers, etc.).

The diagram below illustrates the main players in the sector:

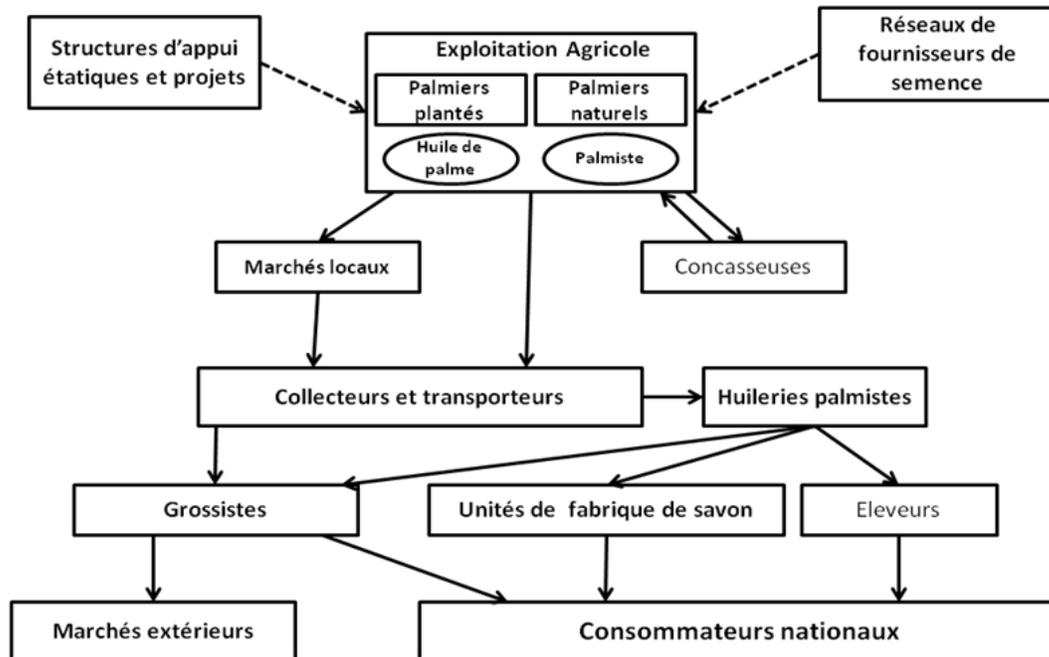


Figure 6: Main actors of the sector in Forest Guinea (Haba M., 2010)

With the government's stated goal of increasing the amount of oil produced, there is an urgent need to ensure that this is done in a sustainable manner throughout the chain, from producer to seller. To this end, the project will support sustainable development activities at the Dura and Tenera producers, processors and traders.

2.1.2.1. Capacity building for sustainable palm oil production

Forest Guinea is a very favourable area for the exploitation of oil palms due to its agroecology. It has approximately 38,000,000 trees with the presence of a very large natural stand that constitutes a real asset for the country compared to those in the sub-region. However, these natural palm groves are threatened by human activity and are gradually diminishing. Improved plantations have expanded over the past ten years in Forest Guinea, covering approximately 55,000 hectares. It is therefore urgent to safeguard the activity of natural palm groves and to make the more industrial plantations more sustainable.

? Capacity building for the promotion of natural stands (Dura) by increasing yields

The promotion of natural stands of Dura is a key so that these natural stands managed in a sustainable way by the local communities are not replaced by monoculture plantations of the more productive variety, Tenera. For this, the improvement of yields will be sought. A contribution in organo-mineral fertilizer, manure, can significantly increase the yields (from 50% to 100% more).

The Seredou research center will facilitate the development of demonstration plots in natural stands in each of the targeted rural communes of Forest Guinea. Control plots will be delimited near the demonstration plots. Organo-mineral fertilizer will be applied to improve the productivity of natural palms.

Following the demonstration sites, technical support and inputs will be provided to improve the productivity of an average of 2,500 ha of natural stands. The Dura Network and FEREPHA, through their members, will participate in the process and continue this activity in collaboration with ANPROCA. Indeed, once the increase in yields is clearly demonstrated, investment in manure will make sense for the farmers.

? Development of young Tenera palm groves with food crops in rotation + Use of Pueraria under palm trees older than 2 years

The Tenera variety is generally planted as a monoculture, which is problematic in terms of biodiversity, and uses land inefficiently as the space between plants is very rarely used. The Tenera palm lends itself to agroforestry and this model should be promoted.

To complement the agroforestry models promoted through the FFS, and with a view to increase the rational use of young palm groves, crop rotation will be encouraged and supported both technically and with inputs. In year 1, short-cycle rice (sowing in June - harvesting in October) will be planted between the seedlings, then groundnuts will be planted: sowing in October - harvesting in December, followed by another cycle of rice sown in May. 300 ha will be concerned by this activity.

For palm groves older than 2 years, the project will work on improving the herbicides used. In the past, planters used to manually clear the weeds, but now herbicide use is gradually taking over to the detriment of the plant and biodiversity in general. To reverse this trend, the project will promote the use of pueraria seeds, which are both a green manure and an effective weed control agent. 800 ha will be concerned by this activity.

These two activities will be sustainable as they allow the planters to earn income from the beginning of the plantation, by efficiently using the spaces between plants, rather than waiting 3 to 4 years. This income will cover food needs on the one hand and the costly maintenance of the plantations on the other. The use of pueraria reduces maintenance costs (including the purchase of herbicide) and improves soil quality. Also, the farmers will not need to buy seeds again, those initially used will be reused for several years and shared with other farmers to increase the impact of the project.

? Initiate a partnership with SOGUIPAH for the adoption of agro-ecological techniques in industrial plantations (those of SOGUIPAH) and family plantations (those of the farmers)

The Soci?t? Guin?enne de Palmiers ? Huile et d'H?v?a (SOGUIPAH), created in 1990, is today the only agro-industrial company in the country with a capacity of 10 tons per hour. It has an industrial plantation of 2500 hectares and supports 1700 hectares of family plantations.

The company's purchase of palm fruit from households with family plantations creates a relatively secure source of income for these families, while private planters in the same locality have little stable income.

However, in the SOGUIPAH area, one of the major constraints is that local populations do not have enough land to develop food crops, thus condemning them to monoculture (palm and rubber). This is a threat to the biodiversity and resilience of local communities.

In order to encourage SOGUIPAH and the farmers participating in the "family plantation" project to adopt agro-ecological techniques in their plantations, the project will establish a technical partnership with SOGUIPAH. Within the framework of this partnership, techniques promoting crop diversification to enable family planters to be more resilient will be proposed. Technical exchanges between ANPROCA, DNFF and SOGUIPAH technicians will be organized in order to harmonize technical itineraries with environmental and biodiversity preservation techniques. Training sessions for trainers will be organized jointly by the stakeholders. This support will enable SOGUIPAH and its farmers to achieve the objectives of the environmental plans developed.

All the above activities will be achieved through a close partnership between IRAG and ANPROCA. IRAG will provide the support to initiate and test the good practices and ANPROCA, through the trained agents, will support upscaling.

2.1.2.2. Improvement of processing conditions and waste management

Currently in Guinea most of the transformation, and especially the extraction, is done with old-fashioned means and manually, which is very painful, especially for the women usually in charge of this work, and leads to important losses. These losses means that it is necessary to have more palms to achieve a given production. The processing conditions have a direct impact on the number of hectares of oil palm plantation needed for local food and export.

In order to reduce the drudgery of the work and to improve yields, the project will facilitate the acquisition of extraction kits and will provide training in their use. To guarantee the sustainability of this equipment, committees will be formed at the level of the beneficiary groups for better management of the income, which will then be redistributed internally and will allow for renewal when the equipment is amortized. The beneficiary groups will contribute 15 to 20% of the cost of the kits. The kits will be made available as a priority to 15 well-structured and organized groups (8 for Dura and 7 for Tenera), capable of mobilizing community participation funds. Women led groups will be particularly supported. The kits will be purchased by the communes and the training and follow-up will be carried out by the MGE in collaboration with GRET.

However, the processing of palm oil has a high environmental cost, especially due to the discharge of wastewater into rivers or nature and the piling up of physical waste.

In order to promote a sustainable industry, two processing platforms will be built to reduce the environmental impact. These platforms will be buildings where processing will take place (using some of the kits mentioned above) and where waste will be managed in a sustainable manner. Indeed, the facilities will be composed of evacuation pits that will channel the effluents from the extraction of red oil to avoid polluting the environment. These effluents will then be transformed into organic fertilizer (which can be used in the FFS for example). Water management will also be rationalized. These buildings will be built in a sustainable manner and managed by umbrella organizations/federations that will seek to make them a center of attraction for the surrounding farmers and extractors who have an impact on the environment and/or work in arduous conditions (especially women). The management committees of these centers will commit to ensure the maintenance and to renew the equipment if necessary (via membership fees).

Output 2.1.3. Inclusive business models catalyzed (addressing, inter alia, women empowerment, innovative finance, market access) in collaboration with cooperatives and private sector

An inclusive company is defined as a company that includes the most disadvantaged people in its workforce but also in the decision making process within the company. In the context of the project, this includes enterprises of all sizes. Agricultural enterprises that integrate family farmers in their systems are considered inclusive if they respect the rights and welfare of all. These are businesses that are both profitable and environmentally and socially responsible.

Inclusive businesses are characterized by:

- ? Vertical and horizontal relationships between actors
- ? Accessibility for small producers, women, vulnerable groups
- ? Trade practices according to the requirements and specificities of small producers
- ? Effective distribution of profits
- ? Common goals and shared responsibilities
- ? Participatory decision making

The project will focus on inclusive businesses working in the palm oil sector to improve this key developing sector, but may also support other businesses supporting sustainable agriculture.

Inclusive businesses can be of any size, but the approach to supporting them varies by size as detailed below. Small and medium-sized businesses will be supported to help them grow responsibly. The positive experiences of large companies that have successfully grown in an inclusive way will be disseminated. And the project will also help these large companies to overcome the barriers they are currently facing with this model.

2.1.3.1 Identification of inclusive entrepreneurs and enterprises (formal and informal)

In the project area, a first assessment of inclusive enterprises of all sizes, both formal and informal, has been undertaken during the project development phase. These comprise small, medium and large private enterprises as well as cooperatives, groups and umbrella organizations that are rural associative enterprises.

In the palm oil sector, these include the large company Soci?t? Guin?enne de Palmier ? Huile et d'H?v?a (SOGUIPHA), the medium-sized company Sophie Anne Company, and the producers' and processors' cooperatives, the Dura Network and FEREPPAH presented above. Indeed, the latter are recognized as enterprises by the legislation of the Organization for the Harmonization of business Law in Africa (OHADA).

SOGUIPAH, which manages rubber, palm and rice plantations, has an oil mill, a soap factory and a coagulum processing plant, and is the largest company in Guinea with over 3,600 employees. It operates according to a family plantation model with which it has contracts.

Established in 1997, Sophie Anne Company is a company that produces and markets natural palm oil, and agricultural products such as honey, cassava, soybeans, and dried leaves (cassava, potato etc...) from Forest Guinea. The company has a red palm oil processing unit that meets CODEX standards. Sophie Anne's palm oil is organic and produced by local farmers. It is a hand-pressed oil from the fruits of the indigenous oil palm tree. The oil is extracted using traditional techniques and in hygienic conditions.

This identification process must continue, especially for large-scale farmers who are still in the informal sector. Thus, a complete mapping of inclusive enterprises should be developed at the beginning of the project implementation by the incubator that will then train the selected enterprises.

2.1.3.2. Support for small and medium-sized inclusive entrepreneurs supporting sustainable agriculture

? **Training of entrepreneurs through a coaching program**

Small and medium-sized entrepreneurs often lack support to turn their business into a real success. The key areas for improvement are:

- ? formalization of informal enterprises
- ? management training
- ? access to financing
- ? support for production equipment (small tools) and processing equipment

? existing possibilities for expansion, particularly through the development of clusters (see 2.1.3.3. below)

A coaching/mentoring program will be developed that brings together experienced entrepreneurs and "start-up" entrepreneurs to enable the latter to progress and reach their potential. Ideally the work will be done in incubators with mentors physically present in the area. A particular focus will be placed on women and youth entrepreneurs. The selection of beneficiary entrepreneurs will be made on the basis of criteria defined by the incubator in charge of the activity and the PMU in consultation with the stakeholders and tools such as RuralInvest will be used. A total of 20 palm oil (and sustainable agriculture) entrepreneurs will be trained through this model.

Before launching this program, discussions should be led with the FAO (FLRM team) and UN Environment Team who worked with Bridge for Billions on The Factory, a program geared to support FLR entrepreneurs through coaching. Indeed this program will be in its second round already and a lot of lessons have been learnt.

? **Inclusive SME grants and exchange visits**

In order to enable the trained entrepreneurs to apply the skills and knowledge received during the trainings, the project will provide the most motivated entrepreneurs with small production and processing equipment. The beneficiaries will be selected through a competitive process. At least 10 projects will benefit from this grant. The Project Management Unit (PMU) will closely monitor this process conducted by the incubator in charge of building the capacity of inclusive enterprises.

In order to stimulate inclusive SMEs to the maximum, exchange visits will be organized. This will create or strengthen market linkages for inclusive enterprises, especially for certified oil producers, through exchange visits to neighboring countries (Liberia, Senegal, Mali, Gambia, etc.). The linkage with the GEF 7 IP program in Liberia will

2.1.3.3. Promotion of inclusive models, especially through clusters, within medium and large companies

In working with medium and large enterprises, responsible contract farming/out-growers schemes is one business model that can sustainably increase investment in agriculture while preserving the livelihoods and incomes of smallholders. However, irresponsible contract farming practices carry many risks for small-scale producers and the private sector (risk of dependence on a large buyer, asymmetry of bargaining power, etc.). In order to ensure mutual benefits for all, contract farming must be implemented in a reasoned manner. Building on the experiences already existing in Guinea will be particularly relevant.

? **Sensitization and training of medium and large companies and other actors in the palm oil sector on the functioning of clusters/out-growers schemes**

The strengthening of commercial links between companies and small producers is essential for the development of the palm oil and other sectors. The cluster/out-growers approach is an effective solution for a win-win partnership between the actors of a local value chain. Indeed, this approach consists in creating or strengthening commercial links between a company and small producers located in the same geographical area. The company provides technical and/or financial assistance through service providers (training, advice), agricultural inputs and credit. In return, the small producers, either individually or in associations, deliver their products to the large company in accordance with the terms of the contract between them (product quality, price, delivery times, etc.). Thus, for example, a company can process more raw material without increasing its own footprint on the land, but by buying the raw material from small producers.

This approach, also promoted by the GEF 7 project in Liberia, will be promoted to sustainable agriculture stakeholders, with a particular focus on the palm oil sector in the target landscapes. The sensitization will start with a small group of volunteers (one or two companies such as Sophie Anne & Co for example, a few small producers, the local technical services and service providers such as

training NGOs and microfinance institutions). The presence of a neutral actor is essential to facilitate contacts and the first exchange meetings between cluster members. The NGO Maison Guinéenne de l'Entrepreneur (MGE), with the support of the Professionals for Fair Development (GRET), has experience in this area and could lead this activity.

? Establishment of clusters around local palm oil production companies

Awareness raising and training on the cluster approach will lead to the establishment of two or three "pilot clusters" grouping a few voluntary actors in limited geographical areas. Other actors will join these clusters as and when the benefits to members become visible. Lessons learned from the process of setting up the first pilot clusters will help improve the process of expanding existing clusters and setting up new clusters in other areas. The establishment of clusters is a process that can take several months or years, depending on the degree of openness and commitment of the different actors. The NGOs MGE/ GRET could also implement this activity by drawing on the experience of SOGUIPAH (see below).

? Capitalize on the experience of SOGUIPAH and other companies in other countries (cf Liberia and CI's experience) to prepare the ground if there is an expansion of larger companies.

SOGUIPAH is the main inclusive company in the palm oil sector in Guinea, covering 6,083 ha, of which 4,900 ha are family plantations. It provides 3,600 direct jobs, many other indirect jobs and collaborates with 6,000 palm and rubber planters. SOGUIPAH's industrial and family plantations are located in the sub-prefectures of Diékou and Bignamou in the prefecture of Yomou in Forest Guinea. In addition to palm and rubber trees, several other agricultural activities are developed to support the planters participating in the family plantation project, namely: beekeeping, fish farming and rice farming.

With regard to the structuring of the farming community, the project has helped to improve the self-help capacities of farmers. Thus, 87 farmers' groups and two unions have been created in the Gbeinson and Niakor activity zones. These farmers' organizations defend the interests of the farmers and contribute to local development by building and maintaining community infrastructures with their own funds.

However, there are still problems that need to be addressed in order to establish a sustainable system:

- ? The farmers do not know/fully understand the contents of the different agreements with SOGUIPAH
- ? The unilateral setting of product prices (palm kernels and coagulum) by SOGUIPAH, without involving the growers
- ? The small scale of community development actions despite the needs in health, education, agricultural activities, opening up of remote areas, etc.
- ? The delays in the payment by SOGUIPAH
- ? The purchase of products from private plantations by SOGUIPAH at the same prices as those of family plantations, while the private planters have not received any subsidy from the company.
- ? The lack of awareness among the population of SOGUIPAH's social and environmental responsibilities towards these communities
- ? Inadequate environmental protection measures (air pollution by dust)

It is important to synthesize the experience of SOGUIPAH in order to share it with other companies that are embarking on the definition of clusters and push for the development of responsible clusters (see activity above). If the palm oil sector developed as planned by the government, more large companies will emerge (some medium size companies are already gearing up towards this). It will be

key that they have the right tools to develop and that the government supports them in growing sustainably.

The need to develop and promote environmentally friendly industrial agriculture practices is imperative for any country aspiring to its food security and environment. It will therefore be important that the experiences of good practices of the main actors in the palm oil sector in Guinea be widely disseminated to the main national decision-makers (CNOP-G, Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Agriculture, IRAG, etc.), but also to international institutions and the general public. To this end, case studies will be conducted as well as an evaluation. The results of these activities will be published through appropriate channels and shared with the IP FOLUR platform.

The NGOs MGE/GRET can lead this activity with the support of the PMU and DNFF and ANPROCA.

? Support for the strengthening of the consultation framework between producers, SOGUIPAH and state structures.

Beyond simply noting the obstacles faced by actors wishing to develop inclusive agriculture, such as SOGUIPAH, the project will support the strengthening of frameworks for dialogue between producers, SOGUIPAH (or other inclusive enterprises) and government services in order to find solutions to the problems encountered. These frameworks will improve communication, strengthen mutual trust and relations between the different actors. They will also provide good practices for the expansion of models such as SOGUIPAH's.

This activity will be led by the PMU with support from the MGE/GRET.

? Promotion of investment opportunities for inclusive businesses in agribusiness

This activity will be carried out through two events, a forum and a roundtable, which will bring together current and potential investors in the agro-industry related to the palm oil sector and the main actors of the palm oil sector involved in inclusive businesses. These events will be an opportunity to exchange and create new contacts for possible investments. This activity will be organized by the PMU in coordination with the Ministries of Agriculture and Environment and Water and Forests and APIP (Guinean Agency for the Promotion of Private Investments).

Output 2.1.4. Sustainable palm oil standards, certification and traceability schemes developed and implemented

In order to support a quality palm oil sector, it is important to support the implementation of standards, certification and traceability systems for sustainably produced palm oil. This effort must also be supported by a strong commitment from the government to promote sustainable palm oil. The project will support this process on the Dura and Tenera chains at the national level. This will be a first step towards certification in order to mobilize exporters towards international certification to attract buyers when the Guinean market develops further in the coming years. Indeed, most of the palm oil produced is currently consumed locally and domestically. Most exports are made at the regional level, particularly to Gambia, Senegal and Mali, where international certifications are not yet fully valued. However, the concerted efforts of the various FOLUR projects in the region (and in particular working together with the FOLUR project in Liberia) will help create a dynamic for the supply and demand of certified products.

2.1.4.1. Development of certification systems (Dura and Tenera) responding to local needs

? Government commitment to mandatory national sustainable oil certification

International certification is still seen in Guinea as a long and costly process with an uncertain return on investment given the small quantities exported compared to the quantities consumed locally. However, the implementation of a certification system for sustainable oil production is necessary for the sustainable development of a rapidly expanding sector and must be supported by the government.

The political will to support a sustainable palm oil sector exists but must now be put into practice. The project will work with the government to obtain a firm and quantified commitment to have at least 50%

of palm oil production nationally certified by 2030. To achieve this, exchange and coordination groups with all stakeholders in the sector will be organized, building on the work of reviewing the specifications for sustainable palm oil in Guinea (activity below). This work will be led by the PMU supported by the MEG/GRET.

? Review of the specifications for the sustainable production of "sustainable" and "quality" natural palm oil

A set of specifications for the production of Dura palm oil, as well as a good practices guide for the production and extraction of palm oil, were developed with the support of the SARA project (Food Security, Resilience and Agroecology in Guinea, led by GRET and MGE among others). This process led to the development of a quality charter that was validated by the Ministry of Agriculture. However, the charter has not yet been signed by the various ministries involved. Moreover, although some aspects of sustainability have been taken into account, the project will initiate reflection and discussion sessions involving all the main actors in the palm oil sector as well as the technical services concerned to amend the said documents by deepening the aspects related to sustainability (beyond those of quality) in order to align them with the project's objectives and international recommendations. These specifications and charter will be based on the High Conservation Value (HCV) or High Carbon Stock (HCS) approaches as defined by the various certification bodies. These approaches will help to maintain and reinforce the key points of the social and environmental sustainability of a landscape. Thus, the specifications, the guide of good practices and the charter will be amended and will bear both the words "Sustainable" and "Quality".

The PMU will lead the discussions with the different ministries involved for the practical organization of this amendment process. This activity will be carried out by the MGE/GRET in coordination with the project's experts in sustainable agriculture and biodiversity.

? Finalization of the certification process for Dura oil

This activity consists of 1) the final validation of the Sustainability and Quality Charter by all the departments concerned (Agriculture, Commerce, Industry & SME) 2) the audit of African Intellectual Property Organization (AIPO) to register the collective mark; 3) the hiring of an international auditor/certifier who will carry out the first audits and certifications on at least 500ha.

In addition, two training workshops will be conducted by MGE on the certification process, international sustainability and quality standards, roles and responsibilities of each category of actors, etc.

? Launch of the certification process for Tenera oil

This activity consists in: 1) the elaboration of the specifications, the guide of good practice and the charter of sustainability and quality for Tenera oil with the main actors involved in the sector; 2) the validation and signature of the documents elaborated by the Ministries of Agriculture, Trade and Industry & SMEs; 3) the conduct of the process at the level of OAPI, which will audit and register the collective mark; 4) the hiring of an international auditor/certifier who will conduct the first audits and certifications on at least 500ha.

In support of these activities, two training workshops will be conducted by MGE on the certification process, international sustainability and quality standards, roles and responsibilities of each category of actors, etc.

2.1.4.2. Capacity building along the value chain to enable certification to take place

Certification proves that the oil has been produced and processed in a sustainable manner and is of high quality. Output 2.1.2. builds the capacity of producers to implement sustainable practices from production to sale. Beyond that, for a value chain and its product to be certified, the value chain must function properly and the quality of the oil must be testable.

? Training of the Dura Network and FEREPPAH members in management, simplified accounting, entrepreneurship, self-promotion, credit management, value chain operation, etc.

The good governance and structuring of the commodity chains are evaluation criteria in the certification process. This activity will concern approximately 2,500 producers, via farmers' organizations (groups, cooperatives, unions, federations, networks). The "training of trainers" approach will be adopted. The identification of beneficiaries will be done with a view to reaching the project's objective of 5000 ha of certified palm oil plantation. Given that the average size of the plantations is 2ha, it is expected to reach about 2,500 planters. This activity will be carried out by the MGE, which has the experience and expertise.

? **Training of tasters on the quality control of palm oils**

Upstream support is very important to ensure the production of a quality controlled palm oil, so that the buyer is satisfied. This control is both visual and organoleptic. It requires tasters to be trained in tasting. A total of 60 people will be trained through two sessions conducted by the IRAG of S?r?dou. These people will be selected in the different palm oil production areas.

? **Strengthening the analytical capacities of the IRAG laboratory**

The quality control of the oil requires serious analysis by a specialized laboratory. Indeed, the results of laboratory analysis are essential for the issuance of the quality control certificate by the National Office of Quality Control (ONCQ of the Ministry of Commerce). Currently, Guinea does not have a laboratory capable of analyzing palm oil according to international standards, which leads few exporters to send samples of their oil to Senegal for analysis in order to obtain ONCQ certification.

The IRAG S?r?dou (Macenta) laboratory is located in the project area and has specialists, but the equipment is aging and no longer meets international standards. The project will renovate the mini-laboratory, equip it and train its staff. This support will strengthen the national certification system and set up all the elements for international certification as well.

2.1.4.3. Support for certification campaigns

Once strong government commitment is secured and national certifications are in place and tested, the project will replicate the certification process on 4,500 ha to reach the total goal of 5,000 ha under certification. Based on the costs of Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) certification in Liberia detailed in Grow Liberia. 2013. *Oil Palm Market System Analysis*. Prepared for USAID/Liberia Agribusiness Development Activity (LADA), the average cost per hectare is estimated to be slightly above US\$21.5/ha, for baseline studies and recertification after the first year. The reported costs are as follows:

- ? HCV mapping US\$5/ha
- ? Environmental and Social Impact Assessment US\$6/ha
- ? Initial certification US\$3.5/ha
- ? Recertification US\$7/ha

Farmers supported by the project will be required to commit to continuing the certification process for at least three more years. Specialized auditors will be recruited to implement this audit.

Once a certification system is in place in Guinea, Guinean palm oil will be more attractive to international markets. And all the elements will be in place to have this process start up quickly. This strategy is also the one adopted by Liberia as discussed with the CI project palm oil expert.

Component 3: Conservation and restoration of natural habitats

In order to implement integrated management plans developed in component and supported by a strong enabling environment, sustainable land management and restoration practices must be applied where needed within a specific framework. The component 3 focuses on the adoption of restoration activities

in the 13 selected communes of Upper and Forest Guinea by training DNFF agents and establishing farmer field schools and lead farmer networks. The proposed sustainable restoration options will be mainly those that have already proven successful and that the project will be able to expand. The project will also support the development of Non Timber Forest Products (NTPF) value chains to create more benefits from the restored or protected areas and generate more interest for them. The project will also work on finding innovative ways to support restoration and sustainable integrated landscape management on the long term.

Outcome 3.1 Degraded sites of high environmental value restored and protected

Indicators	Final target
# ha of degraded farmland and forest under restoration/rehabilitation and improved management.	10,000ha, incl. 2,000ha in partnership with mining sector
# NWFP value chains supported	4
# MUS\$ raised through innovative financing mechanisms (50% of the funds going to women-led initiatives)	4

Output 3.1.1. Restoration practices that will enhance the biodiversity and long-term climate-resilience of degraded forests and agrosylvopastoral systems implemented in selected sites of the landscape

As with the activities for the development of sustainable agricultural intensification methods, which rely on and strengthen ANPROCA's local network, the activities of this component rely on the DNFF's network. Indeed, the DNFF has a network of field agents present in all communes. However, the DNFF agents in the field often need technical and logistical capacity building to be able to support the communes in the best possible way. The implementation of the activities will also depend on ANAFIC agents working with communities to fund the activities through the communal funds.

3.1.1.1 Awareness raising and identification of areas to be restored in the communes (8000 ha)

This activity will be carried out in close collaboration with ANPROCA and the communes in the definition of ILM plans. As detailed in Activity 2.1.1.1, based on these plans developed in a participatory manner, including all landscape partners, agreements will be signed with the communities where activities will take place. These agreements, based on the ILM maps, will detailed where restoration (as well as other activities such as sustainable agricultural intensification) will take place. Communities will receive capacity building and inputs for sustainable agriculture, restoration, sustainable oil palm cultivation, etc., and in exchange they will commit their land and labor to sustainable agriculture and restoration activities. Special attention will be given to the participation of women and youth in these activities.

The choice of pilot communes and pilot districts has been and will be made according to the importance of the sites for biodiversity. When defining integrated land management plans, the location of areas to be restored will be based on their importance in protecting a sensitive area for biodiversity, such as the buffer zone of a protected area, or connecting 2 important biodiversity areas.

3.1.1.2. Capacity building and implementation of restoration activities with local communities (8000 ha)

In order to prepare and implement the restoration activities, the same activities as those described in detail in Component 2 (output 2.1.1.) for sustainable agricultural intensification will be led: training of trainers agents, implementation of restoration FFS and development of lead farmers? network on restoration will be implemented. The difference being that DNFF agents will be the ones trained and

will be the trainers within the restoration FFS. The main activities for the preparation and implementation phase of the large-scale restoration activities are:

? Training/Upgrading of DNFF agents as advisors/facilitators for restoration activities

In each of the rural communes concerned by the project, ideally two DNFF agents will be identified and will benefit from theoretical and practical training/upgrading on restoration practices. This will make a total of 26 agents trained. This training will be conducted by the Heads of the Prefectural Water and Forestry Sections (DNFF agents as well) in the Prefectures.

? Training of DNFF agents on the implementation and management of the Farmer Field Schools (FFS)

After the training/upgrading on restoration practices, DNFF agents will benefit from training on the establishment and management of farmer field schools (FFS) in order to be able to promote environmentally friendly agricultural practices with producers. The training will take place in Faranah for the 26 facilitators. This training will last throughout the period of a FFS (several months) with return trips to the training center to exchange and perfect the training. ANPROCA already has experience in establishing FFS and this training will allow the knowledge and experience of some agents to be shared more widely. To ensure that the FFS will be established in the right way, support (provision of training materials, progress monitoring, etc.) by an international and a national expert will be provided. Materials will be developed and made available to facilitators. FAO has extensive experience with farmer field schools. This approach has proven successful in many countries.

