

GEF-8 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

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General Project Information

Project Title

Strengthening the resilience of smallholder farmers and ecosystems to the effects of climate change (STRADAP)

Region

Chad

GEF Project ID

11550

Country(ies)

Chad

Type of Project

FSP

GEF Agency(ies):

IFAD

GEF Agency ID

Executing Partner

National Agency of Great Green Wall

TBD

Executing Partner Type

Government

Others

GEF Focal Area (s)

Climate Change

Submission Date

3/20/2024

Project Sector (CCM Only)

Climate Change Adaptation Sector

Taxonomy

Climate Change Adaptation, Climate Change, Focal Areas, Mainstreaming adaptation, Innovation, Livelihoods, Least Developed Countries, Climate resilience, Adaptation Tech Transfer, Influencing models, Demonstrate innovative approaches, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Deploy innovative financial instruments, Stakeholders, Local Communities, Private Sector, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Civil Society, Community Based Organization, Type of Engagement, Participation, Partnership, Beneficiaries, Education, Communications, Awareness Raising, Gender Equality, Capacity Development, Gender results areas, Participation and leadership, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Gender Mainstreaming, Women groups, Gender-sensitive indicators, Knowledge Generation, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Training

Type of Trust Fund

LDCF

Project Duration (Months)

48

GEF Project Grant: (a)

7,105,936.00

GEF Project Non-Grant: (b)

0.00

Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)

675,064.00

Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d)

0.00

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

7,781,000.00

Total Co-financing

35,263,305.00

PPG Amount: (e)

200,000.00

PPG Agency Fee(s): (f)

19,000.00

PPG total amount: (e+f)

219,000.00

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

8,000,000.00

Project Tags

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

Project Summary

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

The Republic of Chad is a landlocked poor country of the Sahel and considered a fragile state. Fragility drivers are varied and stem from a combination of elements of conflict, violence, governance, climate change, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic. Chad faces several security challenges related to rebellions and insurrections in the north of the country, conflicts and war in Libya and in other neighboring countries, and the terrorism of Jihadist groups such as the ‘Islamic State of the Greater Sahara’ and Boko Haram. The agriculture sector of Chad faces structural challenges¹ and the country is among the most vulnerable to the chronic effects of climate change with low adaptation capacity.

Following the 2023 Nd-GAIN ranking, Chad is the 2nd most vulnerable country to climate change and the readiness to improve readiness is very low (190th most ready country)^[21]. The effects of climate change are manifested in the variability of climatic parameters: a significant increase in temperature, disruption of the rainfall regime leading to a significant deficit in rainfall, the spatial and temporal distribution of which is now subject to significant change. This high annual rainfall variability (drought, rainfall deficit, late rains, early cessation of rain or heavy rainfall leading to flooding) is causing environmental degradation and a reduction in natural resources. In the north, persistent drought conditions have accelerated desertification, leading to a reduction in areas suitable for agriculture and livestock farming, and a decline in grazing areas for cattle further south. Due to the scarcity of water and the temporary drying up of certain rivers, populations have tended to settle and move their subsistence activities near water points. Rural communities, particularly women, youth and children are particularly hard hit, as 80% of the population live in rural areas and depend on agriculture, livestock farming and fishing for their livelihoods, all of which are important sectors for the country's economy.

In response to this vulnerable environmental, socioeconomic and political context, the “Strengthening the Resilience of smallholder farmers and ecosystems to the effects of climate change” (STRADAP) project in Chad is proposed to promote climate adaptive, viable and resilient enterprises for youth and women that create jobs and are integrated with agro-pastoral and fishing value chains in Chad - thereby strengthening the resilience of degraded agro-pastoral production landscapes and the livelihoods of vulnerable 63 000 people (12 000 youth and women led households) with particular emphasis on women and youth. IFAD employs a programmatic approach to draw on lessons and institutional arrangements from its portfolio in the country. On this basis, STRADAP will be implemented building on the Project to Strengthen Innovation in Youth and Women Agro-pastoral Entrepreneurship in Chad (RENFORT). RENFORT is implemented in 9 provinces (Lac, Hadjer Lamis, Chari-Baguirmi, Mayo-Kebbi Est, Moyen-Chari, Mandoul, Tandjilé, Salamat et N’Djamena) and seeks to contribute to increasing the income and create decent jobs for women and youth by strengthening the inclusive resilience of food systems in Chad. RENFORT will also host IFAD’s Inclusive Financing Initiative (IGREENFIN) funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF), which aims to support access for women and youth to affordable and adequate financing services and to foster best adaptation practices and the use of renewable energy along agricultural value chains. STRADAP aligns with the food security and agriculture theme of the GEF programming strategy on adaptation to climate change for the LDCF and will support all of its three strategic priorities by scaling up finance for adaptation while promoting technology