? Identification of sites and implementation of restoration FFS

Each DNFF trained agent will cover 6 restoration FFS over a period of 3 years. In total, 156 school fields will be installed by the trained agents in the 13 rural communes of project. These restoration FFS will be set up as much as possible in conjunction with the sustainable agriculture FFS in order to emphasize the importance of synergies between restored lands capable of providing ecosystem services and the sustainable agriculture that benefits from them.

25 learners, at least 50% women and youth, will be identified for each FFS with an emphasis on the "voluntary" aspect. The FFS exact learning will vary according to the context and will be defined once the target areas have been definitively decided.

The learners will meet at least once a week around the school field to follow the different steps of the technical itinerary with the facilitator. Regular supervision missions will take place to ensure that the activities are going well and that the technological packages are being put into practice.

The good practices for agricultural FFS outlined in Component 2 are also valid for restoration FFS.

The technological packages developed will be based on the greatest needs of the site.

? Dissemination of good practices: organization of open days and identification and training of Relay Farmers (RF) from the POC

At the end of the FFS, an open house mobilizing 70 people per FFS will be organized to sensitize and inform the community on the results. On this occasion, 5 lead farmers, including at least 2 women, will be designated and presented to the community.

The lead farmers are selected producers who are resident, credible and capable of conducting training. Their role is to train other farmers in the community on the technical messages transferred to them by the coaching services during the FFS. They contribute to the dissemination of innovations within their community and remain present in the community on a long-term basis. This approach, which is well known by the actors and technical services, has already proven itself in Guinea.

Each lead farmer will be trained and monitored by the DNFF and will commit to train between 3 and 5 other farmers per year for 3 years, which will reach at least 10,000 farmers. In order to provide these trainings in the best conditions, these relay farmers will receive specific training on the role of relay

farmer and animation techniques. They will also benefit from a "mentor" type follow-up from DNFF agents.

? **Implementation of restoration activities**

Based on these trainings, the project will support the implementation of restoration to sustain biodiversity and enable the landscape to benefit from ecosystem services. As stated above, the restoration plots will be located in areas of importance for biodiversity: buffer zones of protected areas, corridor/bridging zone between two areas of importance for biodiversity, etc. Three technical itineraries are proposed for this restoration (but some other could be added depending on the situation). These options have already been tested and implemented in Guinea. They are as follows

1. *Grazing exclusion of natural forest by perimeter hedges and planting at sensitive points.*

This means planting two perimeter lines in order to delimit the perimeter to protect from livestock invasion and serve as firebreak.

This method consists in identifying, delimiting and monitoring the evolution of degraded natural forest stands when not affected by grazing, fires and other anthropic degradation drivers. It is based on nature's capacity to produce and disseminate forest seeds under the combined effect of natural factors: rain/runoff water, wind, terrestrial and avian fauna, etc.

The expected results of this method are:

- ecologically balanced natural stands are established;
- forests with multiple age and multi-species species resistant to strong variations in climatic parameters are constituted;
- biodiversity habitat is constituted;
- wood, non-wood and wildlife products are provided;
- financial gains through the sale of fruits, seeds, cuttings (e.g. bamboo, etc.) are obtained, etc.

2. *Alley cropping for fallow land improvement: 11 rows in closed spacing with a distance between rows of 10 m and 2 m between plants on the rows.*

This method consists of the introduction of alternating rows of desired agricultural or forest crops (legumes, forest species, fruit species) into a degraded natural vegetation formation in order to restore it.

The expected outcome of this method includes:

- restored forests with multiple purposes: forest production, fruit production, soil enrichment, ecological improvement are restored;
- several degradation factors (land clearing likely to alter the evolution of the vegetation cover, management of bush fires, etc.) are controlled locally;
- agroforestry field tested on large scale.

3. *Assisted natural regeneration (10 m² per living space per plant)*

This technical model consists of supporting the maintenance, in the farmers' perimeters, of forest or fruit seedlings from naturally disseminated seed strands and/or from natural stump sprouts. It includes making sure that the strands have the space to grow and aren't destroyed by anthropic activities.

The expected outcome of the technical model are:

- The reconstitution of homogeneous and ecologically balanced natural forests with an effective contribution of the farmers;

- Restored forests at a low cost;
- The production of timber and NWFP with a market value to enhance the financial value of these lands.

Communities will engage in the restoration of certain lands as outlined in the integrated land management plan. The agreements with the communities will contain an agreement to provide land and labor for restoration (initial and follow-up work) in exchange for the provision of plants and small tools as well as other benefits related to the development of sustainable agriculture and support for SMEs in the community.

Funds for restoration activities will be channelled through ANAFIC to the communities to implement the green activities indicated in the LDPs and IAPs. DNFF agents will provide technical monitoring of these activities.

The seedlings will be procured locally from nursery producers (private, NGOs, forestry services,...) and only species already existing in the area will be used. In activity 3.1.2, economic activities related to land restoration will be supported. Nurseries, especially managed by women and youth, will be established and will find outlets by providing seedlings for restoration activities. In addition to ecological benefits from restoration, the establishment of economic activities related to restored land will create and maintain a commitment to land restoration.

It is estimated that a total of 8,000 ha will be restored, 2,000 ha with the grazing exclusion technique, 2,000 ha with the alley cropping technique and 4,000 ha of assisted natural regeneration. These estimates will be reviewed during the development of the integrated land management plans.

? **Monitoring of restoration activities by DNFF**

In the restoration process, initial activities are important, but unfortunately few of them are sustained over the long term. The implementation of ILM plans and the work on land governance (Component 1) will ensure that restored plots are not allocated to other objectives (in the medium to medium term). Monitoring and evaluation is a key component of restoration projects where it is necessary to ensure not only the continued presence of the plant but also its regular growth. Monitoring and evaluation will be conducted in two ways:

- ? Community monitoring of plots. Community monitoring tools will be developed by the DNFF and communities will be trained in this regular monitoring.
- ? DNFF Follow-up. The agents who conducted the restoration FFS will regularly visit the restored areas to check on the progress and find solutions to any problems.

3.1.1.3. Partnership with mining companies for the restoration of degraded lands (2000 ha)

The negative environmental impact of the mining sector takes many forms: use of large quantities of water, pollution of waterways and air, destruction of biodiversity habitats, and increased land degradation, particularly on slopes. The government is well aware of this, and the recent March 2021 report by the Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment in *the Study of the Guinean Legal Framework for Environmental and Social Impact Assessments in the Bauxite Mining Sector* reminds us that "The Environmental Code, the Mining Code, the mining concessions and the regulatory texts for their application, such as the directive and the guide for the preparation of impact studies, constitute the reference texts for environmental and social impact studies (ESIA) in Guinea. In addition to this body of national legislation, there are the International Finance Corporation (IFC) performance standards, the Equator Principles, the World Bank guidelines and the best practices set out in the ICMM principles. These international standards are applicable because of the loans granted by the IFC to certain investors, contractual clauses, or through the reference to these standards in the directive for the preparation of impact studies.

The Environmental Code incorporates the principles of precaution, public participation, non-regression, prevention and the "polluter pays" principle, according to which: "Any natural or legal person whose activities cause or are likely to cause damage to the environment shall bear the costs of preventing, mitigating and repairing the pollution and other environmental degradation for which it is responsible. To this end, it must ensure all measures of reinstatement." According to article 16 of the same code: "Private companies and public and mixed companies carrying out industrial and/or commercial activities are required to integrate environmental concerns into their operating, production and responsible management systems, in accordance with the requirements of sustainable development. They also ensure:

- ? Reduce to a strict minimum the negative effects of their activities on receiving environments and ecosystems;
- ? Conduct periodic environmental audits of their facilities and activities;
- ? Require their suppliers and service providers to integrate the environmental dimension into the services and products they provide;
- ? Provide transparent and reliable information on environmental management;
- ? Certification of their companies ."

Article 143 of the Mining Code requires mining permit holders to prevent or minimize any negative effects due to their activity on health and the environment, including noise emissions harmful to human health, water, air and soil pollution, degradation of ecosystems and biological diversity, and prevention and treatment of any spills."

When they obtain a concession, mining companies must carry out an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and follow the recommendations for the measures necessary to mitigate all or part of the project's impacts on the affected environments, including an environmental monitoring plan and, if necessary, a land reclamation program. Thus, each mining company is required to develop an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) and to follow it. ESMPs are evaluated by the Bureau Guinéen d'Etudes et d'Evaluation Environnementale (BGEÉE), some examples of which can be found by following this link: <https://bgeee-meef.com/index.php/pges/> .

However, monitoring the implementation of the ESIA and ESMP recommendations is often difficult. In order to monitor mining activities throughout the country, particularly in areas farther from the capital, prefectural environmental monitoring committees have been established since 2012. Placed under the authority of the prefect, they are responsible for monitoring and implementing the ESMPs. They are composed of two NGO representatives, a representative of the prefectural chamber of agriculture, a representative of the chamber of commerce, the prefectural transporters' union, a representative of civil society, the mayors, a representative of the youth of the commune, and a representative of women, two representatives of the rural producers' associations, a representative of the project, the directors of the prefectural services, the head of the environment section, the head of the water and forestry section, the person in charge of land issues, and the secretary general in charge of local authorities. These committees often lack the human, technical and logistical resources to closely monitor the implementation of ESMPs at the communal level. The project will strengthen the technical and logistical capacities of DNFF agents at the communal level to carry out this monitoring and work in close collaboration with prefectural committees and mining companies developing in the project area.

This activity consists of engaging in negotiations and signing collaboration protocols with mining companies to bring them to:

- implement restoration activities included in their ESMP and adopt agro-ecological techniques in their restoration activities of degraded lands. These activities will be monitored by DNFF officers trained for this purpose and able to visit the sites regularly. Previous positive experiences are a good starting point for this, for example, the Compagnie des

Bauxites de Guinée (CBG) launched a reforestation campaign of nearly 200 hectares at the Sangarédi Mine (Basse Guinée) in 2020.

- participate in the financing of restoration activities initiated by the communities. Some mining companies have foundations (e.g., Rio Tinto) that fund agricultural and environmental protection projects. The project could negotiate agreements to promote the financing of restoration activities initiated by the beneficiaries of this project. This activity will be carried out by the PMU.

A total of 2,000 ha of land will be restored through this support. It is envisaged that the restoration techniques supported with the private sector will be among the 3 listed in the description of community restoration (activity above) as well as bare soil restoration techniques such as:

- Reforestation on bare land
- Anderson Plot Technique
- Taungya system/ tree in the field technique

Output 3.1.2. Local producers organizations strengthened to identify and run profitable NWFP and other green businesses

In addition to wood, Guinea's forest ecosystem offers other resources, such as non-wood forest products (NWFPs) that have been collected and used by rural populations for generations. While some of these products are harvested for self-consumption, others are sold on local, national, regional and international markets and constitute an important source of income for many farmers.

Communities harvest NWFPs in the forests and on trees outside the forests to satisfy various needs. The harvested product can either be used directly in commercial transactions without first undergoing any processing (fruits, honey, toothpicks, etc.) or it is processed before being put on the market. The commercial circuit can therefore be "short" or "long".

The harvested and/or processed products are sold in the village or in local markets. The activity is usually carried out by the villagers themselves, most often during the low point of the agricultural season, to provide additional food or family income. Female, male and youth are all involved in this activity.

Despite the importance of these value chains for local communities, they are not structured and almost all the actors in these chains are still informal. This prevents them from reaching their potential and reinforcing the economic importance of forest and standing tree products to promote conservation and restoration. Economic development dependent on the restored areas is a key element of the project's sustainability.

3.1.2.1 4 Study of the 4 most promising NWFP value chains in the target sites

Several NWFP chains exist in the project areas: honey, kola nuts, shea nuts, wild fruits, medicinal plants, xylophia, rattan, bamboo, wild fruits, etc. A summary presentation of these NWFPs is provided in Annex M. Because of their informal nature, it is extremely difficult to have precise information on these chains apart for the shea butter as it is more structured. However, the data collected in the field as well as discussions with project beneficiaries during the data collection workshop held in Faranah, allowed us to identify 4 value chains with strong development potential due to their added value and the high demand for these NWFPs on the markets. These four value chains concern the following NWFPs: honey, shea butter, ordinary cola (or petit cola if more promising) and pepper.

A study will therefore be conducted for each of them to gather more information on how they can be best supported in the project target zone. This activity will be based on the study already conducted on the shea butter sector. During this study, particular emphasis will be placed on the aspects of

profitability and inclusiveness of women and youth in these sectors in order to support those. This activity will be carried out by a consultant who will be recruited for this purpose.

3.1.2.2. Strengthening NWFPs value chains including reinforcing or establishing umbrella organizations for these

Following the studies above, concrete actions to support these 4 key value chains will be set in motion. We can already think that organizational and institutional strengthening of the four target value chains, which are mostly still informal (apart for shea butter), will be necessary so that they can provide the benefits expected by local communities in the long term and contribute to the protection of natural areas. In order to strengthen these sectors, an umbrella organization/federation will be supported through the following actions: participatory organizational and institutional diagnosis, development of action plans, strengthening the structure of existing organizations, management training, support/consultancy. During these trainings, the sustainability of the commodity chain will be an important aspect and discussions on a sustainability brand will be conducted. Indeed, when a sector develops and allows the actors to draw wider benefits, there is always a risk of uncontrolled exploitation of the resource that would go against the expected benefits.

Particular attention will be paid to the inclusion of women in the design of these umbrella organizations/federations. The project will also ensure the integration of private sector actors (green SMEs that will be created) in these sectors. and facilitate the organization of consultation meetings of the actors of each commodity chain for the establishment or strengthening of umbrella organizations (unions and federations). For this activity, the Federation of Unions of Shea Butter Producers of Upper Guinea (FUPROBEK) will be leading the process using its experience on shea butter for other NWFP and finding ways to improve its own value chain, discussion on possible certification scheme have been held.

3.1.2.3. Supporting green entrepreneurship in NWFPs and other green businesses through coaching systems

Green enterprises in NWFPs, especially those created by women or with female employees, will be promoted through: a) support in the formalization process; b) subsidies for entrepreneurs who will carry out innovative projects; c) development of business plans; e) marketing and communication, etc.

20 entrepreneurs or groups of entrepreneurs will be selected through a call for projects. An incubator will be recruited to carry out this activity in order to ensure the sustainability of the sectors.

Output 3.1.3. Innovative arrangements for financing restoration of degraded areas tested, including partnerships with private sector (e.g. mining) and development of bankable projects

Financing land restoration is a major challenge that requires significant resources. It is clear that traditional grant funding will not be sufficient and that new financial models involving private and civil actors must be invented. The project will ensure that the right conditions are in place for the implementation of innovative solutions and support the promising ones.

3.1.3.1. Setting up enabling conditions for innovative financing solutions

? Support the elaboration and adoption of legal/application texts on investments to finance the restoration of degraded lands

This activity consists of analyzing the legal framework, particularly with regard to the consideration of investments for the restoration of degraded lands, and making proposals for the development of texts supporting the new modes of investment.

For example, the environmental code requests private companies and public and mixed companies, carrying out industrial and/or commercial activities, to integrate environmental concerns into their operating, production and management systems in a responsible manner, meeting the requirements of sustainable development. In some cases, the texts of application of this environmental code are not defined or poorly followed. This means a loss of opportunity for restoration activities that should have

taken place, as compensation for certain private sector activities for example, if the environmental code was indeed applied by all.

A consultant will be recruited to lead this activity; restitution and validation workshops of the documents will be organized and the coordination group on integrated land management at the national level will support the adoption of these reforms while the local coordination groups will ensure their application at the local level.

3.1.3.2. Support for promising innovative financing schemes

? Capitalization study on financing mechanisms compatible with restoration issues and the possibilities of developing other options.

Given the scarcity of financial products adapted to the realities of SMEs in the agricultural and land management sectors, some specific financing mechanisms have been tested by technical and financial partners in collaboration with financial institutions in Guinea. There are four initiatives related to agriculture that could be adapted to restoration, which have already been tested or are underway, and on which the project could build:

Development of a credit line: In partnership with the Islamic Bank of Guinea, the Federation of Fruit Tree Planters of Lower Guinea (FEPAF-BG) has negotiated a credit line to finance the acquisition of irrigation equipments and fertilizer.

The pilot phase began in June 2019 for a duration of 36 months, equivalent to two pineapple production cycles. Twelve producers were selected for this pilot phase. Other producers could benefit from this funding if the evaluation of the pilot phase proves positive. The repayment schedules are well aligned with the pineapple harvest periods, which should facilitate timely repayment of the debt. The interest rates applied are relatively low compared to those of the market (5 to 5.6% per year against an average of 20 to 45% per year).

The involvement of technical partners in capacity building is a guarantee of success for this initiative. These trainings/accompaniments will allow clients to improve the productivity of their farms, thus reducing the risk for the bank. The implementation of the monitoring system is an essential part of the mechanism and many lessons can be learned from its operation and effectiveness. However, small-scale producers have not benefited from the credit because of the high cost of equipment. Indeed, the vast majority of small producers are unable to take out a loan at the level of the proposed investment (2,700? to 8,500? for quality equipment). As the loans are still in progress, it is difficult at this stage to evaluate the effectiveness of the monitoring system, but this will be possible at the beginning of the project.

Establishment of **micro-credit:** The Guinea Rural Credit (CRG) is the largest Micro Finance Institution in Guinea in terms of clients number and financial capacity. It is well established in the project intervention areas with branches in all the prefectures and sub-prefectures of the project intervention areas. In its range of financial products, CRG has set up a specific agricultural credit for farmers. The characteristics of this credit are :

- Duration: 12 months
- Interest rate: 3% monthly
- Credit amount: 20 to 24 million
- Credit Methodology: Solidarity Groups
- Maturity: Repayment of the total amount of the loan at the 11th and 12th month

According to CRG officials, the model works well and the credit portfolio allocated to agricultural credit has a repayment rate of over 95%.

Crowdfunding: The Cooperative for Agriculture and Animal Production (CAPA) was created in 2017 by young agro-entrepreneurs in the Kindia region. The cooperative currently has 48 shareholders residing both in Guinea and abroad. Two projects are underway: pineapple production (1ha) and poultry.

The crowdfunding model implemented by CAPA consists of presenting an agribusiness project on social networks and soliciting financing from Internet users who thus become shareholders in the project. To date, two fundraising campaigns have taken place and a system of remuneration of the investment is planned in case of profit. The activity and financial reports are shared monthly with all shareholders by email. A management committee made up of 4 volunteer members manages the day-to-day operations. Internal control is ensured by a supervisory committee composed of 3 members. The cooperative plans to build its website which will serve as a communication platform with its shareholders and the public.

This model is an innovation in Guinea and has real development potential because potential investors exist within the middle class in Guinea and abroad. But they are looking for serious companies that can use their investments wisely in profitable projects. According to CAPA officials we met, the cooperative has not yet reached its break-even point, but it enjoys the full support and confidence of its shareholders. This relationship of trust is the result of the efforts of transparency shown by the managers of the cooperative through regular communication on all the details of the operations of the cooperative.

Private equity financing: Private equity financing, such as that used by JATROPHA, is a financing model that involves private investors' capital in the equity of a company. The investor then becomes a shareholder of the company receiving the funds.

This model could work well for green enterprises that have reached a satisfactory level of structuring to convince private investors to enter the capital of the enterprise. In addition, this model could work for young agro-entrepreneurs who have bankable projects and who solicit funds from their relatives (parents and friends) in the form of investment instead of donations.

To boost fundraising through this mechanism, the crowdfunding technique is used. A national celebrity is solicited to set a good example by participating in the financing of projects presented on the platforms. The buzz created around this event allows a better exposure of the project and provokes increase the amount of funds raised.

This model is innovative and can revolutionize the agricultural finance sector in Guinea. Its implementation will require substantial support for entrepreneurs to develop business models and management and communication systems that will convince potential investors who do exist in Guinea and in the diaspora.

Value chain financing: Value chain financing consists of :

- financing the acquisition of inputs and/or equipment by an actor in the sector in return for a reimbursement in kind (agricultural products) at harvest time.
- establishing a contract between stakeholders. The project will ensure that each stakeholder meets its contractual commitments.

This model fits with the project's approach, as it allows for both capacity building of actors and the development of the aggregation approach.

A large company could provide financing for equipment and/or inputs for farmers. However, this mechanism should be taken with caution, as a similar model was implemented by the company FuturAgri and ended in failure, as many farmers did not repay their debts.

A capitalization study will be conducted on financing mechanisms that have been attempted in Guinea, such as those listed above, and in the region to understand which ones would be more appropriate in the Guinean context and how they could be made more inclusive and have land restoration as an objective. A binome of internal and national consultants specialized in the development of innovative financing will be recruited to carry out this study. Negotiations will be conducted by the project PMU

with financial institutions (Banks and MFIs) to set up the mechanism best suited to the conditions of the beneficiaries and to the activities of restoration of degraded lands.

? Support to entrepreneurs, farmers' organizations and civil society organizations in setting up bankable micro-projects and obtaining financing from mining companies and other private and public sector stakeholders

A call for proposals will be launched to identify restoration and integrated land management projects led by entrepreneurs, Producer Organizations (POs) and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in the project intervention area. At the end of this call for proposals, 20 micro-projects will be selected. These micro-projects will be followed by a national consultant (supported by an international consultant who will guide the whole activity on innovative financing) in order to set up projects and seek financing from different possible sources.

Funding opportunities at the national and international levels will be exploited. Beneficiaries will be informed and accompanied in the preparation of their funding applications. Thus, communes, POs and CSOs will be able to develop micro-projects and submit them to funds such as FODEL (a fund that receives financing from miners used for the implementation of communal activities, of which restoration will be a part) or the Environment and Human Capital Fund. This fund is operational and finances a range of activities aimed at environmental protection, land restoration and biodiversity preservation. Restoration projects initiated by rural communes, NGOs and other CSOs can be financed by this fund, which is managed by the MEDD.

Women's organizations will be supported in seeking funding from specialized international organizations such as the African Women's Development Fund (AWDF).

Bankable projects will also be put in touch with private investors who support this type of initiative.

? Support for the development of a crowdfunding platform for the financing of green businesses

This activity consists in setting up a crowdfunding platform dedicated to green businesses. The platform will serve as a mean for fundraising (equity or donations) through the advertisement of green projects. Crowdfunding is an opportunity for innovation in the mobilization of funds. This mechanism could be used by other projects looking for financing opportunities related to agriculture and the environment. The project could be inspired by the online participatory financing project of the CAPA cooperative in the Kindia region. A service provider will be recruited to set up and manage the platform.

? Support to the MEDD/DNFF in monitoring the implementation of environmental management plans of private companies that are in operation

Another important source of funding is linked to the legal obligations of companies as indicated in the environmental code. This involves both strengthening the application of the code itself through the application of current environmental laws (Activity 3.1.3.1.) and ensuring that the commitments made by private companies are respected. Activity 3.1.1.3 will work on this in the mining sector in particular. This activity will extend it to other areas of activity (agricultural sector, infrastructure, etc.)

This support, done in collaboration with activity 3.1.1.3, will be done through: a) training of relevant MEDD/DNFF personnel on their roles and responsibilities, knowledge of regulatory texts, procedures to be followed in the context of monitoring and evaluation missions, etc.; b) strengthening of logistical capacities (means of travel, etc.) to visit the private sector sites to collaborate.

3.1.3.3. Support for a bankable medium or large-scale project based on the entrepreneurs supported in Components 2 and 3

Much of the project's activity and fundraising is focused on SMEs. In order to scale up activities, the project will support a larger-scale initiative. This activity consists of providing technical support to a project led by a "champion" that has the potential to impact small producers and SMEs in its value chain or landscape. For this project, specific support will be provided to develop/improve the business plan and facilitate contact with potential investors. This support will be very specific, depend on the needs of the project supported and will focus on obtaining the necessary funding for the project. It will be provided by the local consultant/international consultant expert in forest and landscape restoration financing.

Component 4: Knowledge Management and Monitoring and Evaluation

In order to ensure the proper implementation of the project and its upscaling, capacity building and knowledge management are key. The project can benefit from both previous projects and lessons learnt from itself. Guinea also has a lot to share at regional and international level and should be supported to be more active on international for a, the Global IP is a great opportunity to do so.

The activities of the project will also be closely monitored to ensure adaptive management and a successful implementation of the project.

Outcome 4.1 Successful execution of the project in an effective manner, with knowledge shared through the FOLUR global platform

Indicators	Final target
# of products, tools and approaches developed and effectively shared through the FOLUR IP Global platform	20
# of people reached by the project?s communication and dissemination work (50% women)	100,000 (50% women)
# M&E system put in place to ensure adaptive management	1

Output 4.1.1: Knowledge products, tools and approaches developed and shared through the FOLUR IP Global platform and other relevant platforms

4.1.1.1 Creation of adapted knowledge tools from existing material and project results

As mentioned in the background section and mentioned earlier, this project builds on other projects that have already developed and tested approaches to sustainable agriculture and innovative financing, for example. However, knowledge from these projects is not easy to obtain and is not centralized. It will therefore be necessary to first make a precise inventory of existing knowledge and its format (fact sheets, radio programs, etc.) in Guinea and in the sub-region.

To this knowledge will be added the knowledge acquired during the implementation of this project.

The methodology for identifying and presenting knowledge according to the audience need will be as follows:

- i) *Identification of knowledge generated either by past projects or by the current project*

As far as existing information is concerned, teams from previous or current projects will be called upon as well as research organizations. During the project preparation missions, many stakeholders from the Agronomic and Veterinary Institute of Faranah (ISAVF), the Bordo Agronomy Research Centre (ARC), the Sereidou ARC, the Center for the Study and Management of the Nimba and Simandou Mountains Environment (CEGENS) and the decentralized services declared that they had important

knowledge to share and valorize. For example, ISAVF has several master's student papers on improving yields of sustainable crops, and the Bordo CRA has multiple technical sheets on rapid seed production, on how to improve maize yields on soils located at the bottom of slopes and in waterlogged depressions, and on the introduction of canajus cajan to help farmers stay on their farms. All these documents should be valorized.

As for the knowledge resulting from this project, systematization workshops will be organized around major themes: various techniques of sustainable agriculture or restoration for example, so that farmers and local communities for example can reflect on their own experiences (and possibly give suggestions for improvement). This type of workshop will allow to manage knowledge from the field and to bring the different actors to reflect on their own experience. At the end of these workshops, the knowledge generated will be transformed into tools according to the needs.

Note: Systematization has been adopted globally in generating knowledge on natural resources management. Systematization of experience is a method aimed at improving practice based on a critical reflection and interpretation of lessons learned from that practice. Within the context of sustainable agriculture and forest restoration this involves a facilitated process of capturing, analyzing and structuring tacit knowledge, specifically, best practice and lessons learned, from the perspective of the major stakeholders. The methodology encompasses the identification, documentation and transfer of experiences and key lessons extracted from a project or an initiative, or group of projects or initiatives for the purpose of advocacy, learning and replication/scaling up. The systematization methodology was introduced to the natural resources management sector by Jorge Chavez-Tafur (2007, 2013) and adopted in Latin America, Asia and Africa.

ii) Identification of the target for the dissemination of this knowledge and the most appropriate way to reach this target.

It is important for the communication tools to be adapted to the target audience. A well-targeted radio program will have a much greater impact than the dissemination of written materials in villages where the literacy rate is low.

A communication strategy will be developed indicating the target audiences and the most appropriate types of media. In Guinea, a quick study during the project development phase highlighted the different target audiences and the most "useful" communication tools at the local and national levels.

Target audience	Communication tools to reach them
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Beneficiary communities - Administrative and local authorities - Farmers' organizations - Green SME managers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mass media (broadcasting and television)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Administrative and local authorities - CSOs, NGOs and projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Posters, flyers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Beneficiary communities - Technical and financial partners - Other actors involved in the project area - POs, NGOs, CSOs and CBOs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Signage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Beneficiary communities - Farmers - Local authorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Listening meetings through audio and video materials

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technical and financial partners - The project teams - The direct beneficiaries of the project - The actors of implementation 	- Meetings
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technical and financial partners/donors - Public and private administration executives 	- Reports
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The civil society - Administrative and local authorities - Farmers' organizations 	- Consultation frameworks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Academics, researchers and adjuncts - STD managers and officers, - CSOs, NGOs, Farmers' organizations - Communities of practice, 	- Knowledge sharing platforms

iii) Establishment of a Quality Assurance Committee for knowledge products

Each knowledge tool will be validated by a committee composed of research centers, field agents (DNFF/ANPROCA) and beneficiaries and will be held every six months. The committee will include specialists in the field with experience in agricultural and environmental projects.

The Faranah Institute has extensive experience in knowledge management and will be in charge of this activity.

4.1.1.2 Dissemination of knowledge tools at local, national and international levels

Once the knowledge tools are validated and developed, they will be disseminated locally, nationally and internationally. Based on previous experience in Guinea is already clear that radio programs and listening sessions will be set up with specialized local NGOs because these techniques work very well in Guinea.

During the mission, structures involved in community communication for sustainable development and scientific communications have been identified. They are presented in the following table by category and by area of intervention.

Category	Area of intervention	Structures
Networks,	Faranah Region	CNOP-G
	Kankan Region	CNOP-G
	Nz?r?kor? Region	CNOP-G
NGO	Faranah Region	GUIDER CAM GUIDEK AVAREL
	Kankan Region	RADEK AGUISSA

	Nz?r?kor? Region	ABEF GRET CEAD CADIC AGIL PRID
University, research center	Farannah Region	ISAVF
	Kankan Region	CRA Bordo
	Nz?r?kor? Region	CRA S?r?dou

The project will rely on these structures to ensure that knowledge is disseminated. The project will also support the development of Club Dimitra, an approach also successfully tested in Guinea by FAO. Dimitra Clubs are voluntary, informal groups for women, men and youth who discuss common problems and determine ways to address them by acting together and using local resources. Agriculture is a common theme, but it's not the only one; other topics include natural resources management, climate change, education, health, infrastructure, nutrition, peace and women's status. Although FAO facilitates their set up and provides them with training and coaching, the clubs themselves are self-managed. These groups are important for community engagement in natural resources management and the diffusion of knowledge.

In order to involve young people the diffusion via social networks will also be studied, in particular through short videos.

The project will help MEDD/DNFF to update its web-based knowledge management platform, which is still difficult to access. It will be important to improve the accessibility of the platform and ensure that local centers are aware of its existence and are able to access it. An ANAFIC platform is currently being developed and will make available all the training modules, capacity building tools, reports, etc. developed over the years. This ANAFIC Knowledge Management platform will be linked to the DNFF one.

The project will also share its knowledge via the the Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration (FOLUR) Impact Program (FOLUR IP) platform, developed at the global level, following the models and criteria shared by it.

4.1.1.3 Knowledge exchange at local, national and international levels

Participation in exchanges between actors sharing the same concerns and ambitions is very important for the motivation of the project stakeholders and acquire knowledge. It allows them to learn new techniques and share their knowledge to increase the scope of the project.

? Organization of exchange visits between champions to share experiences and knowledge at local, national and international levels

Among the Producers' Organizations (PO)(groups, cooperatives, federations) and communities benefiting from the project, champion that have a certain level of performance will be identified. They will be paired others needing support to improve their performance. In an effort to strengthen capacity through experience sharing, exchange visits will be organized for at least 4 less performing POs/communities to the two champion POs. The choice of POs to benefit from the exchange visit will be based on well-defined criteria. During the exchange visits, each PO/community will be represented by 2 members, taking into account gender. The exchanges will focus on the knowledge and practices of the different POs and will be facilitated by a team leader. The exchange visits are organized between

POs/communities that have the same characteristics and evolve in the same agro-ecological zones. When the members return to their organizations, they must make the restitution and lead the change within their organization.

Just like the exchange visits at the local level, the performing Communities/POs will also benefit from exchange visits at the sub-regional level. During the visit, each PO/Community will be represented by two (2) of its members. For the targeting of POs/Communities in the sub-region, criteria such as areas of intervention, agro-ecological characteristics will be taken into account. In both cases of exchange visits, the project will cover the travel and accommodation expenses of the participants. One of these exchanges could take place with POs/Communities of the GEF7 project in Liberia also working on a more sustainable palm oil sector. The PMU will be in charge of organizing these visits with the support of eth technical agencies ANPROCA, DNFF and ANAFIC.

? Participation in the technical meetings of the river basin organizations that cover the project intervention area

To ensure Guinea's participation in communities of practice on ILM/FLR and all other forms of NRM, the project will support the participation of an executive from the technical services involved in the implementation of the activities in the meeting of the sub-regional organizations (such as the Niger Basin Authority (NBA), the Mano River Union (MRU) and the CILS technical meetings). The representative will share the knowledge coming from Guinea and commit to share his newly acquired knowledge through the organization of debrief meetings and webinars. Their participation will be facilitated by covering their travel and living expenses throughout the mission.

? Participation in Global IP platform meetings

This project is part of the FOLUR IP and as such will be able to join knowledge exchange activities where Guinea will be able to both share its experience and benefit from the experience of other FOLUR projects and international expertise. The relationship between this project and the FOLUR project is detailed in section 1.c below under ?Child Project?. This relationship with the IP FOLUR is key to ensure that the best practices are shared in Guinea and that the movement for sustainable food system in West Africa is growing changing the mindset and creating real transformation in the field and the regional and international markets.

? Participation in the UN conferences on biodiversity, desertification and climate change

This project is contributing to Guinea's pledge to the 3 Rio conventions on climate change, biological diversity and desertification. The conferences around the conventions are major international forums for reflection, decision-making and knowledge sharing on natural resources management and food systems. To ensure that Guinea is represented in these forums for its contribution, the project will support the participation of executives in at least one meeting on each of these themes. A technical officer involved in the project's activities or a member of one of the national committees will participate.

Output 4.1.2: Operational project Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system in place

Under this activity, a monitoring system will be developed to monitor the progress on the achievements of the results framework presented in Annex 1 with special attention to socio-economic and sex-disaggregated indicators. The monitoring system should not only focus on the results of the project but also on its impacts. For this purpose, during the project inception phase, the M&E expert will lead a participatory multi-stakeholder consultation designed to generate meaningful indicators that will assess the impact of the project at broader scales and over a long-term time horizon.

In addition to monitoring the progress of the results framework, the M&E expert will also monitor the progress of the Workplan, specifically the accomplishments of the activities of each output as shown in Annex 2.

The M&E system will be developed after a careful review of existing monitoring systems in Guinea such as those developed for past or on-going projects such as all the projects mentioned in the baseline section. It will also align very closely to the IP FOLUR M&E framework to ensure that the contribution of Guinea to sustainable food system is aligned with the other countries and significant.

The M&E expert should be hired at the very beginning of the project in order to be in a position to collect baseline information for each indicator. In order to set the baseline and follow up on the indicators, the project will collaborate with an University and develop community monitoring mechanisms in order to follow the project results.

This activity will be directly managed by the PMU.

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

This project is very well aligned with the GEF Focal Areas selected for this project:

LD-1-3 Maintain or improve flows of ecosystem services, including sustaining livelihoods of forest-dependent people through Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR).

The entire purpose of the project is to improve the management of landscapes so that food systems are sustainable and contribute to the delivery of ecosystem services on the long term. By creating a common vision for the landscape, and integrated land use plans, communities will be assigning long term use to parcels allowing to invest in sustainable agriculture and FLR on the medium and long term. The project will empower local stakeholders to put their vision into practice through capacity building and the implementation of sustainable agriculture practices over 15,000 ha (including 5,000 ha of certified palm oil) and 10,000 ha of restored land.

As the key to success of this project is to make people dependant on the restored land, the project will ensure that value chains linked to restored land are supported and that all stakeholders (even the most vulnerable such as women and youth) can enjoy the benefits of the environmental and socio-economic benefits of the project.

CCM-2-6 Demonstrate mitigation options with systemic impacts for food systems, land use and restoration impact program

Climate change, as detailed in the full Climate Assessment (Annex I3) is a real risk for Guinea, therefore, Guinea has to set up mitigation and adaptation action. For mitigation the project will support a series of activities linked to both mitigation and the improvement of food systems that will amount to the mitigation of 6,187,155 MtCO₂eq.

These mitigation activities are happening over 29,807 ha covering and cover a large spectrum of improved land and agriculture management:

- ? 9,000 ha of cropland managed in a climate smart way improving carbon sequestration / lowering carbon emission from food production
- ? 5,000 ha of improved palm oil system so that they are ready to be certified (certification process started)
- ? 3,000 ha of agroforestry
- ? 4,807 ha of avoided deforestation
- ? 2,000 ha of replanting, mainly linked to the work with the mining companies
- ? 6,000 ha of Assisted Natural Regeneration of Forest & Grazing Exclusion

All these activities will allow ecosystems to deliver improved services having a positive impact on agricultural systems and reversing the cycle from vicious to virtuous.

BD-1-1 Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes through biodiversity mainstreaming in priority sectors

Biodiversity loss is a key issue for Guinea and is mainly due to loss of habitat and loss of connectivity between the important areas of biodiversity in the country. The sites chosen for the project are either bordering or between key important biodiversity areas. The project will increase the protection of key habitats through the strengthening of buffer zones which too often don't really exist anymore leaving the core areas of the parks particularly exposed. It will also recreate connectivity by restoring the land and increasing its attractiveness for biodiversity.

By supporting participatory land use planning with all the key stakeholders, the geographical location of each type of land use will be jointly decided offering hope that all stakeholders will then respect the different boundaries. The support to the ANPROCA and DNFF agents technically and logistically will also allow them to do their work more efficiently and both control that law is enforced and support communities to better protect biodiversity. The biodiversity friendly technical options proposed by the project are an important way to increase habitat without reducing the productive area for local communities.

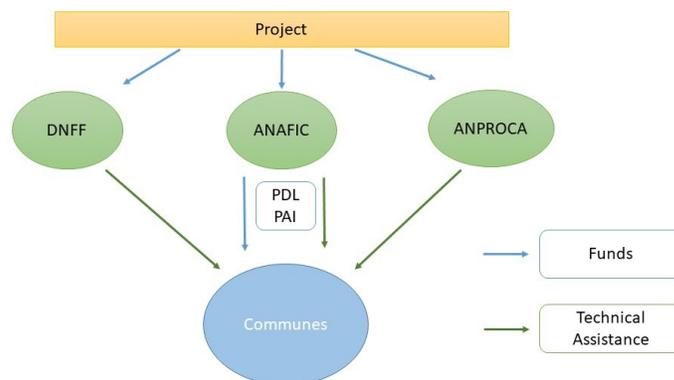
IP FOLUR Promoting effective coordination and adaptive management for Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration

This projects aims to have productive and resilient landscapes (especially those including palm oil and rice production) sustainably managed in Forest Guinea and Upper Guinea; land degradation is slowed or reversed through inclusive food supply systems, no longer causing deforestation and well integrated into landscapes providing ecosystem services beneficial to all. The alignment of this project to the IP FOLUR is detailed in section II.1. Child Project.

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

This project will build on existing projects and structures in order to ensure they will be contributing to sustainable food systems and integrated landscape management and FLR. The GEF incremental finance will build upon the baseline programmes to support the country in shifting from unsustainable forest and agricultural exploitation practices towards ILM and FLR practices at the landscape level. This will be done by implementing an integrated cross-sector approach following the ILM impact pathway to address land restoration in a comprehensive manner.

The project will be implemented according to the following scheme and the decentralization process in Guinea :



The incremental/additional cost reasoning is as follows:

- The project will be strengthening the current decentralization process and support the development of participatory integrated land use plans that will inform the integration of green activities into the Local Development Plans (PDL) and Annual Investment Programs (PAI) at communal level. Building on ANAFIC decentralization and strengthening of the local authorities at the communal level, the project will support the development of green PDL and bring funding for the 'green' activities part of the PAI. The project will use the existing structures supported by ANAFIC at the communal level, strengthen them and give to the communes the financial means to achieve their green objectives.

- The mission of the decentralized agents of DNFF and ANPROCA is to support the communes and local communities on agriculture and forestry related matters. Unfortunately they often don't have the knowledge and means to properly follow up communities. The project will train the DNFF and ANPROCA agents in the focus communes and districts and give them the means to work with communities to implement sustainable agricultural intensification and restoration activities. DNFF local agents will also be supported to follow up on private sector commitments to restoration and sustainable livelihoods.

- While AGRIFARM's financing focuses on agricultural investments focusing on rice value chains, the GEF project will expand restoration action on-farm (including promoting agroforestry and forest restoration), supporting spatial planning and the development of land-use plans. Impacts will be scaled up to the landscape level, with forest and landscape restoration yielding long-term improved agricultural land productivity both upstream and downstream from intervention sites. AGRIFARM will be supporting the development of resilient agriculture and producers' organization as well as a network of roads, markets and business to facilitate the circulation of products, through national partners. This GEF 7 project will be able to use these networks to market and sell sustainably produced commodities and products. The IFAD project will therefore be the marketing vehicle for more sustainable products including certified palm oil. The GEF project is an opportunity to widen the scope of the AGRIFARM project and participate to its green upscaling.

- **The Guinea Natural Resources, Mining and Environment Project of the World Bank** will improve the policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks of the mining and environment sectors and support natural resources and environment management mainly in the protected areas. As the WB project under its Component A, this project will also work on increasing coordination and participatory planning between the different land use sectors (agriculture, forest, environment, infrastructures,?) at national and local level as increased coherence is the only way to reach sustainability at landscape level. It will support improved sustainable agriculture and forest management for enhanced livelihoods and global benefits (through carbon sequestration for example). The support to private sector engagement in more sustainable practices, and mostly the mining sector is key to this project as mining has a strong (and most likely increasing) land footprint. The GEF project will be working with DNFF and its local agents to ensure that mining companies have environmental management plans as required by law and are accompanied in its implementation so that the activities set up are sustainable and for the benefit of local communities. Also, the GEF project will specifically work in buffer zones of protected areas participating to land restoration but also to reducing land degradation risks through the implementation of sustainable agriculture and forestry. This will be contributing to reducing the largest driver of deforestation and degradation.

- The **private sector companies** that the project development team met such as SOGUIPAH, SFMG, etc. have the desire to improve their environmental and social footprint but often lacks the technical knowledge and means. The project will be able to include them into the definition of a long-term land use plan together with all the other stakeholders of the landscape, sealing partnerships with these companies to support them developing their Corporate and Social Responsibility programs and implement their Environmental and Social Management Plans. This will transform both their good will and their regulatory obligations into sustainable activities. The project will give the opportunity to the private sector to feel included in the area long term plan and be committed to the long term sustainable management of the area for its own good and the ones of the local communities.

Without the project in Upper and Forest Guinea, the current situation of vicious circle of land degradation will continue. As it is now, as population pressure increases, and with it the need for food production, especially for key commodities such as palm oil and rice, land is degrading at an alarming rate and the productive capacity of landscapes is diminishing. Ecosystem services are dwindling, natural habitats are disappearing and living conditions, especially for the most vulnerable, are worsening. Under the pressure of agricultural expansion for cash and food crops, uncontrolled bushfires and pesticide use, logging for fuelwood and charcoal, and mining activities, a vicious cycle of degradation land is engaged. Political instabilities and the global influence of climate change only worsen these phenomena. The stakeholders aren't building together a common vision for the land, which threatens any effort of land restoration or protection and puts at risk the very base of food production. The private sector and local communities often haven't found a way to be mutually beneficially, aggravating local tensions. The country has set up a decentralization program that is working mainly on social aspects, as communal budgets are limited and the decentralized agents don't have the technical and logistical means to properly accompany the communes on integrated land management, sustainable agricultural intensification and forest and landscape restoration. In the current scenario, knowledge is not shared at local, national or international level, each community or group of stakeholders under a project work in isolation without benefitting from other projects learnings.

With the project in Upper and Forest Guinea, all the stakeholders, including the private sector, involved in land use/management at national and local level (in the target landscape) will agree on a common vision for the landscapes where food production and sustainable natural resources management aren't competing. This vision will be clearly mapped as part of the integrated land use plan and agreed by all making sure that once a land use has been decided it will remain for the medium to long term. As part of the plans, some areas will be mapped as needing some restoration either through improved agriculture practices or forest restoration. In order to support local communities and the private sector in the implementation of the plans, decentralized officers from ANPROCA and DNFF will be trained on the most sustainable agricultural intensification and restorative practices as well as in the establishment of farmers field schools. Through farmers field schools and farmer's networks over 20,000 beneficiaries will be trained on sustainable agricultural intensification practices and restoration. The communes, through the revision of their PDL and PAI (following the development of ILM plans), will access green funds through ANAFIC to apply these practices over 25,000 ha. This will allow green activities to have a real place and funding as part of the communal budgets. As part of the 25,000 ha, 5,000 ha are palm oil plantation that will be certified through the project activities, supporting the country towards the official recognition of sustainable food systems. This first step towards certification can allow Guinea to be integrated into international markets and participating changing the food production paradigm. The project will also support the development of green and inclusive businesses mostly led by women and youth, these businesses will rely on the market investments made by AGRIFARM and will depend on keeping the restored land in a restored state. Creating value from restored land is the best way to keeping it. Based on the good results and in order to keep upscaling the restoration efforts for livelihoods and environmental benefits, innovative financing solutions will be found involving the private and civics sectors as well as the public one. The project will benefit from and contribute to best practices / knowledge sharing through targeted

awareness raising and communication campaigns as well as exchange visits at national and regional levels. The project will benefit from the IP Global project support to ensure that the best practices tested in other countries on sustainable food systems are applied in Guinea and that the knowledge acquired in Guinea is shared with other countries. The IP Global project could also bring specific technical support to ensure that the activities are implemented using the latest available international knowledge.

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

As part of its contribution to global environmental benefits, the project is expected to bring over 150,000 ha under improved land management practices to benefit sustainable food value chain and biodiversity. This will be achieved through the development of participatory multi-stakeholders integrated land use plans over 150,000 ha as well as the capacity building of decentralized technical officers and communities. The later will be able to support the implementation of direct interventions over 15,000 ha of sustainable intensification of agriculture as well as 10,000 ha of restored land, including 2,000 ha in partnership with mining companies. As described in more details in the Alternative Scenario (c) part under component 3, at this stage, it is expected that the 10,000 ha will be restored using the following techniques:

? 2,000 ha restored through grazing exclusion by perimeter hedges and planting at sensitive points. This means planting two perimeter lines in order to delimit the perimeter to protect from livestock invasion and serve as firebreak.

? 2,000 ha restored through alley cropping for fallow land improvement: 11 rows in closed spacing with a distance between rows of 10 m and 2 m between plants on the rows.

? 4,000 ha restored through assisted natural regeneration, supporting the maintenance, in the farmers' perimeters, of forest or fruit seedlings from naturally disseminated seed strands and/or from natural stump sprouts. It includes making sure that the strands have the space to grow and aren't destroyed by anthropic activities.

? 2,000 ha restored through partnership with the mining companies, it is expected that the techniques above might be used as well as any of these: Reforestation on bare land, Anderson Plot Technique, Taungya system/ tree in the field technique

These estimates will be reviewed during the development of the participatory integrated land management plans to ensure they align with local needs and expectations.

As part of the 15,000 ha of agricultural land under improved practices, 5,000 ha of them will be palm oil plantations under improved practices on the pathway to certification. These direct interventions will support the implementation of the Integrated Plans developed over 150,000 ha under component 1. Through these interventions, the project will generate global environmental benefits by reducing forest degradation, soil erosion and soil and water loss, as well as by maintaining or enhancing agro-ecosystem services that help sustain food production and local livelihoods.

Also as part of the agricultural practices promoted by the project, the adaptation to climate change (mainly both increased floods and droughts) will be a central issue. The project will support the use of the local varieties the most adapted to the changing climate. The project will also contribute to mitigate climate with an estimate sequestration of carbon equivalent to 6,187,155 tCO₂eq through improved soil management, forest protection and restoration, and agroforestry interventions, contributing to the Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs).

The sites have also been selected to ensure that this project will maximize its impact. Indeed the proximity to protected areas or land has been one of the key criteria for site selection ensuring that the project will support work around key biodiversity habitat to protect it and possibly enlarge it to create

biodiversity corridors. Thanks to this, the project will contribute to the protection of key species such as the pygmy hippopotamus, which is considered endangered by IUCN (only 2,500 specimen remain in the wild) as well as other vulnerable species.

The direct beneficiaries of the project are estimated to be 30,000 people with diversified sources of income from the project's activities. The project will employ participatory planning approaches in the development of integrated land use plans and the implementation of the plans, involving partners and key stakeholders, including youth, women, the private sector, and civil society. The awareness-raising coming out of this work with direct implementation will contribute to a change in mindset.

What is key to this project is the support to the communes who then define and implement their Local Development Plans. Integrating more sustainable activities in these plans and showing that funding them is benefiting the entire community will bring them to continue the effort and upscale it. The results presented above are the expected direct results of the project but the upscaling effects thanks to awareness raising, capacity building and strong embedment in the communes strategies are expected to be much greater.

- g) Innovativeness, sustainability, potential for scaling up and capacity development

Innovativeness

The innovativeness of the project rely mainly on 3 interconnected pillars on which the success of the project relies as well:

Participatory integrated land use planning: Even if this terminology is well known by people involved in sustainable natural resources management practitioners, it is not commonly practiced in Upper and Forest Guinea. Indeed, only one older version of a participatory land use planning has been found in one of the district during the project preparation phase. The idea of involving a wide-range of partners, including the private sector and youth and women, into developing a common vision for the landscape and implementing it, is innovative. Building on existing coordination groups and giving them a new spin with new participants and mandates, going beyond local conflict resolution (often the key mandate of existing groups) will create a new dynamic in the landscape empowering the different stakeholders to take responsibility for the sustainable management of the land under their responsibility.

Opening green financing windows: Guinea successfully decentralized up to the commune level. Indeed, each commune has to develop a Local Development Plan and an associated Annual Investment Program. Following this, each commune gets an annual allocated amount transiting through ANAFIC. The budget is usually lower than what would be needed to achieve all the activities indicated in the PDL and the commune needs to make choices. Even when communes do have green development options in their PDL, the choices often favour more "traditional" social development projects such as education or health centres considered as more urgent. The purpose of this project is to raise awareness on the importance to include more green activities as part of the PDL to ensure the natural resources on which the communes depend deeply are available on the long term supporting the very survival of the community. The awareness raising and the development of participatory land use plans at the commune level will inform the PDL revision to integrate green options, and the project, through ANAFIC will be supporting the implementation of these green activities directly financed and monitored by the communes. This differs from the usual model where communities are involved in the planning phase but where the implementation of the activities (restoration for example) is delegated to a third party in collaboration with the communities. This empowerment of local communities to financially manage green activities on sustainable agriculture and restoration will be supported by empowered local technical agents from ANPROCA and DNFF. This set up is innovative for Guinea and will set up a new standard for the inclusion of green initiatives in the communes' work.

Bringing new practices for sustainable intensification and restoration in the communes: As indicated above, several sustainable agriculture intensification and restoration techniques have been piloted in Guinea. This project will bring these innovations to Upper and Forest Guinea and support the diffusion of these innovations. The project will also support the development of some innovative technologies such as the set-up of transformation and recycling platform for palm oil or the identification of local rice varieties resisting to climate change. These best practices will be shared at the Global IP level and new practices could also come from the platform or other exchanges fora to increase the innovation in the project.

Sustainability

The project is supporting both environmental and socio-economic sustainability. The project promotes the integrated management of degraded landscapes for sustainable food systems and livelihoods through forest and landscape restoration and the good management of ecosystems. In this way, the project directly contributes to environmental sustainability. The sustainability of the project is linked to:

Re-enforcing existing structures and decentralization processes as well as empowering the agents of change: The project is not creating any new structure but is re-enforcing existing structures giving them the capacities and means to achieve their green goals as developed in the incremental/additional cost reasoning. This is true from the national to the local level strengthening existing coordination groups and integrating new members to ensure that the process is truly integrated and include a wide variety of stakeholders.

Also, the decentralization process is on-going in Guinea and strongly supported by the government. Before the start of the project, the government and communes were committed to green their PDL and PAI but didn't have the capacities and means. Supporting their development and integrating the project activities into long term development plans, ensure that the communes and communities are taking ownership of them as the sustainable activities integrated in a long term plan which will live beyond the project.

Ensuring that the project stakeholders have the proper means to act on the long term: The decentralization is supported by local decentralized agents from ANAFIC, ANPROCA and DNFF tasked to help the communes and communities to implement their PDL. Due to budget constraints, they often lack the appropriate technical and logistical support they need. The project will bring this support, knowing that trained agents will be active for several years after the end of the project moreover if the project is successful, as it intends to, to create a positive dynamic for sustainable agriculture and restoration. The national and local stakeholders will also be trained on integrated land use planning and sustainable agriculture and restoration implementation. 20,000 farmers trained on these technics form a great cohort for upscaling.

Finding new ways to financially support sustainable activities: Too often sustainable agriculture and restoration activities are considered as a use of financial resources instead of a potential source of it. The project will reverse this tendency by creating value coming from these systems through improved value chains and partnerships with the private sector to support degradation free and restoration activities. The strong focus on supporting entrepreneurs and green business development will participate to this valorisation of sustainable natural resources use as the business depend on them. Innovative sources of funding will also be introduced to diversify the sources of funds available for green activities improving their visibility and importance in planning. The existing experience in innovative financing in Guinea give hope that further developing these systems for upscaling sustainable agriculture and restoration is possible.

Exchanging information in an efficient way to create a mind-set change on the long term: Both national and local project stakeholders will benefit from a more robust monitoring and knowledge management systems (Component 4) that harness technology as well as more local methods of generating, sharing and disseminating data, information and best practices relevant to each target group involved in sustainable agriculture and restoration. This will reduce time spent on research and development and facilitate learning and sharing of innovative ideas among and between local, national

and even international experts and practitioners, possibly influencing program and policy formulation at different levels on the long term. The extent of the awareness raising and the capacity building activities in the project, coupled with field implementation and green businesses development, all of it integrated in the Local Development Plan will have a strong impact on people values. If the project manages to convince people that sustainable natural resources management is in their own interest, there is hope that this project will not only be sustainable but be replicated in Guinea.

By supporting knowledge management, awareness raising, the development of sustainable value chains, partnership with private sector activities, and innovative financing the green activities in the landscape will be sustained on the long term.

Potential for scaling up

The potential for scaling up is strongly linked to the sustainability aspect of the project detailed above. Indeed, in order to be sustainable the project has to set up strong systems in terms of awareness raising, capacity building, local institution and decentralisation process strengthening and activities financing. This system will ensure the sustainability of the process but also increase its reach. Indeed, the participatory integrated land use plan will be developed at the commune level, even if they will be defined for smaller areas, district level, within the communes. This means that communes will be developing plans and financing green activities (through the project funds via ANAFIC) only on a portion their territory. But testing out this work, they will learn how to implement it on other parts of the communes which will also receive the technical support from the decentralized agents based at the communal level who will be trained by the project and can assist more communities than the ones chosen to pilot the activities. As the project will also develop strong value chains, it is expected that more commodities will be requested from this sustainable value chains that would need more farmers to participate in them, creating a virtuous circle. Also, the fund raising opportunities will bring additional funding which can be directed to other districts within the commune in order to increase the reach. It is expected that the project will organically scale up within the pilot communes.

A similar reasoning can be applied at the Prefectural level. Indeed, prefectural agents will be involved in the coordination groups at national and local level, and will closely follow the progress of the targeted communes. Exchanges between the pilot communes and other communes will be organised to share knowledge and seek replication. As part of the project, 20,000 farmers and community members will be trained on sustainable agriculture and restoration options. This knowledge force will be used to support large scale scaling up.

Moreover, the certification process for the Tenera and the Dura palm oil could look into granting geographical indication, allowing for other communes/landscapes under palm oil cultivation to potentially access certification.

Capacity Development

As described above the project success relies on 2 key aspects: strengthening/greening the decentralisation effort and strong capacity development inducing a mindset change. System-wide capacity development (CD) is essential to achieve more sustainable, country-driven and transformational results at scale as deepening country ownership, commitment and mutually accountability. This project is incorporating system-wide CD to empower people, strengthen organizations and institutions as well as enhance the enabling policy environment interdependently and based on inclusive assessment of country needs and priorities.

The project formulation phase highlighted several capacity gaps across individual, organizational, institutional and the enabling policy environment capacities at national and sub-national level, especially related to the nature, scope and complexity of integrated land management planning and implementation. This lack of capacity is mainly due to: (i) the fact that no previous project/initiative has dealt with integrated land management at this scale in Upper and Forest Guinea and (ii) the fact that the country has limited resources to train extension human resources and stakeholders. The formulation team also identified gaps for the establishment of an enabling environment to the implementation of ILM, including the (i) lack of cross-sectoral coordination and cross-compliance involving a broad range of stakeholders; (ii) lack of implementation and weak enforcement of existing policies developed

without accompanying implementation frameworks; (iii) insufficient and inadequate financing instruments often supporting maladaptive natural resources management practices. All these gaps will be tackled through the capacity development work that is strongly embedded across the work plan of the project.

Capacity Development work is embedded in all of the 4 component to ensure capacity development from the national to the local level.

Under Component 1, the project will support the awareness raising and capacity building at national and local level on integrated land use plans. Capacity building is always more efficient when immediately applied. The trained stakeholders will be directly involved in the development of the plans at the district level. In parallel, the project will build capacity on the implementation of supportive policies such as the ones clarifying land tenure.

At national level, this exercise will allow more collaboration between stakeholders, usually working in silo, towards a common vision for land use.

Under Component 2 and 3, a vast network of Farmer Field Schools (FFS) focusing both on sustainable agricultural intensification and restoration activities will be developed. This network will include over 20,000 farmers trained on these practices and supported to put them into practice. This network will be re-enforced by decentralized agents from DNFF and ANPROCA themselves trained and equipped specifically to support capacity development and the implementation of sustainable practices. The FFS methodology of learning by doing has been tested in Guinea and showed great success in terms of adoption of new practices and replication to neighbouring communities showing the deep commitment of the farmers involved in FFS.

Under Component 4, the knowledge management efforts will be particularly important as this is very under developed in Guinea preventing further uptake. The lessons learnt from other projects and this one will be discussed with the target groups and designed according to their needs and their access modality to knowledge (radio, leaflet, internet, etc?). The dissemination of the lessons learned and best practices from the project and other national and international initiatives will contribute to developing national capacity. Workshops and meetings will be organized among concerned target stakeholders to disseminate the lessons learned and best practices developed within the wider FOLUR program, and study visit at national, regional and international levels will be organized to enhance south-south cooperation and mutual learning.

Methodologically, all envisioned training activities will apply effective learning practices including pre-event learning needs assessments, post-event follow-up support to facilitate the transfer of knowledge into practice as well as institutionalization of curricula through partnering with and enhancing the capacities of local universities and research centres. This will contribute to achieving sustainable results. Efforts will also include organizational and institutional capacity strengthening efforts such as to strengthen multi-sectoral and multi-coordination and collaboration mechanisms at national and landscape levels.

[1] Hot nights are defined by the temperature exceeded on 10% of nights in current climate of that region and season.

[2] Cold nights are defined as the temperature below which 10% of nights are recorded in current climate of that region or season.

[3] Hot days are defined by the temperature exceeded on 10% of days in current climate of that region and season.