transfer, innovation, and applying a whole of society approach. STRADAP will be implemented in three (Lac, Hadjer-Lamis and N'Djamena) out of the 9 provinces of RENFORT. STRADAP target provinces present a complex combination of adaptation challenges punctuated with extreme weather events, socioeconomic hardships, influx of refugees, political instability, environmental degradation and weak institutional arrangements. The project is therefore, conceived to address barriers related to i) limited institutional ability of the country to mainstream adaptation measures in national development priorities and plans ; ii) limited socio-economic opportunities to support youth empowerment and emergence from extreme poverty – exacerbating their precarities, inequality, social exclusion and vulnerability to exploitation, conflict and impacts of extreme weather events; and iii) limited ability of crop and pastoral communities to cope with extreme weather events.

The implementation of STRADAP is envisaged to strengthen three (3) subnational climate change policy frameworks; strengthen three (3) community plans for adaptation to climate change; conduct capacity building programs for 500 subnational decision-makers and 500 youth on climate resilience and sustainability policy development; strengthen climate information systems in targeted regions; improve early warning and climate information systems in target regions; promote sustainable production systems on 1,500 ha of degraded land in the target three provinces; strengthen land management and fisheries agricultural value chains, targeting 12 000 youth; and Build the capacity of 5 000 rural youth (50% women) to seize green employment and entrepreneurship opportunities through integrated agribusiness hubs.. Building on the youth agribusiness hubs approach, STRADAP will synergize with RENFORT and IGREENFIN to increase the resilience and capacities of rural women and youth via green and digital skills, viable green business projects, green financing, renewable energy equipment and technologies, and business development of climate resilient agribusiness opportunities.

1 Degradation of ecosystems, infrastructure deficit, unsuitable practices, loss of agrobiodiversity and soil fertility, shirking water resources

<https://gain.nd.edu/our-work/country-index/>

Indicative Project Overview

Project Objective

To promote climate adaptive, viable and resilient enterprises for youth and women that create jobs and are integrated with agro-silvo-pastoral and fishing value chains in Chad.

Project Components

1. Strengthening an enabling environment for building climate resilience within agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries value chains

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	LDCF
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
1,150,000.00	5,742,000.00

Outcome:

1.1: Rural youth green jobs and climate resilience integrated into policies and planning at the subnational level

1.2: Increased institutional capacity for climate adaptation

Output:

1.1.1 subnational policy frameworks for youth agribusiness hubs to support green jobs and climate resilient agro-pastoral and fisheries value chains strengthened.

1.1.2: Three (3) community climate change adaptation plans strengthened.

1.1.3: 500 subnational decision-makers and 500 rural youth empowered in climate resilience and sustainability policy development.

1.2.1: Climate information and early warning systems strengthened in targeted regions.

2. Supporting climate resilient livelihood and employment opportunities for rural youth

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	LDCF
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
5,267,558.00	26,093,100.00

Outcome:

2.1: Improved climate adaptive agro-sylvo-pastoral production systems in degraded landscapes

2.2: Improved ability of youth and rural women to access sustainable employment opportunities contributing to climate resilience

Output:

2.1.1: 12 000 youth (50% women) trained on land management, climate-smart production and climate adaptive agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries value chains

2.1.2: 1,500 ha degraded land under climate adaptive production systems including digitalization within the target provinces

2.2.1: Increased capacity of 5 000 rural youth (50% women) to seize green employment and entrepreneurship opportunities through integrated agribusiness hubs.