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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

The project will work in a large coherent biophysical and administrative landscape representing nearly 40% of the country (97,961 km²) that is spread over eight prefectures of Guinea Forest Region (Gu?ck?dou, Kissidougou, K?rouan?, Macenta, Beyla, Yamou, Nz?r?kor? and Lola) and three selected prefectures of Upper Guinea (Faranah, Kouroussa and Kankan) (see map below and in Prodoc Annex E).

As detailed in Prodoc section 1.1 Project Description 1) Context & Site selection, within the 11 prefectures pre-selected for the project, 13 communes have been selected. The 13 communes pre-selected and their geo-coordinates are presented below.

	Prefecture	Commune	Geo-Coordinates (Lon/Lat)
1	Kouroussa	Komala Khoura	9?49'13.78"W 11?11'45.84"N 10?16'28.51"W 11?24'55.38"N 10?41'54.46"W 11? 8'27.47"N 10?14'39.83"W 10?52'41.49"N
2	Kankan	Bat? Nafadji	9? 2'20.67"W 10?40'20.54"N 9? 9'26.84"W 11? 3'31.05"N 9?17'22.84"W 11? 2'58.05"N 9?27'4.51"W 10?37'3.64"N
3	K?rouan?	Komodou	8?52'12.30"W 9?22'42.63"N 8?47'48.62"W 9?47'16.34"N 9?14'5.26"W 9?52'19.14"N 9?12'41.81"W 9?20'58.92"N
4	Faranah	Tiro	10?24'0.56"W 9?41'2.13"N 10?22'19.25"W 9?51'13.91"N 10?43'7.77"W 9?49'24.91"N 10?44'54.44"W 9?41'28.45"N
5	Faranah	Beindougou	10?17'15.51"W 10? 5'48.78"N 10? 7'47.38"W 10?31'43.67"N 10?24'20.72"W 10?32'30.35"N 10?38'5.06"W 10? 4'31.68"N

6	Beyla	Nionsomoridou	8°41'6.70"W 8°34'41.66"N 8°41'28.83"W 8°57'45.67"N 8°57'2.81"W 8°46'27.73"N 8°52'57.72"W 8°26'35.41"N
7	NZ?r?kor?	Bounouma	8°42'5.28"W 7°40'6.27"N 8°53'1.17"W 7°43'26.86"N 8°57'0.73"W 7°42'42.46"N 8°48'12.81"W 7°24'17.94"N
8	Lola	Bossou	8°23'45.43"W 7°37'3.85"N 8°29'25.80"W 7°43'52.34"N 8°33'57.25"W 7°37'33.47"N 8°28'19.66"W 7°33'16.24"N
9	Yomou	Di?ck?	8°50'44.16"W 7°15'57.69"N 8°52'49.12"W 7°34'33.36"N 9° 3'23.60"W 7°25'32.80"N 9° 6'15.89"W 7°11'38.04"N
10	Macenta	Kouankan	8°54'46.08"W 8°18'20.51"N 8°56'11.35"W 8°44'4.00"N 9° 9'13.71"W 8°37'59.07"N 9° 5'59.80"W 8°17'17.40"N
11	Gu?ck?dou	Gu?ck?dou T?koulo	9°53'28.28"W 8°29'53.34"N 9°56'14.17"W 8°39'28.41"N 10° 4'28.72"W 8°39'4.80"N 10° 3'57.23"W 8°25'16.79"N
12	Kissidougou	Gbangbadou	9°59'53.45"W 9°11'27.77"N 9°54'29.79"W 9°20'0.64"N 9°58'47.07"W 9°24'45.96"N 10° 5'16.59"W 9°14'43.35"N
13	Kissidougou	Manfaran	9°41'3.75"W 9°13'45.06"N 9°35'30.30"W 9°21'14.77"N 9°51'58.37"W 9°34'45.34"N 9°58'47.81"W 9°24'48.40"N

This mosaic landscape encompasses a variety of land uses and ecosystems, including of recognized regional and global environmental value. It harbours in particular three Ramsar sites (Tinkisso, Niger-Tinkisso and Niger-Niandan-Nilo) critical because of their hydrological functions for the whole Niger River watershed and Biosphere Reserves (Upper Niger, Zياما Massif and Mount Nimba) of global renown because of their biodiversity (fish, water birds, mammals incl. chimpanzees). The total land surface classified as Protected Areas in the target landscape is 31,543 km². Situated South-East of the country, the target landscape shares borders with three other West African countries (Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone) and can be characterized as a 'frontier' landscape where opportunity exists to pre-empt expansion and get ahead of commercial commodity-driven forest loss.

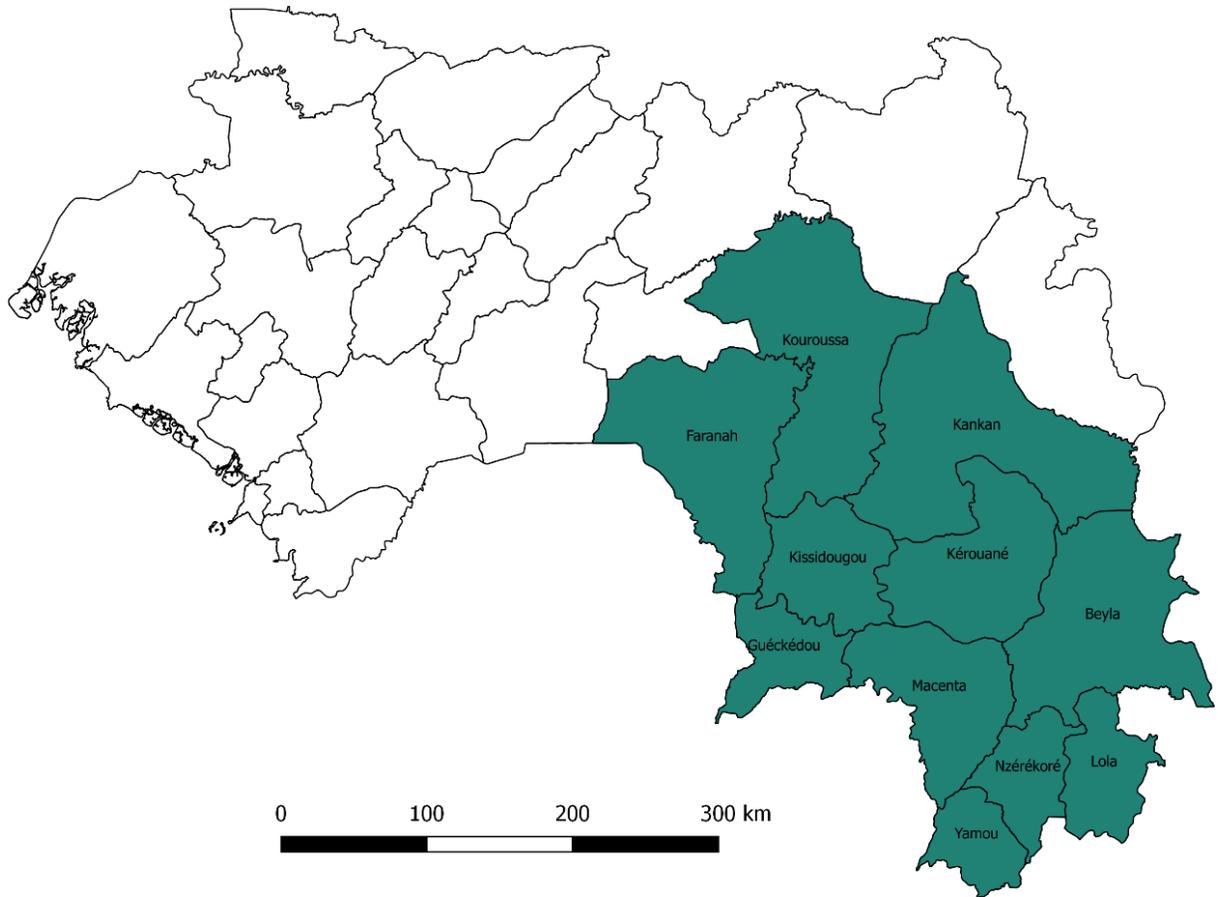


Figure 5. Selected landscape (FAO, 2018)

The selection of the prefectures retained was based on a certain number of criteria discussed with the national actors from the beginning of project design. The ecological assets as well as their level of threats have been a key selection element together with the presence of other projects to which this project will contribute (see Baseline scenario). The presence of Key Biodiversity Areas such as Ramsar sites, the key Mount Nimba National Park, the important national park of the Upper Niger and the head springs of the Niger River are core criteria in the prefectures selection process.

The presence of key commodities in expansion, and with a possible strong impact on forest and land degradation, such as rice and palm oil, is also an important criterion that was considered together with the level of engagement and commitment of the communes towards green activities.

The possibility of implementing an integrated approach project through strengthened partnership with other Guinea's development partners such as The World Bank Group, IFAD and more, has led to the confirmation of these prefectures with the development of synergic project implementation plans for better impact and sustainability.

The final list of criteria used to select 13 communes within these 11 Prefectures are:

- ? Community commitment to implement restoration activities
- ? Presence of the key commodity (rice, palm oil)
- ? Extent of land restoration and biodiversity challenges
- ? Presence of a surrounding protected area to work on buffer zones
- ? Presence of private companies (mining, agriculture,?) to build partnerships
- ? Presence of other baseline projects (including co-funding)
- ? Demographic pressure
- ? One or two communes per prefecture to keep each prefecture represented and allow for upscaling

Within the selected communes, districts will be selected using criteria very similar to the ones used for the communes during the inception phase. Some pre-identification of the district already happened during the project preparation phase but they will have to be confirmed during the inception phase of the project. The ILM plans will be defined either at district level or at lower level depending on the ecosystem considered.

	Prefecture	Commune	Pre-identified districts to be confirmed during inception phase
1	Kouroussa	Komala Khoura	Bantanbaye, Sambaya, Ga?gna
2	Kankan	Bat? Nafadji	Baconco ciss?la, Kofilanin, Tassilima, Temindou, Baconco koro
3	K?rouan?	Komodou	Diaradou, Saramodou, Sanankoroni, Faranfina Gbodou, Mangb?dou
4	Faranah	Tiro	Saourou (s?f?), Tiroba? (Tiro Almamy)
5	Faranah	Beindougou	Sidakoro
6	Beyla	Nionsomoridou	Moribadou, Traor?la, Sandou
7	NZ?r?kor?	Bounouma	Gb?l? and one of the Nionsono sector
8	Lola	Bossou	Seringbara
9	Yomou	Di?ck?	Naapa
10	Macenta	Kouankan	Kouankan (center 1 & 2), Bonodou & Sagnodou or Dandanou et Kalapilita
11	Gu?ck?dou	Gu?ck?dou T?koulo	Wet-kama, Tanlo bengou, Yaradou, Kongomani, Bakama, Wa-bengou, Bawa, T?koulo
12	Kissidougou	Gbangbadou	TBD

13	Kissidougou	Manfaran	TBD
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1c. Child Project?

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

This project is part of the Integrated Program on Promoting effective coordination and adaptive management for Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration (IP FOLUR).

The targeted landscape is affected by land degradation and deforestation mostly because of agricultural expansion for cash crops and food crops, logging for fuelwood and charcoal, and mining. Population growth, political unrest and the overall influence of climate change are exacerbating pressure on land and remaining forests. As a result, natural habitats are lost, and already endangered plants and animals species are further threatened, critical water bodies of the 'West African Water Tower' are affected and soils – the main wealth of Upper Guinea and Guinea Forest Region particularly – are depleted, disrupting local ecosystems and the services they provide, and, ultimately, negatively impacting the productive capacity of the landscape. The intertwined challenges of forest and landscape degradation and the resulting impacts on ecosystem services, biodiversity and climate change vulnerability correspond to the key problems on which the FOLUR IP Theory of Change (ToC) focuses.

In line with the overall focus and outcomes of the FOLUR IP, the project will adopt an Integrated Landscape Management (ILM) approach to simultaneously promote the development of a zero-deforestation value chain (palm oil, rice, etc,...), sustainable food production and the restoration of degraded forest and lands. In this manner, the project is closely aligned with the FOLUR IP Theory of Change (ToC). As described in the proposed alternative scenario, through its four components, the project will address the main barriers to sustainability of food systems in Upper Guinea and Guinea Forest Region, reflecting those highlighted in the FOLUR IP ToC.

The project will, in full alignment with the FOLUR IP ToC, contribute to:

- (i) developing integrated landscape management systems and coordination groups at national and local scales, (ii) supporting enabling policy for integrated landscape management under Component 1
- (i) promoting sustainable agricultural practices across the landscape to reduce negative externalities from oil palm, other cash crops (e.g. cashew nuts, cocoa and coffee) and food crops production and (ii) promoting a responsible and inclusive palm oil value chain from producer to buyer, under Component 2 along the value chains.
- (i) conserving and restoring degraded areas with the full involvement of local stakeholders and (ii) developing innovative financing mechanisms to ensure sustainability on the long term, under Component 3
- supporting knowledge management at local, national and international levels under Component 4, reflecting the ToC of the FOLUR IP.

All the elements described above will both contribute to enrich the knowledge shared by the IP and benefit from the products and services proposed by the IP. As described in the IP Guidance note 'To achieve transformation in food systems and commodity production practices at a global scale, the

country level efforts and global efforts need to work together on key issues and strategies, engage key private and public sector actors, and advise on policies that shift producers' incentives toward sustainability.?

The project foresees to contribute to the Global IP platform mainly through knowledge sharing of its lessons learnt and intend to contribute actively to the activities (meetings, webinar, collaborative thinking, etc.) proposed by the IP. For example, the project could share some good practices already implemented by the SOGUIPHA on integrating some environmental considerations in their large-scale palm oil plantation.

The project will also benefit from the Global IP through:

- Training and practical support on integrated land management planning and monitoring. Indeed some NGOs have experience in this domain in Guinea but it is still limited. The support of the global body of knowledge and exchanges with other countries on this topic will be critical.

- Specific support to the certification process. Indeed, the project will support the finalization of the certification process for the Dura palm oil and start the one for the Tenera. The support can come as training, technical assistance on specific points and linkages to international groups such as the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil or possible buyers of sustainable palm oil. The Community of Practices focused on specific commodities, such as rice or palm oil, will be a key resource.

- Exchanges with other countries on innovative financing mechanisms that work in other projects and could be replicated in Guinea. The project will be testing different options but exchanges on this particular topic will be beneficial. The Global IP will also support the development of innovation funds on key issue areas like private sector and gender.

- Private sector engagement support as the Global IP intend to 'catalyze country level engagement with private sector to transform commitments into actions by providing dialogue opportunities, regular participation in round tables' and 'Leverage responsible investments through regular, regional finance forums, deal brokering'.

- Providing template and guidance on knowledge product development. The project will collect the information and support how to best present it from impact internationally will be needed.

- Ensuring that the indicators reported allow to follow the progress on the global target of the IP, aligning national and international targets.

This project has been developed in close collaboration with the GEF 7 project on palm oil in Liberia led by Conservation International. The international collaboration is already showing its importance and the project will keep fostering it.

2. Stakeholders

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

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Yes

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none of the above, please explain why:

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement

Meaningful and continuous stakeholder engagement during the project design and implementation is key to maximize country ownership and contribute to more enduring results at scale. Moreover, the project intends to strengthen polycentric, multi-stakeholder governance mechanisms within the identified landscapes building on integrated spatial planning and management to result in positive impacts within the productive landscapes and contribute to preserving the natural capital.

During project formulation, the project development team met a broad range of stakeholders at the national and prefecture/commune levels to assess land degradation and community resilience constraints, identify and prioritise project sites, brainstorm on the actions, seek consent to build-up of partnerships, gather information and validate the project design. The workshops, focus groups discussions, meetings, and field visits during project preparation coupled with the feedback received in the inception and validation workshops at the national and districts levels helped identify the stakeholders and the different roles they are expected to play in the project. The main stakeholders can be grouped into six categories: governmental institutions, research institutions, local stakeholders, NGOs, private sector, and international development agencies.

Throughout the project formulation phase, FAO and the project development team did not identify any stakeholder that may be negatively affected by the project.

During the project formulation phase, it was observed that women and youth engagement in ILM/FLR projects is limited, requiring major support to improve access to land, extension, knowledge, training, funding, equipment and inputs, and labour force. Women and youth engagement in decision-making, participatory planning, implementation and monitoring of integrated landscape plans, FFS and FLR trainings, and access to financial and technical support implementation and income generating activities, will continue to be actively pursued during the project life, always addressing the gender specificities. In particular, activities aiming at improving income generation and the development of bankable projects under Component 2 and 3 will actively target women and youth.

Specific activities on stakeholder consultation and engagements included the following:

Inception Workshop (IW). Due to the crisis of Covid 19, the IW was organized online through a zoom platform (January 7-8, 2021), with the participation of the GEF project design expert, national experts, representatives of FAO (Rome, Guinea), representatives of the lead national partner (DNFF) and a large number of institutions representing ministerial departments (Ministry of Environment, Agriculture, Higher Education, Scientific Research, ANPROCA, ANAFIC) at the national and regional levels, NGOs, the private sector and international development agencies. The objective of this inception workshop was to officially launch the project document preparation activities, to introduce the project and the project development team, to involve national stakeholders in the project development process, to promote information sharing and contribution of all to the project development process, to review the proposed project preparation activities, to identify potential co-financing and to get approval for the project preparation approach.

Training of national consultants on inclusion of gender aspects in the interviews with key stakeholders and the definition of activities. Before the first field mission, the Gender expert led a 1 day training on these aspects to make sure they were an integral part of project development.

Stakeholder Consultations (SC). Several rounds of consultations were organized by the national consultants, with support from the DNFF and FAO Guinea staff, between January and June 2021. Field assessments, interviews with local farmers (farmers, herders and others), workshops and focus groups were held at the national and regional levels (proposed project landscapes), involving a wide range of stakeholders (government institutions representing different sectors, user and producer organizations, research centers, NGOs and CBOs, private companies) to obtain their views on the project activities and to ensure that the project would meet their needs. The consultation agenda has been disturbed by the haemorrhagic fever and COVID 19 outbreak 10-days missions have been undertaken to validate the information received at centralized level. The first one happened from 18-28 January and the second one from 3-14 June 2021.

The main consultative activities in the field have been: (i) workshops with national and deconcentrated state structures, private sector and civil society in the project's target regions; individual meetings with specific stakeholders; (ii) meetings with target groups (community-based NWFP and agroforestry operators, value chain producer organizations, cooperatives and buyers' groups, NGOs/OCBs, researchers, local elected officials, extension agents, water and forestry protection agents, financial operators); and (iii) meetings with local elected officials extended to rural communities in rural communes. Mobilization was facilitated by the communal council and recommendations were made beforehand for the participation of representative groups, ensuring that women and youth were fairly represented. Discussions were facilitated by national consultants with experience in community participation work, who encouraged participants to identify opportunities and risks related to the future project, express their wishes and concerns, and prioritize sites, actions and interventions. The consultations provided information on the capacity development needs of different stakeholders and identified value chain products for the project.

Peer Consultations (PC). Several consultations were held with national and international institutions responsible for related initiatives to explore coordination modalities. These included: UNDP, World Bank, MEDD, ANAFIC, private companies (SMFG, SOGUIPAH, Park Diwasi), and NGOs.

Pre Validation meetings. Pre-validation meetings have been organized in July (together) and in September (separately) 2021 with the 3 key partners of the project DNFF, ANPROCA and ANAFIC to ensure that they had a good understanding of the proposed outcomes, outputs and activities in general and of those under their responsibility in particular. WE discussed with them in details the institutional arrangements and the budget.

Validation Workshop (VW). The VW has been organized on October 8th 2021 through a mixed approach of presential and zoom participation (for stakeholders outside of Conakry) to review and verify/endorse the project design. The workshop went very well and no major concerns were raised by the participants. The discussion only allowed us to enrich the proposed activities.

The Annex I2 in the Prodoc presents the details on the stakeholders engaged in the project development and project implementation as well as the method for stakeholder engagements.

The key categories of stakeholders engaged in the project implementation and their role (all the details are available in Prodoc Annex I2) are:

DNFF is an executing partner (lead):

- ? Coordinate the project
- ? Lead the planning and implementation of the project with ANPROCA and ANAFIC
- ? Commit DNFF staff to support the project success in restoration

- ? Ensure that all the activities under C1, C3 and C4 are well implemented
- ? Provide the equipment and logistics necessary for the implementation of the project

ANPROCA (executing partner):

- ? Provision of sufficient support staff (ANPROCA agents) and in charge of C2
- ? Capacity Building and implementation of sustainable agricultural practices
- ? Facilitation of multi-actor consultation frameworks
- ? Support to sustainable agriculture policies and the development of certification scheme for palm oil

ANAFIC (executing partner):

- ? Build capacity for communes to have green windows in their PDL and PAI
- ? Ensure that communes receive the funds to implement green activities part of their PDL/PAI
- ? Supervise appropriate spending from the communes

Different technical offices of the Ministries involved:

- ? Support the implementation of the project
- ? Participation in capacity building workshops
- ? Use of managerial skills in specific areas
- ? Participation through consultation frameworks at the national level
- ? Representation of Guinea at the level of international bodies (Rio conventions)

Decentralized technical offices of the Ministries involved:

- ? Ensure the local coordination of the project
- ? Ensure the logistics management of the project
- ? Facilitate the mobilization of the authorities
- ? Participate in the functioning of consultation frameworks
- ? Supports knowledge sharing

Local authorities (Governors, Prefects, Sub Prefect, mayors, municipal councils, district presidents):

- ? Facilitation of the missions, the mobilization around the project;
- ? Facilitate awareness raising and update of the project
- ? Facilitate upscaling of the project
- ? Participate in consultation frameworks, support the project, facilitate community participation, support the greening of the PDL and the implementation of the activities

Farmer producers and herders in the project areas:

- ? Participate in consultation frameworks and plan and implement the ILM.
- ? Put sustainable agriculture and restoration into practice
- ? Engage in socio-economic livelihood development

Universities and Institutes of Higher Education, research Centers and NGOs (MGE, etc.):

- ? Involvement in awareness raising, capacity building and knowledge management
- ? Support project implementation through implementation of some activities

Private Sector (mining, palm oil for exemple):

- ? Involvement in project implementation
- ? Collaborate on sustainable palm oil value chain development, land restoration and other activities as part of the impact mitigation and CSR (mining), etc.
- ? Support the palm oil certification process
- ? Establish a framework for consultation, share information and facilitate co-financing in common intervention areas

Co finance projects (WB, FAO,?)

- ? Provide the base on which to develop the project
- ? Establish a framework for consultation, share information and facilitate co-financing in intervention areas

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

Prodoc Annex I2 present the details on how stakeholders will be engaged in project execution.

Different budget lines have been allocated to ensure the identified stakeholders are meaningfully involved throughout decision making and project implementation process. This includes several capacity development workshops at local, and regional levels, regular coordination meetings, and knowledge and communications strategy, among others.

The results framework has been structured to include indicators that ensure stakeholder participation in all components of the project. The engagement of national and local institutions is also reflected in the results of institutional capacity development, strengthening of policy, regulatory and planning frameworks. At local level, the communities, farmers, entrepreneurs will be engaged as main actors in sustainable land management. At landscape level, the development and implementation of integrated land use plans will involve extensive consultation of local stakeholders.

The PMU will be responsible for implementing the stakeholder engagement activities as outlined in the Stakeholder Stakeholder Engagement Matrix. It will also be responsible for monitoring and reporting on stakeholder engagement through the annual project implementation reports (PIRs).

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor;

Co-financier;

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

Executor or co-executor; Yes

Other (Please explain)

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.

A detailed gender analysis had been led as part of the preparation of this project. A dedicated consultant participated in the missions and developed gender activities in close collaboration with the other technical consultants. The gender consultant gave a one day training on gender to the rest of the team before they started the work to ensure that the gender dimension was directly streamlined in the definition of project activities.

The details are given in Prodoc *Annex J1 Gender Analysis*. Some of the key elements of this analysis are:

- ? In Guinea, women outnumber men. They represent more than 51% of the population and about 72% of them live in rural areas.
- ? Women education levels are low compared to men as only 22% of adult women can read and write, compared to 44% of men.
- ? Women are more numerous (68.1%) than men (62.9%) in agriculture (ELEP 2012) and constitute the backbone the farming community.
- ? Despite their large numbers, they are still less represented than men in the country's decision-making bodies at both the political-administrative and community levels.
- ? Women and youth are among the most vulnerable members of the rural population. Women play a variety of roles in agriculture, from production and processing to small-scale marketing.
- ? Although legally recognised as equal to men, in rural areas women are still at a distinct disadvantage. Despite their key role in supporting households, women do not have control over key resources (livestock, land, tools for cultivation, money, etc.) even when the resource is formally theirs. They also have limited access to agricultural inputs, technical advice, improved technologies, land ownership and decision-making.
- ? The only resource over which women have control is market gardening, where they decide on the entire value chain (from choosing seeds to managing income from the sale of surplus).

- ? The division of labour in favour of men is closely linked to the imbalance of power between men and women, the latter having to juggle different roles: all the house work is their responsibility, but also a large part of the productive activities.

Nevertheless, there is a political will to improve the status of women and to integrate them into the development process. In this context, Guinea has subscribed to numerous international treaties that protect women's rights and has updated several public policies. The National Gender Policy has been updated in 2017 and is the government's instrument for integrating gender into sectoral policies.

At the institutional level, a ministerial department has just been created to accelerate the emancipation of women. This is the Ministry of Women's Rights and Empowerment.

While it can be difficult to go against cultural norms, changing mindset is possible. The project should focus on activities particularly beneficial to women and support their integration in all planning and decision making processes. As described above, vegetables market, rice and palm oil are key value chain where the role of women are large and can support the establishment of a better gender balance in benefit sharing. The project will focus on these value chains. The project will also be supporting women to have a voice when discussing the future of their community and to be recognized for their contribution to sustainable landscape management, including agriculture throughout its 4 components. The project strategy includes gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women's empowerment as described in the table below.

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; Yes

Improving women's participation and decision making Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women Yes

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

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

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

The commitment of the private sector is essential to the success of the project and its upscaling.

Within the framework of this project, the private sector is essentially composed of:

- Mining companies
- Agribusiness companies (large companies, SMEs and VSEs)
- Financial institutions (Banks, microfinance institutions)
- Cooperatives and individual producers
- Other green enterprises (i.e. ecotourism companies around parks and reserves)

The key private sector actors in the 2 key sectors for the project, mining and palm oil, that the project has been engaging with are:

SOGUIPAH

SOGUIPAH is an agro-industrial company created in 1987, whose purpose is to create, develop and operate oil palm and rubber plantations and to promote economic and social development in the Forest Guinea. The main products are palm oil, processed rubber and soap. The company operates in the area of Di?ck? (Yomou prefecture).

As part of its Family Plantations project, SOGUIPAH financed the supply of improved palm seedlings to the project's beneficiary planters. This support in planting material was in the form of a loan to be repaid at harvest. This support began in 1990 and ended in 1996.

In addition, the company carries out land protection and restoration activities through its land management plan.

Sophie Anne Cie

Launched in 1997, Sophie Anne Company produces and markets natural palm oil, and agricultural products such as honey, cassava, soybeans, and dried leaves (cassava, potato etc...) from Forest Guinea. The company has a red palm oil processing unit that meets CODEX standards. Sophie Anne's palm oil is organic and produced by local farmers. It is a hand-pressed oil from the fruits of the indigenous oil palm tree. The oil is extracted using traditional techniques.

Guinea Iron Mining Society (SMFG)

Soci?t? Mini?re de Fer de Guin?e is owned by High Power Exploration and the Guinean government. The company is developing the Nimba Iron Ore Project in the Lola Prefecture of Forest Guinea. As part of its land restoration activities, SMFG is carrying out the following actions on Mount Nimba: Stabilization and rehabilitation of degraded lands, control of bush fires on the mountain, control of invasive species, and support for the restoration of the D?r? forest through reforestation.

As part of its community development program, SMFG is planning projects that include land restoration activities around the villages.

Kouroussa Gold Mine (KGM)

Kouroussa Gold Mining is in the process of setting up operations in the Kouroussa prefecture. It has not yet invested directly in land restoration activities, as the mine has not yet started operating. However, it supports community development micro-projects. In addition to these actions, the company plans land reclamation actions from the beginning of the mine's operation phase.

Rio Tinto - Simandou

Rio Tinto is an Anglo-Australian mining giant. It has been present in Guinea for several decades. The Simandou project is in its re-launch phase in the Beyla area, after a halt in activities due to a dispute with the Guinean state.

As part of its community support program, Rio Tinto established the Rio Tinto Foundation in 2014. This Foundation, which is an independent non-profit organization, aims to promote socio-economic development in Guinea. Its establishment is part of Rio Tinto's ongoing effort to catalyze support local economic development.

The Rio Tinto Foundation has a nationwide presence and is active throughout the country. To maximize the Rio Tinto Foundation's impact in communities, the Foundation focuses some of its efforts on the agricultural sector, specifically on projects that increase the country's food self-sufficiency and agricultural productivity. The Foundation does not implement projects; it supports local actors and gives them the means to carry out socio-economic development projects through a competitive fund.

SMB WINNING -Simandou

Founded in 2014, the SMB-Winning Consortium brings together four global partners (mainly asian) in the fields of mineral extraction, production and transportation. Since its inception, the consortium has been operating in the Bok? where it mines bauxite. The Simandou iron ore project is in the feasibility study phase and covers Blocks 1 and 2 of Mount Simandou. If implemented, this project will be one of the largest mining investments in Africa, with an investment of \$15 billion, 30,000 direct jobs, 650 kilometers of railroad, and \$15.5 billion in revenues over 25 years for the Guinean government.

The development of the project has also involved key cooperatives such as the Sea butter producers union (**FUPROBEK**), the Dura Network (**R?seau Dura**) and the Regional Federation of Palm Oil and Rubber Producers (**FEREPAH**), just to name a few.