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	LDCF
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
350,000.00	1,749,000.00

Outcome:

3.1 Lessons learned and knowledge management improve project implementation and effective and timely results are achieved

Output:

3.1.1: Project knowledge management has been improved and informs adequate technical monitoring and adaptive management.

3.1.2 Information collection, lessons learned (80% gender and youth focused) and dissemination mechanisms and tools developed.

3.1.3 M&E plan, including the Gender Action Plan, is elaborated and implemented and a Mid-term evaluation and Final evaluation is conducted.

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
1. Strengthening an enabling environment for building climate resilience within agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries value chains	1,150,000.00	5,742,000.00
2. Supporting climate resilient livelihood and employment opportunities for rural youth	5,267,558.00	26,093,100.00
M&E	350,000.00	1,749,000.00
Subtotal	6,767,558.00	33,584,100.00
Project Management Cost	338,378.00	1,679,205.00
Total Project Cost (\$)	7,105,936.00	35,263,305.00

Please provide justification

PROJECT OUTLINE

A. PROJECT RATIONALE

Briefly describe the current situation: the global environmental problems and/or climate vulnerabilities that the project will address, the key elements of the system, and underlying drivers of environmental change in the project context, such as population growth, economic development, climate change, sociocultural and political factors, including conflicts, or technological changes. Describe the objective of the project, and the justification for it. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

The Republic of Chad is a central African landlocked country with a total area of 1,259,200 km² and is surrounded in the north by Libya, to the east by Sudan, to the south by the Central African Republic and to the west by Cameroon, Niger and Nigeria. The country comprises the Sahara Desert in the north (covering nearly half of the country with < 5% of the total population), the arid Sahelian region in the center of the country (accounting for 28% of the country's land area with nearly 33% of the total population), and the relatively fertile Sudanese belt in the south (covering only 25% of the country's land area and home to 63%—thereby having the highest concentration of the population). Chad's geography makes it particularly fragile. It is one of the world's most environmentally degraded countries, particularly its western, northern and eastern provinces, where temperature increases are projected to be 1.5 times higher than in the rest of the world.² Chad is grappling with security challenges associated with conflicts in bordering countries as well as the impacts of climate change, in particular accelerated desertification and the drying up of Lake Chad. Due to the Sudan crisis and the constant arrival of new refugees and returnees, the Chadian government estimates that up to 600,000 refugees and returnees could arrive in Chad by the end of 2023. Chad used to host some 450,000 refugees from Sudan, the Central African Republic and Nigeria. Poverty and vulnerability are pervasive in Chad, with 42.3% of the population living below the national poverty line. Extreme poverty (\$2.15 /day per capita, PPP 2017) also remains high in the country and has increased significantly, rising from 31.2% in 2018 to 34.9% in 2021 and 35.4% in 2023.³

Chad's youth face multifaceted challenges including high unemployment rates, limited access to education and healthcare, inadequate infrastructure, and political instability. These factors exacerbate poverty and social exclusion, leaving many young people vulnerable to exploitation, radicalization, and conflict. Additionally, gender disparities and cultural norms further restrict opportunities for youth, particularly girls. Addressing these challenges requires holistic approaches that prioritize education, vocational training, job creation, and youth empowerment programs, along with investments in healthcare, infrastructure, and governance reforms to ensure a brighter future for Chad's youth.

While the impact of the conflictual context is felt widely by the local populations, young people who make up the majority of the country's population are disproportionately impacted. As noted above, many young men grapple with high levels of poverty, insufficient education systems and a lack of employment, which increases their chances to be recruited by terrorist groups. Young girls are also severely impacted.⁴

The Adolescent Girls in Crisis: Voices from the Lake Chad Basin report⁵ revealed that young women and girls suffer higher instances of sexual and gender-based violence – including rape, forced marriage and early pregnancy – limiting their education opportunities and undermining their social acceptance and earning potential.

Poverty, national identity and compromised governance mechanisms are an important factor in the security context of Chad where radicalization is a reality. Lack of basic public services in some areas is a motivational factor for radicalization. While poverty is often cited as the main reason for radicalization into violent extremist groups, lack of a sense of national identity and a disconnection with national institutions that emanate from weak governance systems are contributory factors. As the effects of climate change impact communities' everyday survival, competition for ever-shrinking resources has led to increased conflict and deadly violence within and between communities, causing a rupture in social cohesion in Chad.⁶

It should be recalled that Chad's socioeconomic prosperity is influenced by environmental factors. Chad's GDP growth was modest due to the impact of floods and a volatile security environment, which hindered the expected recovery. After experiencing a contraction of 1.2 % contraction in 2021 (equivalent to a per capita contraction of 4.3 %), Chad's economy was anticipated to bounce back in 2022 due to high global oil prices and increased oil production. The depreciation of the CFA franc against the US dollar was also expected to contribute to the recovery. However, the recovery was mitigated by floods and volatile security, resulting in an estimated GDP growth rate of 2.2 % (a per capita growth rate of -0.9). The non-oil GDP growth rate improved from 0.4 % in 2021 to 1.3% in 2022.⁷

Chad, as part of the Sahel region⁸, ranks among the world's most vulnerable countries to climate change while having one of the highest poverty rates. Poverty in Chad has complex economic and social dimensions. Food scarcity, the rural population's vulnerability to climatic disturbances and natural disasters, lack of employment opportunities, and poor access to health care, education, and basic infrastructure all contribute to the country's high poverty level.⁹

Chad has substantial natural resources and thus a large stock of environmental capital, including oil and gas deposits, minerals, and solar and wind energy potential, as well as Lake Chad, which constitutes an important regional ecosystem for the survival of the neighboring population.¹⁰ The agriculture sector dominates the country's economy. In 2020 the agriculture sector contributed nearly 52% to the country's GDP, followed by the services sector (43.6%) and the industrial sector (12%). Chad's main export is petroleum with 92% of total exports, followed by gold, insect resins and oilseeds. Overall, 80% of the population is engaged in smallholder farming and heavily relies on agriculture for food security and

livelihoods.¹¹ Therefore, concerns are rising about the effects of climate change including rising temperatures, reduced water availability and the occurrence of floods and other extreme weather events. Agricultural production in Chad is primarily subsistence based and rain-fed.

Climate change is a major problem for a country such as Chad, which is highly exposed to the resulting adverse effects. The estimated financing needed to adequately respond to climate change is \$16.4 billion over 2020–30, or \$1.5 billion a year.¹²

The main economic activity in rural areas of the country, agriculture occupies more than 85% of the rural population. The production system is very extensive, characterized by a low rate of mechanization and use of inputs, with less than 0.5% of households who report owning a tractor and less than 5% who use fertilizers. This leads to low sector yields for all crops except millet and cowpea, according to World Bank calculations based on the EHCVM database 2018/2019. Agriculture remains a relevant sector in absorbing a growing youth labor force, however, many food system workers lack adequate access to decent employment opportunities, access to productive resources, markets and services.

Agricultural situation: Irregular and erratic rainfall, accompanied by one or more dry spells, has wilted and damaged crops in Hadjer Adjid, Farchana, and Adré. The total rainfall recorded during the season was below-average. These seasonal disturbances have led to the appearance of crop pests, including armyworms in Koukou and Goz-Beida in the Sila province. According to local agricultural officials, large areas of cereal and legume crops have been devastated. A decrease in agricultural land compared with last year and the five-year average has been observed in Sila, due to refugees settling on agricultural plots. According to the Agence Nationale d'Appui au Développement Rural (ANADER), area losses ranging from 10 to 32% have been reported for cereal and pulse crops in the two provinces due to refugees settling on agricultural plots, low total rainfall, and long dry spells. Losses in areas planted with legumes are greater in Sila (42%) than in Ouaddaï (3%).¹³

Livestock production: Livestock production constitutes, after agriculture, the second source of income in the country. In order of importance, the country produces cattle, goats, sheep, camels, horses, pigs and poultry. The main mode of exploitation still remains extensive, transhumant and strongly affected by a reduction in fodder production on the one hand and a reduction in pastoral areas largely dependent on climatic conditions on the other hand. This situation leads to an increase in pastoral, transhumant breeding and a dissemination of livestock. As a result, breeders find themselves affected by an insufficiency of livestock products with as a consequence the poverty of the populations and the malnutrition of vulnerable groups (women, youth and children, returnees).¹⁴