In order to significantly involve the private sector within these 2 sectors and beyond, the following activities will be implemented:

? ***Increase private sector involvement in the design, planning, financing and execution of integrated land use and restoration projects***

It includes strengthening the participation of the private sector in national and local coordination groups? discussion about landscape vision and integrated land use. It also entails reinforcing both the legal framework conducive to private sector engagement and the capacity of the public sector to support ILM and restoration project initiated by the private sector.

The project will facilitate dialogue and collaboration between the public and private sectors. This will create an enabling environment for the private sector to contribute to the planning and implementation process of land restoration and management projects at the local and national levels.

Private sector is already involved in financing livelihood development activities and some restauration activities through their own programs or Foundations (such as Rio Tinto) or through the FODEL. The project will support the development of such initiatives. For example, the project can collaborate with SMFG and other public and private stakeholders to develop innovative funding mechanisms such as competitive funds, crowdfunding to finance best green projects developed by community-based organizations and enterprises (mainly run by women and youth).

? ***Build capacity of the decentralized technical services to support private sector actions***

Capacity building of decentralized technical services will enable them to fully play their roles of collecting and analysing data on the sector, informing and guiding actors, providing technical support, facilitating contacts and trade between actors, arbitration in dispute management, etc.

The project will build the capacity of the decentralized technical officers who will be able to support and monitor the implementation of the environmental plans private sector commit to and support private sector to develop in a sustainable way. Indeed, as the activity of large companies contribute to accelerated land degradation, their contributions to the restoration of these lands must be maximized in order to make their activities sustainable and preserve the natural ecosystem. They also need to be supported to grow with as little impact as possible. The cluster or out-growers schemes, as SOGUIPAH started to develop them, are a good way of doing so while involving surrounding communities as long as it is done in a fair and ecologically and socially sustainable way.

In addition, the project will develop partnerships with private companies for the promotion of restoration activities in the areas of intervention of the project, through the co-financing of activities of common interest. The local extension officer also will be able to work with private partners in order to integrate sustainable agriculture and restoration activities as part of their community livelihood development plan. As an example, agroecology practices can be further supported on the land owned by SOGUIPAH as well as on the farmers? land part of the out growers? scheme.

? ***Support the development of local entrepreneurs and associated networks***

Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) are numerous in the natural resources and land use sectors but they are often informal and not enough structured to implement sustainability activities. The

project will support the the structuring of the various sectors (palm oil, non-timber forest products) with a view to professionalize them and making their activities more sustainable. The project will place particular emphasis on the integration of green enterprises into value chains, especially those that are managed or employ women and youth.

In addition, the project will support the establishment and/or strengthening of umbrella organizations. This will not only strengthen the livelihoods of the beneficiaries (through the increase of their incomes), but also reduce the negative effects of their economic activities on the environment.

? ***Improve the alignment of products with international quality and sustainability standards.***

The adoption of standards for palm oil will improve the quality of products, and promote sustainable ways of producing attractive to possible international buyers while ensuring long-term production capability in Guinea.

The project will support the certification process of the two main palm oil varieties (Dura and Tenera) produced in the project areas. A draft of quality charter has been developed by a previous project (Project SARA). The project will support efforts to review this charter in order to make sure that sustainability standards are taken into account. Particular emphasis will be placed on building the capacity of all actors in the palm oil sector (producers, processors, transporters, packaging companies, etc.) so that quality and sustainability standards are respected by all actors throughout the value chain. NGOs with experience in this area will be involved to train all economic actors on the sustainability and quality charter for each variety of palm oil. This will strengthen the confidence of trading partners for the emergence of a strong and responsible private sector in the palm oil sector.

This project will seek the collaboration and participation of the private sector in implementing the activities and intervention strategies of the project as well as in achieving the goals and objectives outlined in the project.

5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

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

Project risks have been identified and analyzed during the preparation phase and mitigation measures have been incorporated into the design of the project. The Project Steering Committee (PSC) together with the Project Management Unit (PMU) will be responsible for the management of such risks as well as the effective implementation of mitigation measures. The PSC will also be responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of mitigation measures and adjusting mitigation strategies as needed, and to identify and manage any new risks that were not identified during project development, in collaboration with project partners. The main risks, their ranking and the mitigation measures are presented in the following table.

It is important to note that over the course of the 9 months of project development the country has been through the COVID 19 epidemic, 2 outbreaks of viral hemorrhagic fevers (Ebola and Marburg fever) and a Coup d'etat. Despite all this and the difficult working conditions linked to these (the 2 fever epidemics happening in Forest Guinea), stakeholders remained available and ready to work to make this project a success. The resilience of Guinea to shock is impressive and is a good sign that the project can move forward despite the obstacles.

Description of risk	Impact[1]	Probability of occurrence3	Mitigation actions	Responsible party
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<p>Lack of political stability supporting the integrated planning and implementation. Turnover and changes in decision makers and institutional arrangements beyond the control of the project may lead to a volatile environment that hampers the long-term success of the work.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>L</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project priorities are aligned with the international commitments of the Government of Guinea and with the most recent national strategies, policies and legislation. Support for ILM will be further strengthened through implementation of components 1 and 4 focusing on policy development, monitoring and information and awareness-raising interventions. - The leading role of the DNFF, ANAFIC and ANPROCA which are stable organizations, not necessarily affected by political changes (as it has been proven during the autumn 2021 political crisis), will be a strong support with technical staff from key ministerial departments that enjoy a more stable position within the administration and reducing turnover volatility. - The empowerment of the National Interministerial Committee for Forest and Landscape Restoration Coordination including representatives from relevant governmental sectors and public and private stakeholders, and the improved governance and legislation framework conveyed under Component 1 will increase the chances of long term buy-in and conduciveness. - The project success will be highly dependent on the 13 communes in which the project will be deployed. National political turmoil doesn't seem to have a strong impact on the work of these communes. 	<p>PMU, DNFF, ANPROCA, ANAFIC</p>
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<p>Insufficient capacity within the concerned ministerial departments and the decentralized agencies to successfully engage in a complex, comprehensive ILM multi-sectoral and multi-level program</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>- The project is heavily reliant on decentralized offices. The key partners of the project DNFF, ANPROCA and ANAFIC have been ensuring that they will have the decentralized agents ready to be capacitated at communal level to support the project. The co-finance letters are a clear evidence of this and can be referred to.</p> <p>- The concerned ministerial departments have been engaged since the beginning of the project preparation of this project and show high level of commitment. The project will support them in reaching their goals to ensure their constant support.</p>	<p>DNFF, ANPROCA, ANAFIC</p>
<p>The project is unable to secure the external expertise and technical assistance required for a proper and timely implementation of the work plan.</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>The project doesn't rely heavily on international expertise. Also the fact that the project is nested within the wider FOLUR IP and within FAO network, the pool of expertise made available by the Global Program and the implementing partners (FAO, UNEP, IUCN), the involvement of the FAO Headquarters and Sub-Regional Office for Western Africa will highly minimize this risk. The project will benefit from international expertise but this is absolutely not the core of the project and could not threatened its final success.</p>	<p>PMU GCP</p>

<p>Local communities are reluctant to engage in or abandon the adoption of ILM/FLR in their respective landscapes.</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>M</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The project design recognizes at the outset that capacity development is a long-term endeavour requiring long-term support throughout the right implementation process. The FFS continuous coaching of farmers through highly qualified peers, with the support of experts and decentralized officers, who can follow on the interventions well after the project ends, will help consolidate the long-term adoption of SLM/SFM by land users. - The participatory nature of the development of ILM plans and selection of sustainable agriculture and restoration priority interventions, together with the accompanying capacity development actions and the financing management in the hands of the communes will maximize community buy in. - The fact that the project interventions are clearly aimed at improving the rural economy and creating business opportunities for the communities will encourage involvement of the grassroots beneficiaries. 	<p>PMU, DNFF, ANPROCA, ANAFIC, Communes, FFS trainers</p>
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<p>Project interventions fail to be gender inclusive</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>M</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The project recognizes the gender constraints linked to land tenure rights, access to capacity enhancement programs, access to finance, technologies, inputs, labor, etc. Capacity enhancement interventions will address the specific role, constraints and needs of women in rural development, with concrete awareness raising and training activities to strengthen women leadership and secure their land rights and effective involvement in SLM/SFM/Green value chains. - The activities linked to value chain development will target value chains where women are particularly present such as palm oil and NTPF in order to promote their work and help them to grow their business. - Gender balanced targets will be applied for most outputs such as capacity enhancement participation, entrepreneurial support and access to finance 	<p>PMU, DNFF, ANPROCA, ANAFIC, all Implementing partners</p>
<p>Current and future climate change impacts threaten the sustainability of ILM/FLR investments</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>M</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The project seeks to restore and enhance the ecosystem services provided by resilient landscapes that support sustainable livelihoods. In doing so, the objective of strengthening resiliency to anticipated climate impacts will be embedded into ILM planning and all related investments. - The project will support climate smart agricultural practices ranging from agro-forestry providing extra shade to selection of the seeds most adapted to local climate patterns. Additional tree enhancement in farmland and production diversification will strengthen producers' resilience. - A detailed analysis on the climate risks affecting the target areas is available in Prodoc Annexe I3. 	<p>PMU, DNFF, ANPROCA, ANAFIC, all Implementing partners</p>

The private sector is reluctant to invest in ILM/FLR	M	L	<p>-The engagement of the private sector (mainly palm oil and mining) has been happening since the first concept idea of this project and they demonstrated strong interest to participate to improve their relationships with the government and local communities. The project will allow them to actively participate to ILM plans definition and co-creating with other partners their vision for the landscape.</p> <p>- By working closely with the communities, the project might be broker of good relationships and peace in the landscape that is of particular importance for the private sector</p> <p>- The project will support the private sector to deliver on its commitment towards sustainable development.</p>	PMU and Implementing partners
The COVID-19 crisis or other health crisis (Ebola or Marburg fever) extends over time and has operational impacts on the implementation and institutional/governance arrangements of the project.	M	L	<p>-Mitigate social distancing requirements by enhancing IT support and funding.</p> <p>-Review and adjust implementation and stakeholder engagement arrangements to compensate staff shortages, reorientation of institutional priorities and social distancing.</p> <p>-Adjust stakeholders? engagement plans, adopt higher flexibility and adaptive management and use remote communication whenever possible.</p> <p>Guinea has unfortunately experience in the management of epidemic and during the project development phase, they have showcased a good level of adaptability.</p>	DNFF, ANPROCA, ANAFIC, all Implementing partners

Project strategy towards Covid19 risk:

Covid19 pandemic had an impact in project design and can represent a challenge in project implementation if the situation isn't stabilized before the project inception. Diseases such as Ebola and other hemorrhagic fevers also have a strong impact on the project moreover as the main outbreak areas are often in Forest Guinea, one of the project sites. The frequency of occurrence of such disease keeps increasing. Indeed just during the project preparation, alongside COVID 19, and the 2 hemorrhagic fever outbreaks, 50 instances of yellow fever were reported near the border with Senegal. To make the health crisis even more pressing, Guinea is also battling measles outbreaks and a spate of rapidly spreading polio. These public health issues all intersect to make Guinea a high-risk endemic country.

There is a negative feedback between tropical deforestation, climate change and biodiversity loss, that has serious repercussions, including many that are unpredictable as pandemic crisis. Experts have warned that human encroachment of natural habitats for wildlife will drive the emergence of further zoonotic diseases,

as pathogens that historically did not interact with people can now jump from animals to humans, as seems to be the case of Covid19 and the hemorrhagic fevers. According to the UN Framework for the Immediate Socio-economic Response to Covid19, published in April 2020, the success of pandemic recovery is intimately linked to supporting efforts to arrest ecosystem encroachments and harmful practices, restore degraded ecosystems, and close down illegal trade and illegal wet markets, while protecting communities that depend on natural habitats for their food supply and livelihoods.

As reported by ONE, Food insecurity in Guinea is on the rise, caused mainly by the necessary measures put in place to curb the spread of COVID-19. These measures led to limited access to market-places and caused crippling income losses to traders and casual workers. According to a recent survey on the impact of the pandemic, 73% of urban households and 71% of rural families confirm that the pandemic is affecting their diet. The World Food Programme (WFP) estimates that 880,741 of the country's people are food insecure because of the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19. ONE report that as of 22 March 2021, 46.2% of people in Guinea have an insufficient food intake. This number includes children under the age of 5, of which 30.3% are suffering from chronic malnutrition.

The project will work on these issues by diversifying the local production making communities more resilient to shock and by increasing the area available for biodiversity working on limiting the wildlife/human contacts.

The project will adopt the *principle of diversification* at all levels (e.g. species diversification in forest restoration and agroforestry interventions; tree-crop-livestock landscape integration; diversification of climate-adaptive crop species/varieties and NWFPs in agriculture/forest production systems and green value chain development, as a way to diversify livelihood opportunities and enhance food security under lock down situation) as the best strategy to stop and reverse habitat encroachment and biodiversity loss in the Upper and Forest Guinea, increase landscape resilience against climate risks, reduce sources of social vulnerability associated with lack of knowledge, food and economic insecurity, and reinforce the participatory governance of landscape stakeholders, and the capacity of public services and social safety nets to react in times of pandemic crisis.

This project objective is to support strong natural ecosystems providing multiple services to the local and global communities. One of the vital role healthy ecosystems play is the prevention of zoonotic diseases. The 'One Health' approach, advocated by the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), and FAO, calls on public health, animal health, plant health, and environment experts to come together to reduce disease transmission risks and improve the health and well-being of all people, wildlife and livestock, and the ecosystems they live in.

By promoting participatory and multi-stakeholders dialogue and long term planning through the development and the implementation of integrated land use plans, the projects ensures that other sectors directly responsible for driving land-use change, habitat degradation or deforestation in a given geographic location also have a seat at the table. Zoonotic diseases cannot be regarded in isolation. They are part of the delicate balance between people, nature, and animals. This project will promote dialogue between the different stakeholders and through the development of sustainable and diversified land management option will support resilience in case of crisis such as the COVID 19 one. It is important to note that in Asia it has been proven by RECOFTC that 'Millions of people across Asia have been better able to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions because they are members of community forests, with rights to manage, use and benefit from local forest resources'.

In this sense, the project will address the Covid19 crisis in a multiple way, responding to the recommendations of the UN Framework for the Immediate Socio-economic Response to Covid19:

Mainstreaming Covid19 issues into project interventions

Data gathering and stakeholder analysis for ILM planning: The ILM planning team will gather data and make a rapid assessment of the socio-economic impact of Covid19 impact on the stakeholder groups in each landscape. This will help prioritize the target population for each type of investment in the target

districts, by identifying the most sensitive groups to food insecurity and prioritize them so that they can better cope with lock down situations with job loss or little or no access to food products from outside.

Awareness: the ILM participatory planning process will help increase understanding of the negative feedback between tropical deforestation, climate change and biodiversity loss that is behind the Covid19 or other zoonotic disease risks. It will also help understand the positive effects of the proposed integrated landscape management interventions that enhance sustainable coexistence of agriculture and natural habitats, including through investments in land restoration, sustainable natural resources management and diversified green food production.

Governance: the ILM planning process will follow an interdisciplinary approach, making sure that stakeholders integrate the health perspective and its environmental and socio-economic considerations in the planning process.

Capacity building: the capacity development interventions ? training, FFS, technical support ? will help the target groups understand multiple causation ? deforestation, loss of biodiversity, climate change ? that is behind zoonotic diseases risks, and how integrated landscape management investments help prevent these risks.

Project investments: integrated interventions at the landscape level will help restore healthy and well connected ecosystems in the target landscapes with a positive global impact in the prevention of a possible outbreak of zoonotic disease risk, while promoting economically viable and socially beneficial land-use options and diversified production systems that help safeguard livelihoods and food and economic security.

Mainstreaming Covid19 issues into working procedures

The project design has been affected in terms of working procedures, delaying or preventing (in the case of the Ebola outbreak in Forest Guinea) the organization of some field missions and forcing the project partners to travel to other locations for meetings or attend web meetings.

The fact that it has been possible to organize a validation workshop with all the partners present in Conakry together and the others joining via zoom, gives hope that the situation could stabilize soon. Nevertheless, the crises might linger in Guinea as the vaccination rate is extremely low. This will force the project team and partners to define alternative measures regarding: (i) the collection of information and consultations with the stakeholders involved, (ii) the organization of teamwork, working meetings, workshops, training, and visits to / from other countries involved in the program, (iii) the provision of technical assistance from national and international experts, and (iv) the community-based participation and relationships among members of local communities, and among members of producer organizations, market-based platforms, etc. In this sense, the project team and its partners should define the rules of the game that best adapt to the conditions of Covid19 during the inception workshop. Specifically, the project could define the following types of alternatives to work procedures:

The project team should strictly follow the Guinean government regulation in terms of meeting and travel restriction. Depending on the restrictions, the meetings and workshops can be fully or partially carried out electronically ensuring a minimum representation of all interested stakeholder groups. During the project preparation we saw that it was possible to have group of stakeholder together in different areas of the country participating to the same meeting. This mix of in-person and e-meeting has been quite successful. The project team will request the respect of all legal measures established by the government when people gather, such as a mask, hand washing, safety distance, ventilation of the meeting space, maximum meeting time, etc. In a recent Ipsos survey, it has been indicated that ?almost all Guineans know about COVID-19 and basic understanding about transmission and the importance of regular hand washing is high.? And that ?they are supportive of a wide range of personal and community public health social measures to help limit the spread of the coronavirus at this comparatively early stage of its spread in Guinea Conakry; however, there is considerable variation in support between measures, with only narrow support for closing markets.?

If needed, technical assistance and training may make use of alternative communication tools adapted to the different target audiences. In the case of literate people, the Global Programme may organize web training programmes. The experts hired by the Guinea Child Project may be involved in the national and

global web training activities, being requested and guided to register web lectures, and participate in life sessions to answer questions to the course students and provide additional information.

In the case of illiterate people, the project team and partners in charge of capacity building such as IRAG, ANPROCA and DNFF will develop other tools such as the production of short very practical videos with images that describe how to implement different activities on sustainable agricultural intensification and active restoration. The videos can be sent through mobile phones to practitioners to use in their daily work. The fact that the project will work with facilitators and lead farmers from the commune, could be an asset when travel between communes isn't possible. In any case, project facilitators supporting FFS will agree with practitioners about meeting and coworking opportunities that meet the governmental Covid19 protocols.

The project team and partners will raise awareness among local community members, producers? organizations participating in FFS, and value chain members, about Covid19 risks and the official measures established to prevent transmission of the virus.

<i>Category</i>	<i>Risks</i>	<i>Measures</i>
Implications at national level		
Short to medium term	<p>? Reduced financial (co-financing) support from Government, development partners, and private sector, due to limited overall funding availability resulting from the COVID-19-related economic downturn, and/or the reorientation of available funding to actions directly related to COVID-19</p> <p>? Government expenditure and prioritization of different programs and sectors, including agriculture, food security and natural resources might change.</p>	<p>This risk is considered low as all the co-financing letters have been obtained in late 2021, so after almost 2 years of COVID crisis, therefore partners already had a good idea of the potential impact of COVID 19.</p> <p>? If there are changes in co-financing, then partners will work to seek alternative options for co-financing and ensure continuity of resource allocation to ongoing initiatives in project target areas.</p> <p>? It is anticipated that the project scope will help to support the Government's response to COVID-19 through its focus on food security and livelihoods diversification of vulnerable communities.</p> <p>? Project activities and target locations within landscapes will be further discussed with the Government to ensure that emerging priorities and responses, as a result of the pandemic, are well reflected.</p>
Implications for project activities (on the ground)		
Short to medium term	<p>? Closure of offices, transport etc. will delay launch of project and its implementation.</p>	<p>? It is possible that periodic closures of transport and offices as well as restrictions on organizing meetings/ trainings with large number of people will impact project implementation. The fact that the project already involves local facilitators / work with local partners will ensure that some work can continue on the ground. Detailed planning will be done with the government operational partners to mobilize their field offices and others and the project will ensure that all recommended safe practice are followed by the project team and by communities where the project is working.</p>

Short to medium term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Potential or partial disruption of food system supply chains, such as logistics ? Increased losses and spoilage in high value commodities/perishables ? Disruption of demand for products and markets, due to temporary closure of hotels and restaurants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Provide advice to farmers and government to meet immediate food needs ? Conduct socio-economic impact assessment (as part of baseline assessment) to inform the project design and implementation ? Ensure close collaboration with private sector entities and logistic companies to understand emerging barriers related to the pandemic and establish feasible options ? Support producer organizations in linking with export markets and encourage use of online markets where possible
Short to medium term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Higher dependence on natural ecosystems and their services, as people who lose employment and income from other sectors depend more on such ecosystems for their livelihoods, thereby increasing pressures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? The project will prioritize work in more impacted areas of the project sites to diversify production and widen the community safety net and resilience as well as strengthen community management and alternative livelihoods.

Climatic risks

A full climate risk assessment is available in Prodoc Annex I3, here is a summary. According to the Köppen climatic scale, the target regions have a tropical monsoon climate (Am), occasionally also known as a tropical wet climate. Tropical monsoon climates have monthly mean temperatures above 18°C in every month of the year and feature wet and dry seasons with at least one month with less than 60mm. The tropical monsoon climate on average experiences less variance in temperatures during the course of the year than a tropical savanna climate (Köppen, 2006). Most of Guinea has a tropical climate with a long rainy season of eight months (April–November), a relatively uniform annual temperature (23°C to 29°C) and high humidity. Annual rainfall, which peaks in July–August, varies between 1500 mm and 4500 mm. Conakry for example records more than 3000 mm of rain per year. Annual rainfall is highest in the north and along the coast, decreasing towards the south and inland of the country. Coastal and southern Guinea have a monsoon climate with rainfall exceeding 100 mm per month, a shorter dry season, and smaller temperature range than the interior. Northern or Upper Guinea has higher temperatures (closer to a tropical savanna climate), greater temperature ranges, a shorter rainy season, and a longer dry season (December–May). The project will be located in the Forest Region in southern Guinea and in Upper Guinea. The arrival of the migratory Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) brings the heaviest rainfall of the wet season. As the ITCZ shifts southward to equatorial zones, the hot and dry winds known as Harmattan (prevailing from the northeast) intensify from November onwards when rainfall is limited (FEWS NET, 2013; USAID, 2018; World Bank, 2020).

Past and future climate trends: temperature and precipitation

The majority of Guinea experiences relatively low to moderate rainfall variability on an inter-annual basis. On decadal time scales Guinea experiences significant variability with some periods being relatively drier or wetter than others. Mean annual rainfall has decreased since the 1950s. Observed precipitation data from

9 rainfall stations around the country, all indicate decreasing trends in May-October (rainy season) precipitation over 1951-2000. Average annual precipitation has decreased by 5.3 mm per month per decade (USAID, 2018; World Bank, 2020).

Long term trends show statistically significant increasing temperatures with a stronger warming trend in the Coastal region compared to the Interior region (AfdB, 2018). The average annual temperature in Guinea has increased by 0.8°C since 1960 with an average rate of 0.18°C per decade (World Bank, 2020). The number of hot nights per year has increased significantly in all seasons in Guinea while the frequency of cold nights per year has decreased significantly with the average number of cold nights per year decreasing by 21 nights since 1960 (World Bank, 2020).

Mean annual temperature is projected to increase by 1.1-3.0°C by 2060s and 1.6-5.3°C by 2090s under the RCP8.5 scenario, with the largest changes in the northern and northwestern areas of the Guinea. Annual accumulated cooling degrees of temperature above 18°C are expected to rise by 1.3°C and total annual hot days of temperature above 35°C will rise by 69 days per year by 2050 under RCP 8.5. Ensemble mean projections for "heat wave duration" indicate increases by 2050 for all emissions scenarios (World Bank, 2020). Regarding precipitation and using the MAGICC/SCENGEN models, mean annual precipitation is expected to fall by 20% in Upper Guinea and by 11% in Guinea Forest region in the high warming scenario in 2050 compared to the average of 1961-1990 (RoG, 2018) with an increased frequency of heavy rainfall events and increased drought risk due to rising temperatures and more variable rainfall (USAID, 2018; RoG, 2018; World Bank, 2020).

Natural hazards, exposure, and vulnerability

Guinea is at high risk to multiple climate related hazards and risks. Climate change is expected to increase the intensity and frequency of these hazards in Guinea, through more intense and prolonged heat waves and heightened rainfall variability. During the 1985-2018 period, Guinea witnessed multiple climate related hazards such as floods wildfires and landslides with individual events affecting up to 100,000 people (World Bank, 2020). It is estimated that floods resulted in negative impacts on around 395,000 people in the period 1996-2016 (AfDB, 2018). Floods recorded in 2009 caused the displacement of 6,704 people, the destruction of 4,781 homes and the damage of 4,426 ha of crops in the country (RoG, 2018).

The most important climate risks affecting agriculture in Guinea are: drought, floods and rainfall variability (RoG, 2018). As 97 percent of agriculture is rainfed in the country, crops are highly vulnerable to climate change. Yield levels for most crops in Guinea are already low compared with other countries in the region, and many Guineans rely on crops and livestock to meet their food needs. An analysis of projected climate change impact on yields of rice (Guinea's primary staple crop) and maize (the second most important cereal after rice) using the IFAD CARD tool for the 2020-2050 period indicate significant decreases in yields under the RCP 8.5 scenario. The yields of rainfed rice are expected to decrease by 8% in Faranah, by 7% in Kankan and by 10% in Nzérékoré. The yields of rainfed maize are expected to decrease by 9% in Faranah, by 8% in Kankan and by 8% in Nzérékoré (IFAD, 2019). In a country where 26% of the population currently experiences chronic malnutrition, climate change impacts on crops will have important implications for food security and nutrition (USAID, 2018). Damage to crops from pests such as the desert locust is also likely to increase as higher temperatures accelerate maturation and prolong

breeding periods. More erratic rainfall and rising temperatures could also contribute to the spread of new agricultural pests, posing unprecedented threats to rice and maize crops (FAO, 2017; USAID, 2018).

Rising temperatures and more variable rainfall threaten to increase heat and water stress among plant and animal species and leave forests at risk from longer wildfire seasons (Dwomoh F. and Wimberly M., 2017). The most climate-vulnerable species include wild relatives of the chickpea and Bambara groundnut, reptiles and amphibians, and range-restricted forest bird species such as the Nimba flycatcher. Growing climate stress on the region's agriculture and water supply could also increase people's dependence on forest resources, leading to further forest degradation. Agricultural expansion and increasing demand for fuel, timber, bushmeat, and mineral resources have already led to a loss of 3,637 km² of forest from 2000 to 2012 (USAID, 2018).

Guinea's population is relatively vulnerable to impacts on the public health system, including a vulnerability to vector-borne diseases such as malaria (estimated to affect 37% of the vulnerable population which is the 4th highest rate in Africa). Climate change through rising temperatures and variable rainfall may expand the range of disease-carrying mosquitoes to higher elevations, increasing transmission of malaria and other diseases (Emert V. et al, 2012; USAID, 2018).

According to the ND GAIN index, Guinea has a moderate to high vulnerability to weather related hazards (ranked 146 out of 181 countries). This is the result a low adaptive capacity (ranked 166 out of 180 countries) and a moderate exposure to climate change (rated 91 out of 192 countries). Guinea's vulnerability score indicates that the country has both a great need for investment and innovations to improve readiness and a great urgency for action.

[1] H: High; M: Moderate; L: Low.

6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

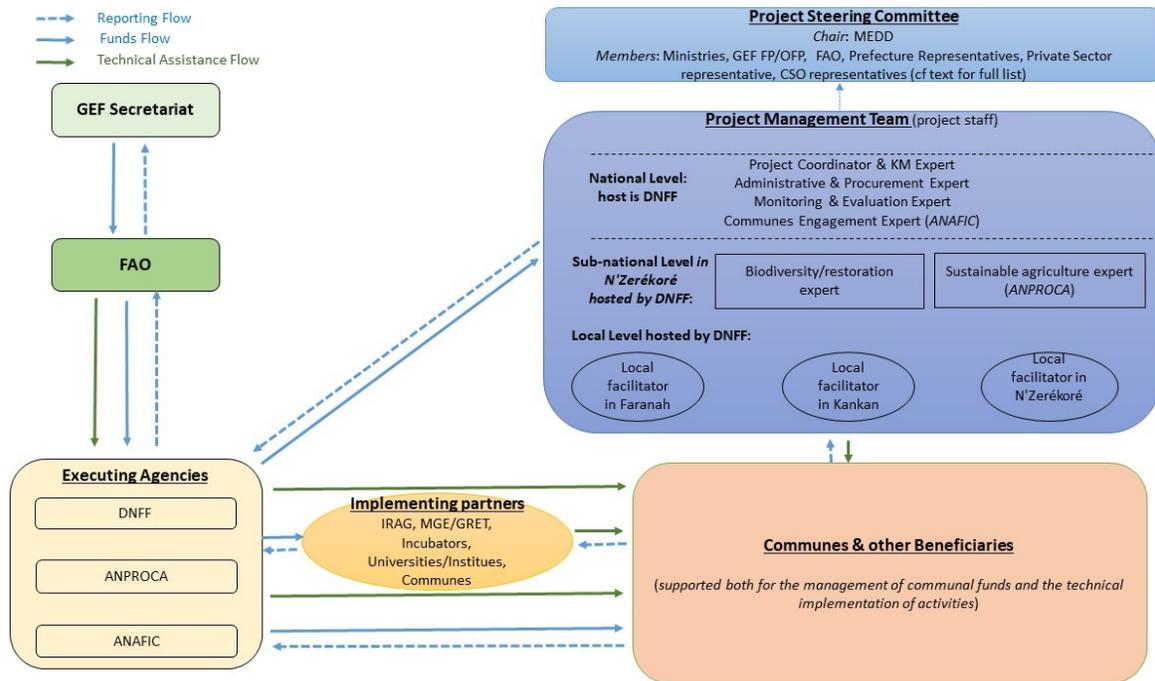
Describe the institutional arrangement for project implementation. Elaborate on the planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

6.a Institutional arrangements for project implementation.