The low-average rainfall and long dry spells recorded during the season have caused an atypical degradation of pastoral resources in the provinces of Ouaddaï and Sila. Pastures are almost non-existent, while semi-temporary ponds have completely dried up on the main transhumance routes from Ouaddaï to Sila. In the department of Assongha, many herds of pastoralists are on the move towards the south of Sila. The pastoral overload in the provinces of Ouaddaï and Sila is caused by the massive influx of pastoralists from the transhumance zone and herds belonging to Sudanese refugees and Chadian returnees.¹⁵

Fisheries and aquaculture analysis: The fisheries and aquaculture sector contribute to the food and nutritional security of the population by providing the market with an average of 100,000 tons of fish and 405 tons of artisanal spirulina per year, and creates jobs and income for more than 400,000 people. It provides a livelihood for 10% of the Chadian population and contributes 5% of GDP to the national

economy^[1]². Although the sector's legal and regulatory framework has not been updated recently, their content remains relevant. The sector's constraints linked to anthropic pressures have led to a fall in production due to overfishing, the use of prohibited fishing techniques, inadequate monitoring-control-surveillance system, and an ineffective system for collecting, processing, analyzing and disseminating data. In addition, the study of vulnerabilities and adaptation of the fisheries and aquaculture sector to climate change, carried out in 2021, shows that the climatic risks facing fisheries in Chad are heat stress, flooding, violent winds and drought. In 2021, the PNA indicates that climate change has led to significant changes in aquatic environments: shrinkage of the hydrographic network and loss of 210 ha of spawning grounds due to silting and drought; a sharp drop and alteration in the quality (salinization) of surface waters and loss of oxygen saturation, proliferation of invasive aquatic plant species threatening the extinction and reproduction levels of most fish species.

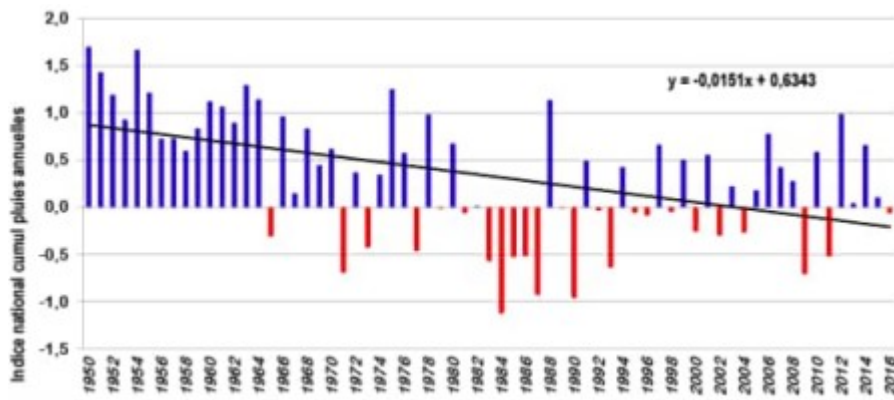
Environment and climate change. The current environmental situation in Chad highlights a number of problems of major impacts on the natural and human environment. On the natural environment, the drop on average of 40 to 60 % of the flows of the Chari-Logone river system, the shrinkage of the lake surface Chad, the decline in the recharge of aquifers, the degradation of plant cover and soil, and finally the continued decline in rain-fed agricultural yields currently observed are not only due to climatic causes but also population growth. These unfavorable conditions create conflicts over access to these resources between farmers and transhumant breeders/sedentary breeders and transhumant breeders.

In 2022, it was reported that 18 of the country's 23 provinces were flooded in October. More than 465,000 hectares of farmland were underwater and more than 19,000 cattle have been swept away nationwide.¹⁶ Therefore, extreme weather events in terms of floods have nation-wide socioeconomic and environmental implications in a country that embattles with insecurities.