The Guinea Forest and Wildlife Department (DNFF), under the Ministry for Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD) will have the overall executing and technical responsibility for the project, with FAO providing oversight as GEF Agency as described below. The DNFF will act as the lead executing agency and will be responsible for the day-to-day management of project results entrusted to it in full compliance with all terms and conditions of the Operational Partnership Agreement signed with FAO[1]. As Operational Partner (OP) of the project, the DNFF is responsible and accountable to FAO for the timely implementation of the agreed project results, operational oversight of implementation activities, timely reporting, and for effective use of GEF resources for the intended purposes and in line with FAO and GEF policy requirements.

Two other agencies, the National Agency for Local Financing (ANAFIC) and the National Agency of Rural Promotion and Agricultural Support (ANPROCA), will co-execute the project through Operational Partners Implementation Modality (OPIM) agreements. As OPs of the project the same clauses mentioned above will apply to them.

The project organization structure is as follows:



The government will designate a National Project Director (NPD). Located in DNFF the NPD will be responsible for coordinating the activities with all the national bodies related to the different project components, as well as with the project partners. He will also be responsible for supervising and guiding the Project Coordinator (see below) on the government policies and priorities.

The NPD (or designated person from lead national institution) will chair the Project Steering Committee which will be the main governing body of the project. The PSC will approve Annual Work Plans and Budgets on a yearly basis and will provide strategic guidance to the Project Management Team and to all executing partners.

The PSC will be comprised of representatives from:

- ? Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (in charge of DNFF);
- ? Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization (in charge of ANAFIC);
- ? Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (in charge of ANPROCA);
- ? Ministry of Mines and Geology;
- ? Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Small and Medium Enterprises;
- ? Ministry for the Promotion of Women, Children and Vulnerable Persons;
- ? Prefectures or the 13 communes;
- ? GEF Focal Point/ Operational Focal Point;
- ? The private sector (focus on palm oil and mining);

- ? Civil Society Organizations;
- ? FAO

The members of the PSC will each assume the role of a Focal Point for the project in their respective agencies. Hence, the project will have a Focal Point in each concerned institution. As Focal Points in their agency, the concerned PSC members will: (i) technically oversee activities in their sector; (ii) ensure a fluid two-way exchange of information and knowledge between their agency and the project; (iii) facilitate coordination and links between the project activities and the work plan of their agency; and (iv) facilitate the provision of co-financing to the project.

The National Project Coordinator (see below) will be the Secretary to the PSC. The PSC will meet at least twice per year to ensure: i) Oversight and assurance of technical quality of outputs; ii) Close linkages between the project and other ongoing projects and programmes relevant to the project; iii) Timely availability and effectiveness of co-financing support; iv) Sustainability of key project outcomes, including up-scaling and replication; v) Effective coordination of governmental partners work under this project; vi) Approval of the six-monthly Project Progress and Financial Reports, the Annual Work Plan and Budget; vii) Making by consensus, management decisions when guidance is required by the National Project Coordinator of the PMU.

A Project Management Unit (PMU) will be co-funded by the GEF grant and established within DNFF. The main functions of the PMU, following the guidance of the Project Steering Committee, are to ensure overall efficient management, coordination, implementation and monitoring of the project through the effective implementation of the annual work plans and budgets (AWP/Bs). The PMU will be composed of a National Project Coordinator (NPC) who will work full-time for the project lifetime. In addition, the PMU will include at national level/based in DNFF: a Monitoring & Evaluation Expert (full time), a Community Engagement Expert (recruited by ANAFIC, full time) and administrative and procurement support (full time). At subnational level, based in N'Zer'kor? and hosted by DNFF a full time Biodiversity/Restoration expert and a full time Sustainable Agriculture expert (recruited by ANPROCA) will support and provide technical advice for the implementation of field work. At local level and also hosted by DNFF, there will be local technical facilitators in Faranah, Kankan and N'Zer'kor?.

The National Project Coordinator (NPC) will oversee daily implementation, management, administration and technical supervision of the project, on behalf of the Operational partner and within the framework delineated by the PSC. S/he will be responsible, among others, for:

- i) Coordination with relevant initiatives;
- ii) Ensuring a high level of collaboration among participating institutions and organizations at the national and local levels;
- iii) Ensuring compliance with all Operational Partners Agreement (OPA) provisions during the implementation, including on timely reporting and financial management;
- iv) Coordination and close monitoring of the implementation of project activities;
- v) Tracking the project's progress and ensuring timely delivery of inputs and outputs;
- vi) Providing technical support and assessing the outputs of the project national consultants hired with GEF funds, as well as the products generated in the implementation of the project,;
- vii) Approving and managing requests for provision of financial resources using provided format in OPA annexes;
- viii) Monitoring financial resources and accounting to ensure accuracy and reliability of financial reports;

- ix) Ensuring timely preparation and submission of requests for funds, financial and progress reports to FAO as per OPA reporting requirements;
- x) Maintaining documentation and evidence that describes the proper and prudent use of project resources as per OPA provisions, including making available this supporting documentation to FAO and designated auditors when requested;
- xi) Implementing and managing the project's monitoring and communications plans;
- xii) Organizing project workshops and meetings to monitor progress and preparing the Annual Budget and Work Plan;
- xiii) Submitting the six-monthly Project Progress Reports (PPRs) with the AWP/B to the PSC and FAO;
- xiv) Preparing the first draft of the Project Implementation Review (PIR);
- xv) Supporting the organization of the mid-term and final evaluations in close coordination with the FAO Budget Holder and the FAO Independent Office of Evaluation (OED);
- xvi) Submitting the OP six-monthly technical and financial reports to FAO and facilitate the information exchange between the OP and FAO, if needed;
- xvii) Informing the PSC and FAO of any delays and difficulties as they arise during the implementation to ensure timely corrective measure and support.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) will be the GEF Implementing Agency (IA) for the Project, providing project cycle management and support services as established in the GEF Policy. As the GEF IA, FAO holds overall accountability and responsibility to the GEF for delivery of the results. In the IA role, FAO will utilize the GEF fees to deploy three different actors within the organization to be the Core of the FAO Project Task Force and support the project:

- ? The Budget Holder, which is usually the most decentralized FAO office, will provide oversight of day to day project execution;
- ? The Lead Technical Officer(s), drawn from across FAO will provide oversight/support to the projects technical work in coordination with government representatives participating in the Project Steering Committee;
- ? The Funding Liaison Officer(s) within FAO will monitor and support the project cycle to ensure that the project is being carried out and reporting done in accordance with agreed standards and requirements.

FAO responsibilities, as GEF agency, will include:

- ? Administrate funds from GEF in accordance with the rules and procedures of FAO;
- ? Oversee project implementation in accordance with the project document, work plans, budgets, agreements with co-financiers, Operational Partners Agreement(s) and other rules and procedures of FAO;
- ? Provide technical guidance to ensure that appropriate technical quality is applied to all activities concerned;

- ? Conduct at least one supervision mission per year; and
- ? Reporting to the GEF Secretariat and Evaluation Office, through the annual Project Implementation Review, the Mid Term Review, the Terminal Evaluation and the Project Closure Report on project progress;
- ? Financial reporting to the GEF Trustee.

As the project has a complex structure with 3 different OPs having to coordinate their activities, an Execution Capacity Development Support and Risk Management specialist will be hired with project funds and placed at the FAO Representation. The expert will support partner's implementation of their Risk Mitigation Plans and will be responsible for delivering training and capacity building in the areas where the OP needs to improve (as identified by the Fiduciary Assessment and reflected in the Risk Mitigation Plan). It will also be responsible for developing risk mitigation plans for the numerous risks listed in the Risk section of the Prodoc and strengthening the linkages with the Global IP, including ensuring exchanges on M&E (Guinea contributing to the IP Global results and vice versa). TORs are available in Annex N.

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6.b Coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

Coordination is a key word for the project and for ILM and FLR. Without strong coordination of the stakeholders involved in the landscape, these approaches can't be successful. During the project design phase synergies with existing projects have been sought.

In addition to the baseline projects, discussion about coordination have happened with the following projects during the project preparation phase:

National GEF Financed Projects

Project Title/ Implementing Agency	Description	Status/ Linkages
Increased resilience and adaptive capacity of the most vulnerable communities to climate change in Forested Guinea/ UNDP	The project aims at increasing resilience trough: the development of Frameworks for promoting a Climate Smart Agricultural Model, the Financing for the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices and the mainstreaming of Climate information and adaptation into local practices	About to start/ the Climate Smart Agriculture and other practices that will be introduced by the UNEP project will be an important basis for this project. Also the climatic information gathered by the project will be integrated into the national database for ILM planning. They will be important to take into consideration when developing the ILM plans. This project will also be implemented under the MEDD which will help increase the synergies
Integrated management of natural resources in the Bafing-Falém? landscape/ UNDP	The project promotes an integrated and sustainable management of natural resources by introducing landscape approach and establishment and operationalisation of a cluster of protected areas (Middle Bafing National Park, Wildlife reserve and community forests) with a strong community involvement, along the Bafing and Falém? rivers, and establishing eco-villages around the protected area.	Ongoing/ the lessons learnt from the project on integrated natural resources management in Middle and Upper Guinea will be particularly important for this project. The experience of this project on developing economic activities related to protected areas such as eco-tourism would be an inspiration for the business based on restored land to be supported by this project

<p>Strengthening Climate Information and Early Warning Systems for Climate Resilient Development and Adaptation to Climate Change in Guinea / UNDP</p>	<p>The project aims to strengthen the climate monitoring capabilities, early warning systems and information for responding to climate shocks and planning adaptation to climate change in Guinea</p>	<p>Ongoing/ One of the objective of the UNDP project is to use hydro-meteorological and environmental information for making early warnings and mainstreaming Climate Change in longterm development plans. This information will be key when developing the ILM/FLR plans. This layer of information should be considered when developing the plans and be part of the national planning and monitoring system supported by the project under Component 1.</p>
<p>Ecosystem-Based Adaptation Targeting Vulnerable Communities of the Upper Guinea Region/ UNDP</p>	<p>The project objective is to To reduce the vulnerability of local communities in the Upper Niger River Basin to the additional risks posed by climate change and build their general resilience through an ecosystem-based approach that focuses on watersheds, land-use practices and adaptive capacity.</p>	<p>This is project is nearing the end and getting lessons learnt from it would be particularly important for this project. Indeed some of the eco-system based approaches tested by the project when successful could be replicated by this project looking for building on the most successful initiatives.</p>

Coordination with these initiatives will focus on exchanging lessons learned and sharing technical expertise and will be established through partnership agreements and joint work-plans. The coordination with all of these projects will be facilitated by the fact that all of these projects are implemented by UNDP with which FAO has a long standing working relationship in Guinea and a strong collaboration at institutional level.

Regional GEF Financed Projects

Reducing Deforestation from Palm Oil and Cocoa Value Chains - *Conservation International- 2022-2026*

The project will create strong linkages with the FOLUR project in Liberia led by Conservation International (CI). With GEF 7 support, CI Liberia project's objective is to work with forest dependent communities to reduce deforestation from oil palm and cocoa, while providing alternative sustainable interventions through climate-smart landscape approach. The project will bring together national and local stakeholders in the Northwest landscape to develop land use plans to improve land allocation for development and forest management.

The project will also strengthen community governance structures at the landscape level to better manage and monitor land use plans while supporting long term economic opportunities for local communities through the inclusion of smallholders in the supply chain.

Though Liberia and Guinea have unique national and local context, there are various similarities in the need to offer economic and social benefits to local communities while providing food security and managing the forest. Opportunities to share lessons from one project to the other include: 1) the implementation of land use plans both at the national and local level; 2) the value and role of small holders in the value chain; 3) the establishment of community governance structures and the importance of women participation; 3) the national implementation of policy framework on sustainable agriculture production; 4) the long term economic incentives for forest dependent communities to reduce pressure on the forest. The

Liberia project already provided previous information on the certification and cluster development for the palm oil value chain, which allowed to shape some of the proposed activities.

Fouta Djallon Highlands integrated natural resources management in? *FAO- 2009-2025*

The Fouta Djallon Highlands (FDH) are a series of high plateaus concentrated in the central part of Guinea and extending into Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Senegal and Sierra Leone. This area is the point of origin of a number of transboundary rivers in West Africa, notably the Gambia, Niger and Senegal rivers, as well as a number of small water courses. Due to their geographic and climatic diversity, the highlands and the surrounding foothills support a rich variety of ecosystems. The development objective of the project is to ensure the conservation and sustainable management of the FDH natural resources in a medium to long term time frame (until 2025) in order to improve the livelihoods of the rural population directly or indirectly connected to the FDH. The environmental objective of the project is to mitigate the causes and negative impacts of land degradation on the structural and functional integrity of the FDH ecosystems. The lessons learnt on integrated natural resources management from this long term project will be particularly valuable to this project.

Non GEF projects

The linkages with the following projects have been indicated in the description of the project activities as strong:

AGRIFARM Family Farming, Resilience and Markets project in Upper and Middle Guinea - *IFAD ? 2018-2024*

In Upper Guinea and Middle Guinea, the potential of agriculture for improving livelihoods and food security is high and soil and climate conditions are well suited to agriculture, although only 25 per cent of arable land is being cultivated. The Family Farming, Resilience and Markets Project in Upper and Middle Guinea (AgriFARM) is targeting 65,000 households involved in family farming in 15 prefectures of the Upper Guinea and Middle Guinea regions. These are the poorest parts of the country, with poverty rates of 67.5 per cent and 55.4 per cent, respectively. Critical target groups are women and young people, who will account for 30 per cent and 40 per cent of beneficiaries, respectively.

AgriFARM aims to sustainably increase these households' incomes, build their resilience to external shocks such as climate change, and improve their nutritional status and their access to local, urban and regional markets. To achieve this aim, the project will train 30,000 smallholders in improved resilient cropping techniques, and 10,000 farmers will receive agricultural production kits. The project will also support 50 producers' organizations in their efforts to strengthen the market services provided to their members, as well as provide financing for agricultural and rural entrepreneurship.

AgriFARM will also rehabilitate 600 km of rural roads and sections of national highways in packed earth, construct 21 markets and install 46 management and maintenance structures for markets and rural tracks. It will set up 21 public-private partnerships for sustainable market management and provide technical and financial support for 2,000 rural businesses.

Family Commercial Fish Farming Development Project (PISCOFAM) ? *French Development Agency (AFD) ? 2020-2024*

The objective of the project is to contribute to poverty reduction by improving food and nutritional security and increasing the income of rural populations in Guinea, through fish farming. Family fish farming is a predominant sector at the global level and meets the food needs of a growing population as well as the need to diversify its income. At the heart of this evolution, an agro-ecological approach aiming at ensuring a sustainable and environmentally friendly development is imperative. It will help strengthen the

sustainability of farms and the ability of farmers to adapt to climate change. The PISCOFAM project is supporting the development of sustainable and environmentally friendly fish farm.

Guinea Integrated Agricultural Development Project (PDAIG) - World Bank ? 2018- 2023

The objective of the Guinea Integrated Agricultural Development Project is to increase agricultural productivity and market access for producers and agricultural small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in selected value chains in project areas. There are four components to the project, the first component being increasing agricultural productivity. The objective of this component is to increase agricultural productivity through climate-smart intensification of selected production systems focusing on enhancing water management and fostering access to improved technologies and innovation. This component comprises two subcomponents: improving water management, and increasing access to technology, innovation, and advisory services. The second component is the increasing market access. The objective of this component is to help producers, small-scale processors, and their organizations to increase the production and commercialization of marketable surplus for the targeted agricultural value chains (rice, maize, potato, egg, and fish). This component includes three subcomponents: strengthening producer organizations, promoting business development services, and financing productive investment projects. The third component is the strengthening institutional capacity. The objective of this component is to strengthen institutional capacity, focusing particularly on agricultural statistics and planning for a rapid response in the case of severe crises and emergencies. This component includes two subcomponents: strengthening the public agricultural statistics system, and contingency emergency response. Finally, the fourth component is the project coordination and implementation. This component aims at ensuring that the project is efficiently managed and monitored, and that performance and outcomes are carefully tracked by the PCIU and the implementing agencies.

Civil society supporting vulnerable stakeholders and the environment in urban and rural communities in Forest Guinea (Savoir-GF) - European Union/ French Development Agency-2020-2023

The project aims to strengthen the skills, organisation and effectiveness of civil society organisations (CSOs) in the forest region, in order to create a network of influential stakeholders involved in public affairs for the benefit of populations. The project is focusing on several central themes in the region, such as protection of the environment; mitigation of climate change and adaptation to its effects; recognition and defence of local rights to access, use and manage natural resources; and management and prevention of conflicts relating to these resources. The first stage of the project consists of an institutional and organisational diagnosis of CSOs in Forest Guinea, as well as a thematic diagnosis of issues identified. On the one hand, this will involve better awareness and understanding of all stakeholders and regional complexity, focusing on local NGO, association and farmer organisation networks. On the other hand, CSOs and other key stakeholders in the territory will collectively define the priority issues in their region, confronting their respective viewpoints to reconcile them and identify levers for collective action. Consultation workshops at prefecture and regional body level will conclude these diagnostics. This first stage will be fundamental for the preparation and implementation of the various project actions, which will be geared towards strengthening CSOs' capacities, facilitation and mobilisation of frameworks for dialogue, and the creation and governance of a fund to support funding of CSO initiatives.

Readiness & Preparatory support Guinea ? FAO Green Climate Fund in development ? Green Climate Fund

To deliver on Guinea's commitments on climate change mitigation while promoting actions to tackle forest resources loss, the Government has decided to becoming REDD+ ready by the implementation of the REDD+ roadmap recently updated. Note that deforestation and forest degradation are part of main key emissions sinks in Guinea as they are caused by unsustainable logging and use of forest resources (forest sector) as well as expansion of cultivated areas in forest areas (agriculture sector) and high charcoal and fuelwood production (energy sector).

The GCF readiness proposal aims to support Guinea to strengthen national capacities to lead REDD+ readiness and thus to develop an ambitious REDD+ national strategy and its institutional and legal frameworks as well as a Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) through a country-driven processes.

The REDD+ national coordination (RNC) will be strengthened in terms of human, technical and material capacities to be operational. Stakeholders in public and private sectors, local community, researcher, civil society organization (CSO) including women and youth group in national and subnational levels will be also strengthened to have relevant capacities to develop the REDD+ pillars which consider their interests and concerns. Finally, through the REDD+ national strategy to be establish, the Government of Guinea will also benefit a strategy framework to contribute on climate change mitigation and to access on climate finance.

[1] It should be noted that the identified Operational Partner(s) or OP, results to be implemented by the OP and budgets to be transferred to the OP are non-binding and may change due to FAO internal partnership and agreement procedures which have not yet been concluded at the time of submission

7. Consistency with National Priorities

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

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

Guinea is very committed to sustainable land and natural resources management and is a signatory to the three Rio Conventions (1992): the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). Indeed, as described in its submission to UNCCD, the cost of not acting on these topics are tremendous for Guinea. It was estimated that "the annual cost of land degradation in Guinea is estimated at 512 million United States dollars (USD)". This is equal to 12% of the country's Gross Domestic Product. Land degradation leads to reduction in the provision of ecosystem services that takes different forms - deterioration in food availability, soil fertility, carbon sequestration capacity, wood production, groundwater recharge, etc.- with significant social and economic costs to the country.? As part of its LDN target, Guinea committed in 2018 and the 2030 time horizon, to restore 375,000 ha, i.e. 55% of the total area of degraded lands, and limit to 1% (238,440 ha) the loss of non-degraded land relative to the 2000-2010 reference period with the aim of reaching land degradation neutrality. Guinea's proposed specific targets are as follows:

? Increase by 1.5% (150,000 ha) forest areas with reference to the 2010 baseline.

? Cut by half (324,700 ha) the amount of land showing negative productivity trends between 2000 and 2010.

In 2016, Guinea committed to restore at least 15% of degraded forests and natural ecosystems by 2020 in its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP-2016) highlighting the role of crop diversification, Sustainable Land Management and Sustainable Forest Management in its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC, 2016). It contains a strategic vision and four main objectives, namely: conservation of biological diversity; sustainable use of biological diversity; general measures for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; international cooperation. The MEDD oversees the implementation of the majority of conventions, protocols and agreements related to biodiversity that assists in identifying synergies in actions among responsible structures. Sixty-eight projects have been developed

on various themes: terrestrial ecosystems (33 projects), inland water ecosystems (10 projects), coastal and marine ecosystems (7 projects), valuation of biological diversity (13 projects), institutional and legal framework (5 projects). Prioritized issues are: management of agricultural biodiversity pressures, strengthening of in situ conservation of agricultural biodiversity; capacity-building for national ex situ conservation. This project is very aligned with all the NBSAP priorities by supporting sustainable food systems allowing biodiversity to thrive.

Guinea also pledged the aspirational goal to restore 2 million hectares by 2030 as part of the Bonn Challenge, endorsed the New York Declaration on Forests and joined the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100).

Under the UNFCCC, the National Action Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change (NAPA) developed in 2007 sets out the urgent and immediate measures to be taken to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change. It is the result of participatory work. It exposes existing endogenous knowledge, identifies targets more vulnerable to the negative effects of climate change and suggests adaptation options. The project, supporting vulnerable communities to be more resilient in adapting their agricultural practices and restoring land is well aligned with this strategy.

The country also officially launched the REDD+ process in September 2017 and the MEDD is engaged in developing its REDD+ readiness plan, to be supported by the Green Climate Fund, with the support of FAO. The country also mentions sustainable forest management (including afforestation and reforestation) and REDD + in its first Nationally Determined Expected Contribution (NDEI) under the UNFCCC as a means to mitigate climate change and reduce emissions.

A technology needs assessment (TNA) project was implemented by UN environment under the UNFCCC and GEF funding. The project led the development of national technological action plans (PAT) and concept notes contributing to the dissemination of prioritized climate technologies and development of technology transfer programs and projects to facilitate access climate finance sources. This project will be able to build on this knowledge.

As developed in the Context section/ Policy context, the project is very well aligned with existing national policies such as:

- The overarching Vision Guinea 2040 supported by the National Plan for Economic and Social Development (PNDES) aims at sustainably managing Guinea's natural capital while transitioning towards an economy based on high value agricultural productions and sustainable agricultural practices. Several poverty reduction strategy documents were developed for the following periods: 2002-2005; 2007-2010; 2011-2012; 2013-2015. The National Economic and Social Development Plan (PNDES) was developed in 2016 and has clearly identified agriculture, food and nutritious security, sustainable management of ecosystems, climate change among country's priorities.
- The **National Environment Policy** (PNE) and the National Investment Plan for Environment (PNIE) promoting restoration of degraded forests and landscapes and environmentally-sound agriculture ? commitments also highlighted in the agricultural sector frameworks.
- The **Guinea's Forest and Wildlife Policy** (PFFG) emphasizing the role of forests and trees in economic, social and environmental well-being, with a focus on the conservation and restoration of forest ecosystems.
- The **National Policy for Agricultural Development** (PNDA), and the **National Plan for Agricultural Investment and Food and Nutrition Security** (PNIASAN) 2018-2025. Supporting the sustainability activities under this plan is particularly relevant when working on FLR and sustainable food systems. The national dynamics engaged through PNIASAN, aiming at strengthening structuration of key agricultural value chains via capacity building, support to the emergence of inter-professional organizations for

strategic products and promotion of 'value chains roundtables' to facilitate dialogue across stakeholders and scales will be highly conducive to the project. As well as the activities promoting certification and Public Private Partnerships.

8. Knowledge Management

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

Integration of existing knowledge in project development

Prodoc Annex O presents some lessons learnt from projects that were used to develop the project. As detailed in the annex, it was clear that:

- ? Farmers are open to new technologies and actively participate;
- ? High quality seeds distribution has high level results;
- ? The Farmer Field School approach was a good one bringing results to the field;
- ? Some agro-ecology methods have been tested and are only waiting to be replicated;
- ? The Rice and Palm Oil Charte defining sustainability criteria for these 2 commodities can have a strong impact to improve the value chain and Palm Oil process has to be finalized;
- ? The focus should be on the entire value chain and not only on the production objectives;
- ? Support has to be provided on the long term, via people committed to the landscape such as the decentralized agents (ANPROCA and DNFF);
- ? Sustainable financing model in order to repair and renew equipment needs to be set up from the start of the project;
- ? Reaching scale is an issue and a large number of farmers should be involved from the start;
- ? Supporting youth entrepreneurship is very beneficial to the landscape and prevent rural exodus
- ? Monitoring and evaluation is an important part of the project to inform adaptive management.

All these recommendation have been used to develop the project making sure that it was building on local networks ad strength and had a scale large enough to impulse a real change. All the agro-ecology pilot test have been considered in order to propose the possible technical itineraries indicated for this project.

While developing this project it has not been easy to collect information on past project as there are no easily accessible data base sharing all this available knowledge. As part of Component 4, the project will be developing such an online structure to ease upscaling and share Guinean knowledge in ad outside of the country.

Knowledge Management as part of this project

Knowledge sharing, learning and synthesis of experiences is directly built into the project as one of its four components, with the critical purpose to enable upscaling of successes and learning from failures throughout project implementation and beyond. The project will catalyze knowledge sharing from the bottom up (from the landscape to the national, regional and global levels), from the top down (from global to landscape), and horizontally (across peers in neighboring landscapes and countries) to maximize cross-fertilization of ideas and innovation. The integration of the project in the IP FOLUR will be a great support for the project and a tremendous support to knowledge management.

The communication strategy of the project will be developed at the very beginning of the project and will rely on 4 important pillars:

- A clear identification of the different target groups and the type of information the project needs/wants to communicate to them.
- A 360 review of existing knowledge and knowledge created by the project. The knowledge coming from the project will be generated by the practitioners as an exercise to assess the practices and how they can be improved.
- Peer-reviewed communication tools (factsheets, radio talks, etc.)
- Communication channels specially adapted to the target audience (radio, written support, social networks, etc.)

Good practices and lessons learnt from the project will also feed into the global FOLUR platform, while tools, methods, and expertise will be drawn from the global FOLUR platform to enhance project implementation. The global FOLUR platform will critically serve to leverage South-South cooperation with other FOLUR beneficiary countries in West Africa and beyond. Synergies will be sought especially with Liberia, a neighboring country from Guinea whose GEF7 FOLUR project has a common value chain focus (palm oil), a common transboundary landscape (Bong and Lofa counties in Liberia and Guinea Forest Region) and common drivers of degradation (logging for fuelwood and charcoal production, mining, and agriculture).

The project will engage with global, regional and national networks, platforms and initiatives of relevance to share experiences and allow for cooperation and networking among peers, awareness raising and ultimately upscaling. Networks and initiatives focusing in particular on palm oil value chain (e.g. African Palm Oil Initiative, Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), sustainable agriculture (e.g. West Africa CSA Alliance (WACSAA) and Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture (GACSA) and landscape restoration (e.g. Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration (GPFLR), Global Landscape Forum (GLF), African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) will be targeted. Guinea is one of the beneficiary countries of FAO's Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism, a global programme targeting 20 countries throughout the globe, that leads implementation of 5 national pilot projects under the GEF6 'The Restoration Initiative' and as such, the project will benefit from a wealth of learning opportunities (regional / global workshops and trainings, online Communities of Practice) on selected topics.

A number of tools and approaches will be used to foster learning, knowledge exchange and cooperation among practitioners. At landscape level, the project will use proven methods for participation and engagement of local stakeholders, such as the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) to develop integrated landscape management plans. The project will also rely on participatory, people-centered methods for learning, e.g. [Farmer Field Schools \(FFS\)](#), and for disseminating information, e.g. [Club Dimitra](#). More classic approaches, like exchange visits, will be used to strengthen linkages with ongoing efforts (in particular baseline projects) and to highlight past successes (e.g. [SARA](#) project). Lessons learnt from local implementation will be institutionalized in the departmental planning processes, and will feed into the national cross-sectoral platform for FLR and into the above mentioned regional and global online Communities of Practice, that will uptake and further disseminate within their own countries the fruits of those exchanges.

Links with palm oil fora at national and supra-national levels, and engagement with private actors involved in the palm oil value chain (including especially SMEs and cooperatives but also potential investors such as impact funds, interested in social and environmental returns) will be key to gather and share best practices, generate ideas for a sustainable palm oil value chain and identify barriers to unlock. Those elements will in turn feed national dialogues and generate policy actions to promote the sustainability of the palm oil value chain in Guinea and in other West African countries.

While good practices will be gathered from all the components, Component 4 is particularly focused on Communication and Monitoring & Evaluation. The Outcome 4.1 is 'Successful execution of the project in an effective manner, with knowledge shared through the FOLUR global platform' and the Output 4.1.1 is 'Knowledge products, tools and approaches developed and shared through the FOLUR IP Global platform and other relevant platforms.' The specific expected results are:

- 100,000 people reached by the project's communication and dissemination work (50% women)
- 20 products, tools and approaches developed and effectively shared through the FOLUR IP Global platform

The budget allocated for the work of information gathering and dissemination is 344,900 USD and these includes exchange visits and the active participation to national, regional and international fora on sustainable food systems including under the IP FOLUR umbrella.

Nevertheless, knowledge will be shared in all the 3 components as an integral part of the project. Indeed this project relies very heavily on awareness raising and capacity building, which are forms of knowledge management. This is why the National Coordinator of the project will also be a Knowledge Management expert.

KM Activity	Responsible Parties	Timeframe	GEF Budget (USD)
Gathering information for KM	Project Management Unit (PMU) and national partners time and travel	Y1-4	75,000
KM tools development and dissemination (including online platform strengthening)	Farinah Institute	Y1-5	100,000
KM dissemination through radio	NGO specialized in radio program	Y1-5	10,000
KM exchange at international meetings	PMU	Y1-5	40,000
KM exchanges at regional meetings	PMU	Y1-5	9,900
Farmers exchange visits	PMU	Y2-5	25,000
Production of KM materials (publications, videos, media news, etc.)	PMU	Y2-4	90,000
Total Budget			349,900

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Describe the budgeted M and E plan

Oversight

Project oversight will be carried out by the PSC, FAO GEF Coordination Unit and relevant technical units in FAO headquarters. Oversight will ensure that: (i) project outputs are produced in accordance with the project results framework leading to the achievement of project outcomes; (ii) project outcomes are leading to the achievement of the project objective; (iii) risks are continuously identified and monitored and

appropriate mitigation strategies are applied; and (iv) agreed upon project global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits are being delivered. The FAO GEF Coordination Unit and HQ Technical Units will provide oversight of GEF financed activities, outputs and outcomes largely through the annual Project Implementation Reports (PIRs), periodic backstopping and supervision missions.

Monitoring

Project monitoring will be carried out by the PMU and the FAO Budget Holder (BH). Project performance will be monitored using the project results matrix, including indicators (baseline and targets) and annual work plans and budgets. At project inception, the results matrix will be reviewed to finalize the identification of: i) outputs; ii) indicators; and iii) any missing baseline information and targets. A detailed M&E plan, which builds on the results matrix and defines specific requirements for each indicator (data collection methods, frequency, responsibilities for data collection and analysis, etc.) will also be developed during project inception by the Knowledge Management/M&E Officer appointed at the PMU.

Project Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Timeframe	GEF Budget (USD)
Project Inception Workshop	Project Management Unit (PMU)	Within two months of project document signature	7,500
Project Final Workshop	PMU	Within two weeks of the end of the project activities	7,500
Project Inception Report	PMU in consultation with the LTO, BH. Report cleared by the FAO BH, LTO and the FAO GEF Coordination Unit and uploaded in FPMIS by the BH.	One month after start-up	Project staff time
Project Progress Reports (PPRs)	PMU	Bi-annually	M&E Specialist, Capacity Development and Risk Management Specialist 160,000
Project Implementation Review reports (PIRs)	PMU	Annually in July	Covered by above
Mid-term Review	PMU and BH	In the 3 rd quarter of the 3 rd year of the project	35,000

M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Timeframe	GEF Budget (USD)
Final Evaluation	The BH will be responsible to contact the Regional Evaluation Specialist (RES) within six months prior to the actual completion date (NTE date). The RES will manage the decentralized independent terminal evaluation of this project under the guidance and support of OED.	To be launched 6 months prior to the actual project completion date (NTE)	50,000
Terminal Report	PMU, BH, LTO	Two months before the end date of the project	7,000
Project Final Workshop	PMU	Within two weeks of the end of the project activities	Covered under the activity budget lines
Total Budget			267,000

Specific reports that will be prepared under the M&E program are: (i) Project inception report; (ii) Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP/B); (iii) Project Progress Reports (PPRs); (iv) annual Project Implementation Review (PIR); (v) Technical Reports; (vi) co-financing reports; and (vii) Terminal Report. In addition, assessment of the relevant GEF-7 Core Indicators against the baselines will be required at mid-term and final project evaluation.

Project Inception Report. It is recommended that the PMU prepare a draft project inception report in consultation with the LTO, BH and other project partners. Elements of this report should be discussed during the project Inception Workshop and the report subsequently finalized. The report will include a narrative on the institutional roles and responsibilities and coordinating action of project partners, progress to date on project establishment and start-up activities, and an update of any changed external conditions that may affect project implementation. It will also include a detailed first year AWP/B, and a detailed project monitoring plan. The draft inception report will be circulated via e-mail to the PSC for review and comments before its finalization, no later than one month after project start-up. The report should be cleared by the FAO BH, LTO and the FAO GEF Coordination Unit and uploaded in FAO's Field Program Management Information System (FPMIS) by the BH.

Results-based Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP/B). The draft of the first AWP/B will be prepared by the PMU in consultation with the FAO Project Task Force and reviewed at the project Inception Workshop. The Inception Workshop inputs will be incorporated and subsequently, the PMU will submit a final draft AWP/B to the BH within two weeks after the workshop. For subsequent AWP/B, the PMU will organize a project progress review and planning meeting for its progress review and adaptive management. Once PSC comments have been incorporated, the PMU will circulate the AWP/B to the BH, LTO and the FAO GEF Coordination Unit for comments and for clearance by BH and LTO prior to uploading in FPMIS by the BH. The AWP/B must be linked to the project's Results Framework indicators to ensure that the project's work and activities are contributing to the achievement of the indicators. The AWP/B should include detailed activities to be implemented to achieve the project outputs and output targets and divided into monthly timeframes and targets and milestone dates for output indicators to be achieved during the year. A detailed project budget for the activities to be implemented during the year should also be included together with all monitoring and supervision activities required during the year. The AWP/B should be

approved by the Project Steering Committee, LTO and the FAO GEF Coordination Unit, and uploaded on the FPMIS by the BH.

Project Progress Reports (PPR): PPRs will be prepared by the PMU based on the systematic monitoring of output and outcome indicators identified in the project's Results Framework (Annex A1). The purpose of the PPR is to identify constraints, problems, or bottlenecks that impede timely implementation and to take appropriate remedial action in a timely manner. PPRs will also report on the project's risks and implementation of the risk mitigation plan. The Budget Holder has the responsibility of coordinating the preparation and finalization of the PPR, in consultation with the PMU and the Project Task Force (PTF) members. After LTO, BH, and FLO clearance, the FLO will ensure that project progress reports are uploaded in FPMIS in a timely manner.

Annual Project Implementation Review (PIR): The PMU, in collaboration with the BH and the LTO, will prepare an annual PIR covering the period July of the previous year through June of the current year. The PIR needs to be submitted to the FAO GEF Coordination Unit Funding Liaison Officer (FLO) for review and approval no later than end of June/early July each year (the exact timelines for submission are communicated each year by the GEF Coordination Unit). The PMU will submit the first PIR draft to FAO BH/LTO, once finalized, the BH/LTO will submit it to the FAO GEF Coordination Unit as part of the Annual Monitoring Review report of the FAO-GEF portfolio. PIRs will be submitted to the GEF and uploaded on the FPMIS by the FAO GEF Coordination Unit.

Technical Reports: Technical reports will be prepared by national, international consultants (partner organizations under Letters of Agreement) as part of project outputs and to document and share project outcomes and lessons learned. The drafts of any technical reports must be submitted by the PMU to the BH who will share it with the LTO. The LTO will be responsible for ensuring appropriate technical review and clearance of said report. The BH will upload the final cleared reports onto the FPMIS. Copies of the technical reports will be distributed to project partners and the Project Steering Committee as appropriate.

Co-financing Reports: The BH, with support from the PMU, will be responsible for collecting the required information and reporting on co-financing as indicated in the Project Document/CEO Endorsement Request. The PMU will compile the information received from the executing partners and transmit it in a timely manner to the LTO and BH. The report, which covers the period 1 July through 30 June, is to be submitted on or before 31 July and will be incorporated into the annual PIR. The format and tables to report on co-financing can be found in the PIR.

Terminal Report: Within two months before the end date of the project or the ending date of the OPA, the PMU will submit to the BH and LTO a draft Terminal Report. The main purpose of the Terminal Report is to give guidance at ministerial or senior government level on the policy decisions required for the follow-up of the project, and to provide the donor with information on how the funds were utilized. The Terminal Report is accordingly a concise account of the main products, results, conclusions and recommendations of the project, without unnecessary background, narrative or technical details. The target readership consists of people who are not necessarily technical specialists but who need to understand the policy implications of technical findings and needs for ensuring sustainability of project results.

Evaluation Provisions

Two independent project evaluations, a Mid-Term Review (MTR), undertaken at project mid-term, and a Terminal Evaluation (TE), to be launched within six months prior to the actual project completion date (NTE), will be carried out. The BH will arrange an independent MTR in consultation with the PSC, the PMU, the LTO and the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit. The MTR will be conducted to review progress and effectiveness of implementation in terms of achieving project objective, outcomes and outputs. The MTE will allow mid-course corrective actions, if needed. The MTE will provide a systematic analysis of the information on project progress in the achievement of expected results against budget expenditures. It will refer to the Project Budget (see Annex A2) and the approved AWP/Bs. It will highlight replicable good practices and key issues faced during project implementation and will suggest mitigation actions to be discussed by the PSC, the LTO and FAO-GEF Coordination Unit.

The GEF evaluation policy foresees that all medium and large size projects require a separate **final evaluation**. Such evaluation provides: i) accountability on results, processes, and performance; ii) recommendations to improve the sustainability of the results achieved and iii) lessons learned as an evidence-base for decision-making to be shared with all stakeholders (government, execution agency, other national partners, the GEF and FAO) to improve the performance of future projects.

The BH will be responsible to contact the Regional Evaluation Specialist (RES) within six months prior to the actual completion date (NTE date). The RES will manage the decentralized independent terminal evaluation of this project under the guidance and support of OED and will be responsible for quality assurance. Independent external evaluators will conduct the terminal evaluation of the project taking into account the "GEF Guidelines for GEF Agencies in Conducting Terminal Evaluation for Full-sized Projects." FAO Office of Evaluation (OED) will provide technical assistance throughout the evaluation process, via the OED Decentralized Evaluation Support team. In particular, it will also give quality assurance feedback on: selection of the external evaluators, Terms of Reference of the evaluation, draft and final report. OED will be responsible for the quality assessment of the terminal evaluation report, including the GEF ratings.

After the completion of the terminal evaluation, the BH will be responsible to prepare the management response to the evaluation within four weeks and share it with national partners, GEF OFP, OED and the FAO-GEF CU.

Disclosure.

The project will ensure transparency in the preparation, conduct, reporting and evaluation of its activities. This includes full disclosure of all non-confidential information, and consultation with major groups and representatives of local communities. The disclosure of information shall be ensured through posting on websites and dissemination of findings through knowledge products and events. Project reports will be broadly and freely shared, and findings and lessons learned made available.

10. Benefits

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

Generating socio-economic benefits is not only a very desirable output of this project but key to its sustainability. If people don't derive tangible socio-economic benefits from more sustainable food systems and restored landscape there is little hope that these systems will be chosen on the long run. This project's objective is to create a common vision as a guiding principle for the landscape, ensuring that all stakeholders (even the most disadvantaged usually such as women and youth) feel empowered and benefit from sustainable landscapes. The development of green and inclusive SMEs as well as the support to larger enterprises to have a positive impact on the landscape and local livelihoods, are a key pillar of the project.

Looking component by component the benefits are the following:

Under Component 1, at the national level, the socio-economic benefit from the project is an enabling environment that includes institutions and coordination mechanisms with a stronger capacity to plan and implement. It is expected that these enhanced capacities will lead to improved and projects in an integrated manner. The project will also support supportive policies to reach the field level. Policies on land tenure are particularly important for communities and farmers to project themselves in a long-term vision for the landscape. Thanks to awareness raising at national and local levels, over 300 people will be trained in Integrated Landscape Management planning and lead the process in their communes to apply this knowledge and develop participatory integrated land use plans. These plans will be developed following multiple criteria including socio-economic ones. Raising awareness and enabling people to be part of a landscape plan, is empowering them to be a driver of change to transform current unsustainable food systems, overusing natural resources instead of nurturing them, to ensure they will be able to deliver their benefits on the long term.

As part of the Integrated Land Use Plans some areas will be designated as needing to implement sustainable agriculture intensification to promote sustainable food producing practices and responsible value chain. In order for this change from traditional agriculture to sustainable intensification to be accepted and be part of a long term plan, local communities need to derive benefits from them. Under Component 2, up to 10,000 farmers will be trained through FFS and lead farmers on sustainable agricultural intensification practices. The exact packages to be used in each community will be defined depending on local condition and culture but the options proposed in the project are all defined in a way that will benefit the economic status of the farmers. This will be through diversifying the production, introducing rotation culture (allowing to produce several crops on the same land without exhausting its resources), or ensuring that the crop can adapt to changing weather patterns preventing the farmers from the devastating effect of a lost harvest. The linkages of this project with the AGRIFARM project that is supporting the development of cooperatives, roads and market opportunities will allow the farmers to sell their produces efficiently. The project also has a strong angle to support sustainable palm oil development in view of its growth in Guinea. The production and the transformation will be supported to include more sustainable practices. 15 groups, including mostly women who are usually in charge of this task, will be empowered to improve the transformation lowering the arduousness of the work and increase the yield. In parallel, the project will promote inclusive businesses. Together with the implementation of palm oil certification this will create an emulation for sustainable products and value with a direct socio-economic impact to the local communities. Women and youth will be recognized for their work and directly benefit from it, giving new energy.

Under component 3, restoration activities in the Integrated Land Use plans will be implemented to restore threatened ecosystem services and a healthy environment. Value chains depending on these restored land will be supported to create a direct economic benefit linked to restoration. As part of the project, 4 NWFPs value chains will be supported in order to bring more economic benefits and have the restored lands considered as productive. The project will also look for new financing options to sustainably the restored land that will have direct socio-economic benefits.

Both national and local project stakeholders will also benefit from more robust monitoring and knowledge management systems, under Component 4, that generate information in a participative way, share it in the form adapted to the target audience and disseminate data, information and best practices relevant to restoration. This will reduce time spent on research and development and facilitate learning and sharing of innovative ideas among and between local, national and international experts (through the IP FOLUR for example) and practitioners, possibly influencing program and policy formulation at different levels.

The project's strong focus on gender and youth equity is also expected to strengthen social sustainability. With equal rights and opportunities to participate and benefit from the project, women, men and the youth can become agents of change for sustained socio-economic development in their communities.

All these efforts support ILM and FLR development at the local, regional and national levels giving both the tools to implement it and the incentives to keep doing it over the long term. Global Environment Benefits are reached through land degradation reduction, sustainable agriculture and forest management, improved biodiversity habitat connectivity and improved wellbeing.

11. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

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

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification *

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approva I	MTR	TE
Low			

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

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

This project has been classified in the Environmental and Social Risk Classification as Low risk (cf Annex I1 for full details). Indeed the intent of the project is to protect and restore ecosystems so that they can deliver ecosystem services on the long term. The work will focus around high biodiversity areas in order to ensure their protection against further degradation while enhancing local livelihoods. The areas of intervention do have some social issues linked to increasing levels of poverty, gender unbalanced and aging agricultural base. The project will work on these issues ensuring that all the stakeholders even in the less represented usually (women and youth) get a voice and can lead debate and conclusions. The activities linked to value chain development will target value chains where women are particularly present such as palm oil and NTPF in order to promote their work and help them to grow their businesses. Inclusive and green business linked to restored land will be a particular focus of the project. The objective of the project is to have landscapes producing the necessary commodities, providing livelihoods to local communities and ecosystem services on the long term. In the assessment no major social or environmental risks have been noted.

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
FAO ES Screening Checklist_full	CEO Endorsement ESS	
FAO ES Screening Checklist 13092021	CEO Endorsement ESS	

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

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Project Objective: To promote sustainable and comprehensive food systems that are deforestation free and provide ecosystem services, with a focus on palm oil productive landscapes							
Component 1: Collaboration for and development of integrated landscape management systems							
<u>Outcome 1.1:</u> Planning, monitoring and enabling conditions enhanced for integrated landscape management .	# of multistakeholder mechanisms, with equal representation of male and woman, developed or strengthened to plan and monitor ILM and FLR	0	20	25	Meeting notes from regular coordination meetings	Partners ready to collaborate Opportunity to develop a shared landscape vision	UGP (M&E expert)
	# of ha covered by evidence-based participatory ILM plans (contributing to Core Indicator 4: <i>Area of landscapes under improved practices</i>)	0	100,000	150,000	ILM plans developed at communal level for the target districts		UGP (M&E expert)
	# stakeholders trained in ILM planning and implementation	0	300 (including 150 women)	300 (including 150 women)	Training reports and follow up survey on learnings application		UGP (M&E expert)
	# of ILM participatory plans developed	0	8	13	ILM plans		UGP (M&E expert)

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
	# of policy frameworks updated to foster ILM	0	1	3	Adopted texts of updated policy frameworks		UGP (M&E expert)
	<i># of integrated national land use planning and monitoring system</i>	0	1	1	<i>Tool for the integrated land use planning and monitoring system accessible</i>		UGP (M&E expert)
	<i># of products, tools and approaches developed and effectively shared through the FOLUR IP Global platform</i>	<i># of products, tools and approaches developed and effectively shared through the FOLUR IP Global platform</i>	<i># of products, tools and approaches developed and effectively shared through the FOLUR IP Global platform</i>	<i># of products, tools and approaches developed and effectively shared through the FOLUR IP Global platform</i>	<i># of products, tools and approaches developed and effectively shared through the FOLUR IP Global platform</i>	<i># of products, tools and approaches developed and effectively shared through the FOLUR IP Global platform</i>	
<p><u>Output 1.1.1</u> Intersectoral and multistakeholder (including private sector) coordination and collaboration mechanisms established and / or strengthened at national and landscape level to plan and monitor ILM and FLR</p> <p><u>Output 1.1.2</u> Technical capacities of national and local authorities to plan, implement and update integrated green land use plans, enhanced</p> <p><u>Output 1.1.3</u> Integrated land use plans for the target landscape developed based on field and remotely-sensed evidence and on stakeholder engagement</p> <p><u>Output 1.1.4</u> Agriculture, forestry and land tenure policies and legal frameworks updated and coordinated to foster ILM, restoration of degraded landscapes and deforestation free agricultural development</p> <p><u>Output 1.1.5</u> Integrated national land use planning and monitoring system including forestry data in place with data sharing protocols, and used to report on national and international commitments (Rio conventions and LDN Targets, Bonn Challenge, AFR100)</p>							
Component 2: Promotion of sustainable food production practices and responsible value chains							

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
<p><u>Outcome 2.1:</u> Agricultural land within mixed rice and palm oil productive landscapes, managed sustainably and responsible value chains promoted.</p>	<p># of ha of landscapes under SLM in production systems (Core Indicator 4.3) - this includes the wider area under the plans and direct SLM interventions on 15,000 ha.</p>	0	tbd	145,000	Reports from extension officers and UGP & Field Verification	<p>Stakeholders are ready to collaborate and implement new practices</p> <p>Demand for palm oil is real and stable</p>	UGP
	<p># of ha of palm oil plantation in process of certification (Core Indicator 4.2 <i>Area of landscapes that meet national or international third-party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations</i>)</p>	0	1,000	5,000	Certification audit reports		UGP/MGE
	<p>#communes implementing a Local Development Plan (LDP) and an Investment Plan including integrated land management activities</p>	0	5	13	LDP and use of funds at community level		UGP (M&E expert)

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
	<i># stakeholders implementing climate-resilient and ecologically sound agricultural practices (including sustainable rice, agroforestry with palm trees, etc.) ? including 50% of women</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5,000</i>	<i>13,000</i>	<i>Reports from extension officers and UGP</i>		<i>UGP (M&E expert)</i>
	<i># ha of palm plantation (Dura and Tenera) under improved practices</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>3,500</i>	<i>Field verification</i>		<i>UGP (M&E expert)</i>
	<i># groups trained and equipped for improved palm oil transformation</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>6 (at least 50% of the groups are female-led)</i>	<i>15 (at least 50% of the groups are female-led)</i>	<i>Training reports and follow up survey on learnings application</i>		<i>UGP (M&E expert)</i>
	<i>#inclusive business (small and large) with a sustainable and growing activity (50% female led)</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>10 (50% female led)</i>	<i>20 (50% female led)</i>	<i>Business plans and implementation report</i>		<i>UGP (M&E expert)</i>
	<i># ha of palm oil plantation in process of certification</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>5,000</i>	<i>Certification audit reports</i>		<i>UGP (M&E expert)</i>

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
<p><u>Output 2.1.1</u> Climate-resilient and ecologically sound intensification models implemented in smallholder production systems of the selected landscape over 10,000 ha</p> <p><u>Output 2.1.2</u> Stakeholders capacities strengthened with knowledge, equipment, tools and trainings (e.g. FFS at farmer's level) for a more efficient and responsible palm oil value chain from producer to buyer</p> <p><u>Output 2.1.3</u> Inclusive business models catalyzed (addressing, inter alia, women empowerment, innovative finance, market access) in collaboration with cooperatives and private sector</p> <p><u>Output 2.1.4</u> Sustainable palm oil standards, certification and traceability schemes developed and implemented</p>							
Component 3: Conservation and restoration of natural habitats							
<p><u>Outcome 3.1:</u> Degraded sites of high environmental value restored and protected.</p>	<p># of ha of degraded farmland and forest under restoration rehabilitation and improved management. (Core Indicator 3.1 <i>Area of degraded agricultural land restored: 4,000ha +</i> Core Indicator 3.2 <i>Area of forest and forest land restored: 6,000ha)</i></p>	0	5,000	10,000	Field surveys and GIS data	<p>Financing options for integrated land management exist</p> <p>Strong experts are available to build capacities</p>	UGP (M&E expert)
	<p># Metric tons of CO₂e of GHG Emissions Mitigated (Core indicator 6.1: <i>Carbon sequestered or emissions avoided in the AFOLU sector)</i></p>	0	0	6,187,155	EXACT		UGP (M&E expert)
	<p># NTFP value chains supported</p>		2	4	Field visits and reports		UGP (M&E expert)

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
	# M USD raised through innovative financing mechanisms (50% of the funds going to women-led initiatives)		1	4	Business plans and reports from supported SMEs		UGP (M&E expert)
<p><u>Output 3.1.1</u> Restoration practices that will enhance the biodiversity and long-term climate-resilience of degraded forests and agrosylvopastoral systems implemented in selected sites of the landscape</p> <p><u>Output 3.1.2</u> Local producers organizations strengthened to identify and run profitable NWFP and other green businesses</p> <p><u>Output 3.1.3</u> Innovative arrangements for financing restoration of degraded areas tested, including partnerships with private sector (e.g. mining) and development of bankable projects</p>							
Component 4: Communication and M&E							
<u>Outcome 4.1:</u> Successful execution of the project in an effective manner, with knowledge shared through the FOLUR global platform	# of products, tools and approaches developed and effectively shared through the FOLUR IP Global platform	0	5	20	Dissemination report from the Global IP Platform	Stakeholders are ready to gather, share and receive knowledge	
	# of people reached by the project's communication and dissemination work (50% women)	0	20,000 (50% women)	100,000 (50% women)	Website reports, number of clicks on social media, etc.		
	# M&E system put in place to ensure adaptive management	0	1	1	M&E system		

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
	# of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment (Core Indicator 11)	0		30,000	M&E system	Stakeholders are ready to collaborate and implement new practices.	UGP/M&E expert
<p><u>Output 4.1.1:</u> Knowledge products, tools and approaches developed and shared through the FOLUR IP Global platform and other relevant platforms</p> <p><u>Output 4.1.2:</u> Operational project M&E system in place</p>							

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

GEF Sec comments	Responses
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1) Explain further how the project will work at the policy level on land concessioning, High Conservation Value (HCV) & High Carbon Stock (HCS) national harmonization, etc., all of which are of primary importance in frontier landscapes;

2) Provide additional details on the country policy and positioning with regard to the sustainability of commodities and landscape planning;

3) Describe further the needed interventions beyond the producer level, including the improvements needed in the governance and policy framework to lay the foundation for value chain development.

1) Land tenure and agreed use is indeed a key topic when working on sustainable land management. It is even recognized in the National Economic development plan (PNDES): *Land tenure security and equitable access to the earth remain an imperative to eliminate hunger and poverty, sustainably support socio-economic development, and maintain social peace between the different user actors. This perspective calls for a review of the legislative and regulatory framework in this area, in particular: the Land and Land Code must be revisited to allow coherent management of land holdings in rural areas through a better defined rural land component?*. The situation of land tenure in Guinea is presented in the Context section of the Prodoc. Since the issuance of the PNDES, several organizations such as the World Bank and the French Development Agency are working with FAO on the topic and a roadmap was established specifying the path through which a rural land policy and legislation will be developed to meet the challenges of securing land tenure for all users of rural land in the Republic of Guinea. It is within this framework that the FAO introduced in Guinea the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (VGGT) in the context of national food security. The lessons learned acquired from the land tenure national platform set in motion by FAO will be leveraged to convert the existing policies into actions. This project will support the application of these Guidelines at the local level where they are the most needed in close collaboration with the WB and AFD. The project will also implement an integrated approach in which all the landscape stakeholder will reach agreements on land use. The agreement will be based on socio, economical and biodiversity analysis (including reviewing customary by laws governing the use of forests) and commune level multi-stakeholder negotiations. This process will also support the harmonization process of identifying HCS/HCV areas within the landscape/commune. A key outcome of the land use plan will be the establishment of management bodies responsible for the monitoring of agreed plans. The objective is to build the capacity of both government and local partners on sustainable food and cash crop productions (rice & oil palm) while incentivizing local farmers to develop degraded areas instead of encroaching on high forested areas.

2) The section on Policy in the Context part of the Prodoc(II.1.a 1) gives details on the policy context. In its National Economic development Plan (PNDES), Guinea has clear objectives of expanding agriculture in a sustainable way. This is clearly mentioned as *promoting sustainable and productive agriculture, guaranteeing food and nutritional security, hence prioritizing SDGs targets 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4 et 2.5*?. SDGs target 2.4 being : *"By 2030, ensure the sustainability of food production systems and implement agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, contribute to the preservation of ecosystems, strengthen capacities to adapt to climate change, extreme weather events, drought, floods and other disasters and gradually improve the quality of land and soil*?. Also, Vision 2040 states that *"every effort must be made to limit deforestation"* in Guinea and specifically targets the fight against climate change and the preservation of the environment (objective 5.3), through sustainable production methods and the conservation of ecosystems.

The government seeks the preservation of natural capital through the adoption of sustainable consumption production and models, as well as through the protection of marine and terrestrial ecosystems in land use plans. However, a set of presidential initiatives geared towards the expansion of commodities such as rice, palm oil and cashew have been implemented. These have triggered the necessity of promoting sustainable value chain commodities in an integrated landscape

Council comment (on PFD)	Responses (with respect to Guinea child project)
<p><i>Germany Comments</i></p> <p>1) The [PFD] text systematically narrows landscape ecosystem challenges down to forest resources. Consequently, the lack of conclusive regulatory frameworks on soils and targeted incentives for sustainable soil management are not addressed in the [PFD]. Germany would like to suggest, that the vital role of soil ecosystem services are more specifically spelled out in the program description and analysis of root causes, and to include GSP/FAO in the list of relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>2) Furthermore, Germany would like to suggest stronger reference to Land Degradation Neutrality (SDG 15.3) targets and policies. The link of [the PFD] to the LDN conceptual framework (SPI/UNCCD) needs more systematic elaboration and should include an explicit reference to UNCCD as the custodian agency for SDG 15.3.</p>	<p>1) Declining soil fertility, due to unsustainable agricultural practices has been identified as a key issue in the barriers analysis. The project will support :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the development of Integrated Land Use Plans so that each parcel of land has a designated use for a long period of time. This longer time frame will allow to set up long term sustainable practices good for soil management. - the expansion of sustainable agricultural practices as listed under component 2 seeking to improve soil management through culture rotation. The use of different species in rotation allows for increased soil organic matter (SOM), greater soil structure, and improvement of the chemical and biological soil environment for crops. With more SOM, water infiltration and retention improves, providing increased drought tolerance and decreased erosion. - the restoration of land and forest through setting aside some lands and agroforestry to allow the land to increase its SOM as well. <p>2) Reference to and alignment with Guinea's LDN targets is included in the Prodoc. Guinea's target to restore 375,000 ha of degraded lands by 2030. Through its interventions, the project will enhance and restore agro-ecological services and contribute to LDN in the target landscapes by both preventing and reversing land degradation.</p>

*Norway-Denmark
Comments*

1) In our view this program seems to be a series of individual projects or activities which have been put together under one program. It is unclear how this is a program which has been built with the intention to tackle a specific issue or problem. The program tries to convert all the individual project activities into higher level outcomes.

1) Close alignment with the Global project was sought during the Guinea child project development, including alignment of outcomes, outputs and indicators where relevant. The Project M&E will be closely coordinated with the program M&E. the section on Child Project in the project Document details how the project will both contribute to and benefit from the Global project.

*United States
Comments*

1) Gender. It is insufficiently clear how the program will incorporate actions that will address the institutional constraints on gender equity and women's economic empowerment on the part of implementing partners (government agencies) and key stakeholders (non-gender oriented CSOs). For example, although the program expresses an interest in providing greater training of women and in increasing their number in leadership roles within groups supported by FOLUR, there is no mention of how government policies and practices (at the national or decentralized levels) will continue to support these initiatives upon the completion of the program cycle. There is also no mention of promoting gender sensitive procurement to encourage economic empowerment of women. Another concern is the gendered rates of literacy; if literacy rates are low, how will female small holder farmers be guided on how to read the labels of agro-chemical inputs so that applications can be applied in a safe and environmentally friendly manner? The issue of gendered literacy also extends to access to credit and land tenure (e.g. title deeds). What strategies are being considered to encourage best practices for measures to increase access to credit for female

1) For the purpose of the full Project Document a full gender analysis has been led and activities under each output have been crafted to ensure that women not only benefit from the project but that the project contribute to a real mindset change towards women's role in society. Please refer to Section 3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and Annex J for details.

2) In the Guinea child project context, an important challenge is the ageing of farmers and the need to create incentives for young farmers to remain engaged in agriculture as a key element of sustainability. This makes youth an important category of project beneficiary and means that youth empowerment is an important consideration in the child project design.

Each project component considers the role of youth, including:

- ? Stakeholder consultation platforms will work with youth organizations (Outcome 1);
 - ? Sustainable intensification models will be youth and gender sensitive and business incubation platforms will also reach out to youth populations (Output 2.1);
- Youth will be trained in forest restoration and conservation. (Outputs 3.1)

Council comment (on PFD Addendum II)	Responses (with respect to Guinea child project)
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Switzerland Comments

1) Could you possibly reiterate again the theory of change for the entire program and explain how these specific child projects are aligned with the theory of change for the entire program?

2) In some cases, the co-financing numbers seem to be very high in our understanding in particular because the co-financing is often declared as in-kind contribution. Could you explain to us how you will ensure that the co-financing will materialize, in particular when it is declared as in-kind contribution? We prefer you indicate realistic co-financing figures, which can be met by all project and program partners.

3) You have only marked these projects with the climate change mitigation Rio Marker. We would also expect that the projects would lead to increased resilience and therefore would expect them to also be at least partially relevant for climate change adaptation. Could you explain, why you are not capturing the climate change adaptation benefits of the program?

4) Can you explain how you will address the potential challenges and trade-offs between truly integrated sustainable land management and the creation of efficient sustainable supply chains, i.e. efficient production patterns?

5) The Voluntary Guidelines on Land Tenure (VGGT; CFS, FAO) should in general be considered in each child project and not just in some. At the moment they are only considered in some child projects.

6) We believe WOCAT and the application of WOCAT Tools could be interesting for all child projects and should be considered in all of them. At the moment they are only considered in some.

7) We would like to advocate to

1) The intertwined challenges of forest and landscape degradation and the resulting impacts on ecosystem services, biodiversity and climate change vulnerability correspond to the key problems on which the FOLUR IP Theory of Change (ToC) focuses.

In line with the overall focus and outcomes of the FOLUR IP, the project will adopt an Integrated Landscape Management (ILM) approach to simultaneously promote the development of a zero-deforestation value chain (palm oil, rice, etc.,...), sustainable food production and the restoration of degraded forest and lands. In this manner, the project is closely aligned with the FOLUR IP Theory of Change (ToC). As described in the proposed alternative scenario, through its four components, the project will address the main barriers to sustainability of food systems in Upper Guinea and Guinea Forest Region, reflecting those highlighted in the FOLUR IP ToC.

The project will, in full alignment with the FOLUR IP ToC, contribute to: (i) developing integrated landscape management systems and coordination groups at national and local scales, (ii) supporting enabling policy for integrated landscape management under Component 1; (iii) promoting sustainable agricultural practices across the landscape to reduce negative externalities from oil palm, other cash crops (e.g. cashew nuts, cocoa and coffee) and food crops production and (iv) promoting a responsible and inclusive palm oil value chain from producer to buyer, under Component 2; (v) conserving and restoring degraded areas with the full involvement of local stakeholders and (vi) developing innovative financing mechanisms to ensure sustainability on the long term, under Component 3; (vii) supporting knowledge management at local, national and international levels under Component 4 reflecting the ToC of the FOLUR IP.

2) In the case of this project, the co-financing numbers aren't much higher than the usual co-financing norm showing that the GEF project will build on existing projects and can count on the government commitment. In terms of tracking the in-kind co-finance, the co-finance letters mention provision of (non project) staff time attending consultation and management meetings, contributing to AWP/Bs revisions, making available office space, facilities, utilities for PMU staff. All of this in-kind support will be part of the monitoring plan, quantified and reported at each PIR. The in-kind contribution is coming from the three national agencies which will have a major role to play in the project and have been deeply involved in the project development. If the co-financing doesn't materialize, it means that they are not committed and that the entire project is at risk. This is highly unlikely considering their interest in the project.

3) The Guinea child project has also marked Climate Change Adaptation Rio Marker 1.

4) If we want the value chain to be sustainable, major changes need to happen indeed. Changing to a more sustainable model implies commitment, time, knowledge and investment funds but it also brings a large suite of benefits. Change usually doesn't happen due to the barriers presented in the ToC. The project through its different activities thrive to lift these barriers by bringing knowledge, capacity building, improved inputs, investment opportunities, innovation financial schemes, etc. By working all along the value chain ensuring that all the actors are part of both the efforts and the benefits and

Germany comment

In order to enhance resilience and capacities for adaptation within the new project countries, Germany proposes that the full proposal should clearly identify and provide detailed information on how the local governments and civil society organizations in the respective new project countries will be strengthened as change agents of an enabling environment. Furthermore, it should be depicted how the national LDN Target Setting programmes are addressed (priority on avoiding land degradation) in order not to incentivize degradation through restoration support. The overall activities might be placed in the framework of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030 to create further awareness with decision makers.

Local governments? and community actors? empowerment is key to the success of this project. As detailed in the Theory of change and alternative scenario, ?The project will support and reinforce the decentralization efforts led by the Government of Guinea. The project will support activities at national level to ensure national coherence and replicability. In terms of local planning and implementation of field activities, the project will support communes, by training agriculture and forest extension officers (respectively from ANPROCA and DNFF) on how to plan for integrated natural resources management and restoration activities, and include these activities into Communal level Local Development Plans (LDP) and respective Annual Investment Plans (AIP). The project will also support these activities through budget given by ANAFIC to each commune in order to implement its AIP. Usually the green investments aren't prioritized in communal budget, this project, and the sustainable financing mechanisms it will create, will start a new dynamic of green activities planned, implemented and monitored at communal level. In order to achieve these results the capacities of local agents of the 3 agencies (DNFF, ANPROCA and ANAFIC) will be built. Once the model is proven successful it will be easily replicated in all of the other communes.?

For the LDN targets, please see answer just above.

This project indeed fits very well in the UN Decade work and will both contribute and benefit from the UN Decade.

France comment

Yes indeed.

The modification to the FOLUR IP project adds four countries, three of which incorporate deforestation + targeting of industries that are especially responsible for deforestation and of ?zero deforestation? industries, which is in line with the French National Strategy to Combat Imported Deforestation (Strat?gie Nationale Fran?aise de lutte contre la D?forestation Import?e SNDI): Coffee in Kenya, palm oil in Guinea, cocoa and beef/byproducts in Nicaragua.

STAP comment (on PFD)	Responses (with respect to Guinea child project)
<p>1) The STAP encourages additional quantification of key trends during the next phase of program preparation as a baseline from which to measure change, and further specification of the change mechanisms indicated in the theory of change, especially those essential to achieve scaling. The scale of outcomes is difficult to predict and highly dependent upon quality of stakeholder engagement processes at multiple levels. Given the geographic and commodity coverage of this IP, scaling up beyond country-level outcomes is integral to planned program-level outcomes, targeting fundamental transformation in food systems.</p>	<p>These comments are well-received, understood and incorporated where needed into the project design.</p> <p>Attention to detail and efforts have especially been made to establish relevant, meaningful baselines so as to better monitor and scale project impact at the different socio-economic national and subnational levels.</p>

<p>2) More detail should be provided during full program development regarding systematic risk identification and assessment of risk management options and strategies. [?] The PFD notes potential social and environmental risks posed by the country projects but does not specify these. While generic policy and governance risks are noted, there is inadequate explicit attention to political and economic interests that could (and are likely to) oppose desired changes.</p>	<p>2) A detailed analysis of risks was conducted during the project preparation phase (including climate risks), and mitigation actions identified. Details can be found in Section 5. <i>Risks</i> of the ProDoc,</p>
<p>3) Gender equality aspects merit deeper analysis during full program preparation, particularly regarding barriers to gender-equitable resource access and tenure rights, and to inclusive decision-making in landscape-level planning and policy formulation.</p>	<p>3) As noted above, a detailed gender analysis was conducted for the Guinea child project and gender actions incorporated into the project design. Please refer to CEO ER <i>Section 3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment</i> and Annex J for details. Among others, the project's Gender Action Plan (see Section 6 of Gender annex) explicitly includes a series of output-specific actions related to gender.</p>
<p>4) Climate mitigation and adaptation goals are well integrated in the high-level program description, and climate-smart agriculture (CSA) practices and technologies are integral to the planned landscape-level responses. Yet, assessment of program-level sensitivity to climate impacts is not presented; more detail is expected in development of country projects and in program-level monitoring and targeted capacity support functions.</p>	<p>4) Climate risks have been considered in the project design (see Project risks table, p.80). A very detailed analysis has been led (see Annex I3) highlighting the climate mitigation and adaptation risk for Guinea in general and the project areas in particular. Several activities have been set up to allow farmers to better adapt to climate change. This include the improvement of existing draining system and selection of adapted rice species.</p>

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

*Committed amount under consultants and contracts budget lines includes: translation of the project document into French, finalization of execution partner agreements, training to execution partners on reporting requirements

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: usd 299,457			
PROJECT SYMBOL: GCP /GUI/025/GFF			
ENTITY: 667101			
<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)</i>		
	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent to date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>
(5013) Consultants	176,043	170,626	10,000
(5014) Contracts	11,372		41,080
(5021) Travel	66,845	26,558	
(5023) Training	45,197	11,069	34,128
(5028) General Operating Expenses	0	5,996	
Total	299,457.00	214,249	*85,208

ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

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

The project will work in a large coherent biophysical and administrative landscape representing nearly 40% of the country (97,961 km²) that is spread over eight prefectures of Guinea Forest Region (Gu?ck?dou, Kissidougou, K?rouan?, Macenta, Beyla, Yamou, Nz?r?kor? and Lola) and three selected prefectures of Upper Guinea (Faranah, Kouroussa and Kankan) (see maps in Prodoc Annex E).

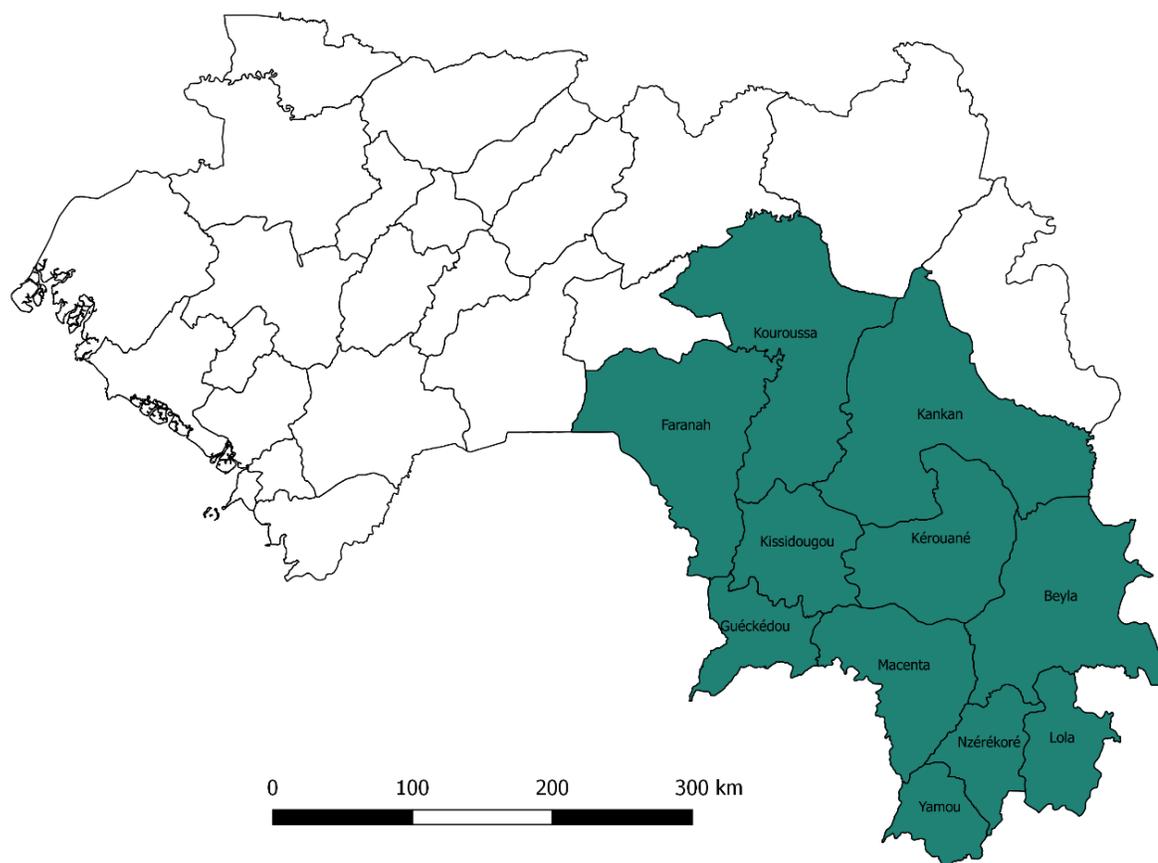
As detailed in 1.1 Project Description 1) Context & Site selection, within the 11 prefectures pre-selected for the project, 13 communes have been selected. The 13 communes pre-selected and their geo-coordinates are presented below.

	Prefecture	Commune	Geo-Coordinates (Lon/Lat)
1	Kouroussa	Komala Khoura	9?49'13.78"W 11?11'45.84"N 10?16'28.51"W 11?24'55.38"N 10?41'54.46"W 11? 8'27.47"N 10?14'39.83"W 10?52'41.49"N
2	Kankan	Bat? Nafadji	9? 2'20.67"W 10?40'20.54"N 9? 9'26.84"W 11? 3'31.05"N 9?17'22.84"W 11? 2'58.05"N 9?27'4.51"W 10?37'3.64"N

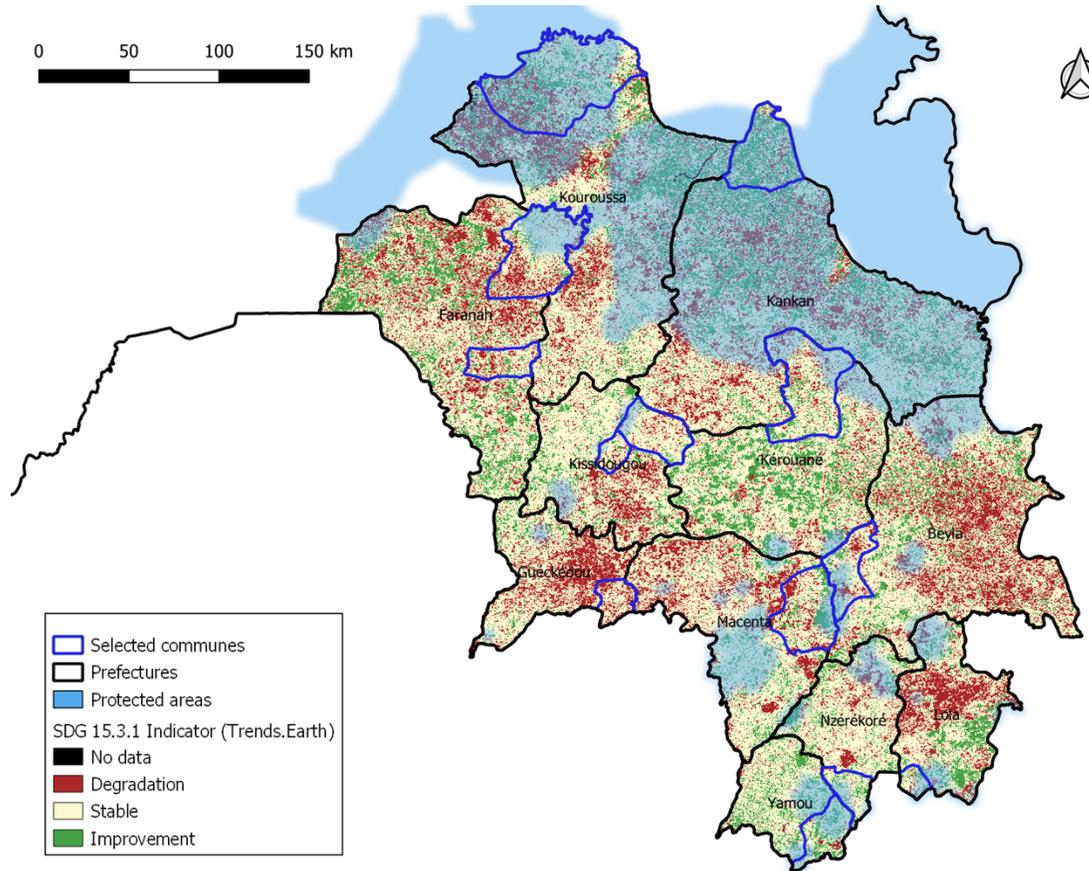
3	K?rouan?	Komodou	8?52'12.30"W 9?22'42.63"N 8?47'48.62"W 9?47'16.34"N 9?14'5.26"W 9?52'19.14"N 9?12'41.81"W 9?20'58.92"N
4	Faranah	Tiro	10?24'0.56"W 9?41'2.13"N 10?22'19.25"W 9?51'13.91"N 10?43'7.77"W 9?49'24.91"N 10?44'54.44"W 9?41'28.45"N
5	Faranah	Beindougou	10?17'15.51"W 10? 5'48.78"N 10? 7'47.38"W 10?31'43.67"N 10?24'20.72"W 10?32'30.35"N 10?38'5.06"W 10? 4'31.68"N
6	Beyla	Nionsomoridou	8?41'6.70"W 8?34'41.66"N 8?41'28.83"W 8?57'45.67"N 8?57'2.81"W 8?46'27.73"N 8?52'57.72"W 8?26'35.41"N
7	NZ?r?kor?	Bounouma	8?42'5.28"W 7?40'6.27"N 8?53'1.17"W 7?43'26.86"N 8?57'0.73"W 7?42'42.46"N 8?48'12.81"W 7?24'17.94"N
8	Lola	Bossou	8?23'45.43"W 7?37'3.85"N 8?29'25.80"W 7?43'52.34"N 8?33'57.25"W 7?37'33.47"N 8?28'19.66"W 7?33'16.24"N
9	Yomou	Di?ck?	8?50'44.16"W 7?15'57.69"N 8?52'49.12"W 7?34'33.36"N 9? 3'23.60"W 7?25'32.80"N 9? 6'15.89"W 7?11'38.04"N
10	Macenta	Kouankan	8?54'46.08"W 8?18'20.51"N 8?56'11.35"W 8?44'4.00"N 9? 9'13.71"W 8?37'59.07"N 9? 5'59.80"W 8?17'17.40"N

11	Guékédou	Guékédou Tékoulo	9°53'28.28"W 8°29'53.34"N 9°56'14.17"W 8°39'28.41"N 10° 4'28.72"W 8°39'4.80"N 10° 3'57.23"W 8°25'16.79"N
12	Kissidougou	Gbangbadou	9°59'53.45"W 9°11'27.77"N 9°54'29.79"W 9°20'0.64"N 9°58'47.07"W 9°24'45.96"N 10° 5'16.59"W 9°14'43.35"N
13	Kissidougou	Manfaran	9°41'3.75"W 9°13'45.06"N 9°35'30.30"W 9°21'14.77"N 9°51'58.37"W 9°34'45.34"N 9°58'47.81"W 9°24'48.40"N

Project map showing target Districts (FAO 2018):



Project map of selected communes showing land degradation levels (SDG 15.3.1 Indicator) (FAO, 2021):



ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

FAO Cost Categories	Unit	No. of units	Unit cost	Total	Component 1 Total	Component 2 Total	Component 3 Total	Component 4 Total	M&E	PMC	Total	DNEFF	ANPROCA	ANAFIC	FAO Support Services	Total GEF
5013 Consultants																
FFS Expert	Days	40	500	20,000	-	10,000	10,000	-	-	-	20,000	10,000	10,000	-	-	20,000
GIT/FLR expert	Days	40	500	20,000	20,000	-	-	-	-	-	20,000	20,000	-	-	-	20,000
FLR Financing expert	Days	80	500	40,000	-	-	40,000	-	-	-	40,000	40,000	-	-	-	40,000
Sub-total international consultants					20,000	10,000	50,000	-	-	-	80,000	70,000	10,000	-	-	80,000
Project Coordinator & KM Expert Conakry	Month	60	2,500	150,000	25,000	10,000	15,000	25,000	-	75,000	150,000	150,000	-	-	-	150,000
M&E expert - Conakry	Month	60	1,500	90,000	-	-	-	-	90,000	-	90,000	90,000	-	-	-	90,000
Administrative & Procurement expert - Conakry	Month	60	2,000	120,000	-	-	-	-	-	120,000	120,000	60,000	60,000	-	-	120,000
Execution Capacity Development Support and Risk Management specialist	Month	60	1,500	90,000	-	-	-	20,000	70,000	-	90,000	-	-	-	90,000	90,000
Commune Engagement specialist	Month	60	1,250	75,000	-	35,000	40,000	-	-	-	75,000	-	-	75,000	-	75,000
Expert Restoration/Biodiversity - NZerekore	Month	60	1,500	90,000	12,500	-	70,000	7,500	-	-	90,000	90,000	-	-	-	90,000
Expert Agriculture - NZerekore	Month	60	1,500	90,000	12,500	70,000	-	7,500	-	-	90,000	-	90,000	-	-	90,000
Local Facilitator NZerekore	Month	60	1,500	90,000	12,500	40,000	30,000	7,500	-	-	90,000	90,000	-	-	-	90,000
Local Facilitator Kanank	Month	60	1,500	90,000	12,500	40,000	30,000	7,500	-	-	90,000	90,000	-	-	-	90,000
Local Facilitator Faranah	Month	60	1,500	90,000	12,500	40,000	30,000	7,500	-	-	90,000	90,000	-	-	-	90,000
Driver	Months	180	200	36,000	-	-	-	-	-	36,000	36,000	24,000	12,000	-	-	36,000
Policy Expert	Month	12	2,000	24,000	24,000	-	-	-	-	-	24,000	24,000	-	-	-	24,000
FFS Expert	Month	16	2,000	32,000	-	16,000	16,000	-	-	-	32,000	16,000	16,000	-	-	32,000
Palm Oil Good practices expert	Months	10	2,000	20,000	-	20,000	-	-	-	-	20,000	-	20,000	-	-	20,000
NWFP expert	Months	10	2,000	20,000	-	-	20,000	-	-	-	20,000	20,000	-	-	-	20,000
FLR Financing expert	Months	24	2,000	48,000	-	-	48,000	-	-	-	48,000	48,000	-	-	-	48,000
Sub-total national consultants					111,500	271,000	299,000	82,500	160,000	231,000	1,155,000	792,000	198,000	75,000	90,000	1,155,000
5013 Sub-total consultants					131,500	281,000	349,000	82,500	160,000	231,000	1,235,000	862,000	208,000	75,000	90,000	1,235,000
5050 Contracts																
ILM/FLR National Monitoring system - TBD on tender	Lump sum	1	100,000	100,000	100,000	-	-	-	-	-	100,000	100,000	-	-	-	100,000
Sustainable agriculture practices for FFS identification and trainers' training - IRAG	Lump sum	1	30,000	30,000	-	30,000	-	-	-	-	30,000	-	30,000	-	-	30,000
New techniques parcels for palm oil and climate resilient rice - IRAG	Lump sum	1	75,000	75,000	-	75,000	-	-	-	-	75,000	-	75,000	-	-	75,000
Contracts with communities for sustainable agriculture through PAI	Lump sum	1	1,080,000	1,080,000	-	1,080,000	-	-	-	-	1,080,000	-	1,080,000	-	-	1,080,000
Promote inclusive SMEs - TBD Incubator type	Lump sum	1	125,000	125,000	-	125,000	-	-	-	-	125,000	-	125,000	-	-	125,000
GIT capacity building and plans development - 2 to 3 local NGOs	Lumpsum	1	360,000	360,000	360,000	-	-	-	-	-	360,000	360,000	-	-	-	360,000
Sustainable Palm Oil capacity building and pilot sites - IRAG	Lumpsum	1	80,000	80,000	-	80,000	-	-	-	-	80,000	-	80,000	-	-	80,000
Improve Palm Oil transformation and end of the value chain Capacity Building - MGE/GRET	Lumpsum	1	290,000	290,000	-	290,000	-	-	-	-	290,000	-	290,000	-	-	290,000
Promotion of Cluster systems - MGE/GRET	Lumpsum	1	80,000	80,000	-	80,000	-	-	-	-	80,000	-	80,000	-	-	80,000
Investment opportunities forum - Agence Promotion Investissements Privés	Lumpsum	1	20,000	20,000	-	20,000	-	-	-	-	20,000	-	20,000	-	-	20,000
Certification schemes and capacity building - MGE/GRET	Lumpsum	1	260,000	260,000	-	260,000	-	-	-	-	260,000	-	260,000	-	-	260,000
Capacity Building for quality testing - IRAG	Lumpsum	1	70,000	70,000	-	70,000	-	-	-	-	70,000	-	70,000	-	-	70,000
Audit for certification	Lumpsum	1	100,000	100,000	-	100,000	-	-	-	-	100,000	-	100,000	-	-	100,000
Trainers' training on restoration options	Lump sum	1	30,000	30,000	-	-	30,000	-	-	-	30,000	30,000	-	-	-	30,000
Contracts with communities for restoration through PAI	Lumpsum	1	2,250,000	2,250,000	-	-	2,250,000	-	-	-	2,250,000	-	2,250,000	-	-	2,250,000
Capacity building of umbrella organization - FUPROBEK	Lumpsum	1	200,000	200,000	-	-	200,000	-	-	-	200,000	200,000	-	-	-	200,000
Incubation of PFNL PME - Incubators	Lumpsum	1	80,000	80,000	-	-	80,000	-	-	-	80,000	80,000	-	-	-	80,000
Crow-funding platform development - TBD	Lumpsum	1	30,000	30,000	-	-	30,000	-	-	-	30,000	30,000	-	-	-	30,000
Data gathering - University TBD	Lump sum	1	65,000	65,000	-	-	-	65,000	-	-	65,000	65,000	-	-	-	65,000
Knowledge gathering - Faranah University	Lump sum	1	100,000	100,000	-	-	-	100,000	-	-	100,000	100,000	-	-	-	100,000
Radio Program Development - NGO	Lump sum	1	20,000	20,000	-	-	-	20,000	-	-	20,000	20,000	-	-	-	20,000
Mid Term review	Lump sum	1	35,000	35,000	-	-	-	-	35,000	-	35,000	-	-	-	35,000	35,000
Final Evaluation	Lump sum	1	50,000	50,000	-	-	-	-	50,000	-	50,000	-	-	-	50,000	50,000
Terminal Report	Lump sum	1	7,000	7,000	-	-	-	-	7,000	-	7,000	-	-	-	7,000	7,000
OPIM spot checks	Unit	15	3,500	52,500	-	-	-	-	-	52,500	52,500	-	-	-	52,500	52,500
OPIM audits	Unit	15	6,500	97,500	-	-	-	-	-	97,500	97,500	-	-	-	97,500	97,500
5050 Sub-total Contracts					460,000	2,210,000	2,590,000	185,000	92,000	150,000	5,687,000	985,000	1,130,000	3,330,000	242,000	5,687,000
5021 Travel																
(Lump sum) International travel																
International FFS expert	Travel	2	5,000	10,000	-	5,000	5,000	-	-	-	10,000	5,000	5,000	-	-	10,000
International GIT/FLR travel	Travel	2	5,000	10,000	10,000	-	-	-	-	-	10,000	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
International Finance Expert	Travel	2	5,000	10,000	-	-	10,000	-	-	-	10,000	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
(Lump sum) National travel																
National team (UGP) travel to support activity implementation	Lump sum	1	195,000	195,000	45,000	74,000	60,000	16,000	-	-	195,000	165,000	30,000	-	-	195,000
Field activities supervision mission by lead national partners	Lump sum	1	165,000	165,000	40,000	60,000	45,000	20,000	-	-	165,000	55,000	55,000	55,000	-	165,000
travels to communes for GIT workshops and plans development	Lumpsum	1	65,000	65,000	65,000	-	-	-	-	-	65,000	65,000	-	-	-	65,000
travels for FFS training of trainers (for sustainable ag practices & FFS practices)	Lump Sum	1	30,000	30,000	-	30,000	-	-	-	-	30,000	-	30,000	-	-	30,000
travels to follow up on application of practices learnt during FFS	Lump Sum	1	75,000	75,000	-	75,000	-	-	-	-	75,000	-	75,000	-	-	75,000
traveling to sites for Diffusion of Sustainable Oil Practices	Lump Sum	1	10,000	10,000	-	10,000	-	-	-	-	10,000	-	10,000	-	-	10,000
travels to sites for Palm Oil Certification and capacity Building activities	Lump Sum	1	50,000	50,000	-	50,000	-	-	-	-	50,000	-	50,000	-	-	50,000
travels for FFS training of trainers (for restoration practices & FFS practices)	Lump Sum	1	30,000	30,000	-	-	30,000	-	-	-	30,000	30,000	-	-	-	30,000
travels to support and monitor restoration activities (incl. community monitoring support)	Lump Sum	1	260,000	260,000	-	-	260,000	-	-	-	260,000	260,000	-	-	-	260,000
traveling to pilot sites to verify private companies environmental plan implementation	Lump Sum	1	50,000	50,000	-	-	50,000	-	-	-	50,000	50,000	-	-	-	50,000
travel to sites to support to PME access to innovative financing	Lump Sum	1	20,000	20,000	-	-	20,000	-	-	-	20,000	20,000	-	-	-	20,000
Participation to international meetings	Travel	10	4,000	40,000	-	-	-	40,000	-	-	40,000	40,000	-	-	-	40,000
Participation to Regional meetings	Travel	3	3,300	9,900	-	-	-	9,900	-	-	9,900	9,900	-	-	-	9,900
Farmers exchange visits	Lump sum	1	25,000	25,000	-	-	-	25,000	-	-	25,000	-	25,000	-	-	25,000
FAO Sub-total travel					160,000	304,000	490,000	140,000	-	250,000	1,254,000	740,000	295,000	55,000	-	1,254,000

ANNEX F: (For NGI only) Termsheet

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

ANNEX G: (For NGI only) Reflows

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

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

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