Climate-related disturbances in bioclimatic zones have consequences for humans and on its environment, for example: The Saharan zone characterized by very low rainfall less than 50 mm/year with high temperatures, is desert. These oasis water sources are subject to the influence droughts and sometimes intense rains of short duration triggering diseases of water origin; The Sahelian zone located between the 200 and 800 mm isohyets is characterized by drought which leads to a reduction in surface water resources consisting of a few courses seasonal water and ponds; and The Sudanian zone located between the 800 mm to 1200 mm isohyet suffers harmful effects from climatic extremes (early intense rains or early shutdowns) which act in a manner negative on agricultural and fishing activities, a source of subsistence and income for populations.¹⁷

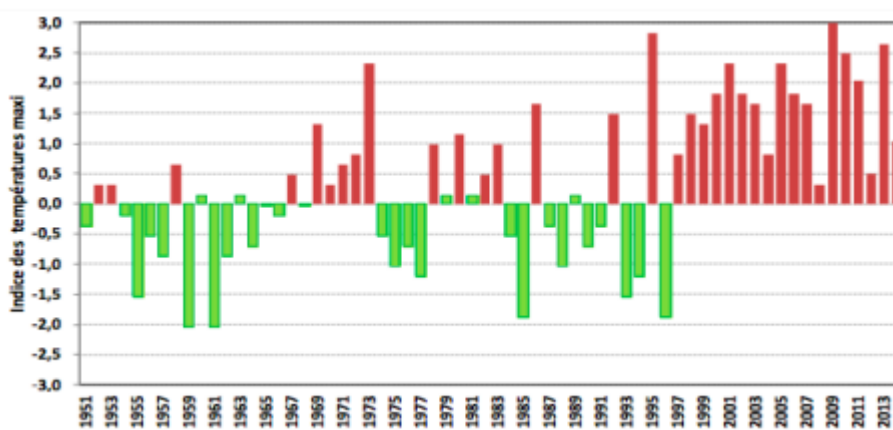
Climate trends: The Chadian climate is influenced by the Harmattan (hot and dry wind in the North-East), and the monsoon (humid southwest winds). The provinces of intervention of the project are in the zones of the Sahelian bioclimatic (vegetation characterized by shrub savannah, wildlife abundant and varied, sandy tropical ferruginous soils, poor in material organic, ideal for livestock and food crops such as cereals and peanuts) and Sudanian (abundant and varied fauna, tropical ferruginous soils, rich in organic material, ideal for the development of agricultural activities, cotton, cane sugar). The duration of the rainy season is two months in the North, and more than six months in the extreme South. There are average minimum and maximum temperatures between 19 to 21°C and 34 to +37°C.¹⁸

Over the past two decades, there has been an overall downward trend in rains over the period 1950 to 2014, and variations in precipitation marked by an abrupt alternation of wet and dry years. This makes agricultural planning more difficult. Minimum and maximum temperatures increased over the same period, +1.5°C and +1°C, as can be seen in Figures below.

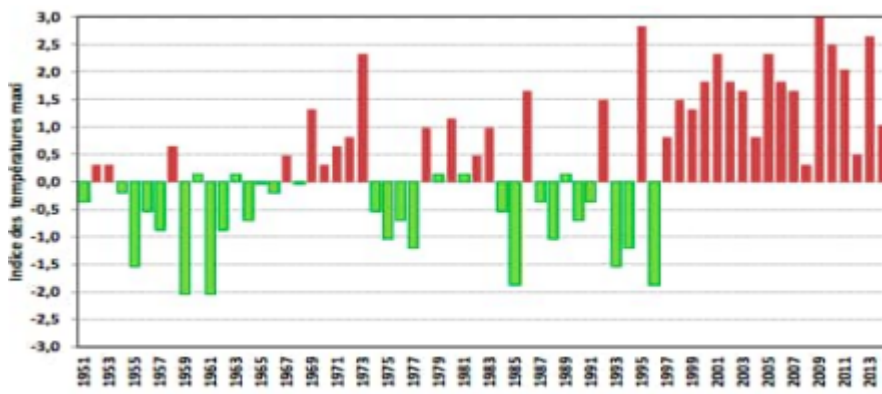


Inter-annual evolution from 1950 to 2016 of the national accumulation index annual rainfall (Source, Meteorology Department)

According to projections of changes in precipitation and temperatures, the average temperature in Chad would increase by +1.5°C for the most pessimistic, in the northern part of the country. The increase would be less, between 0 and 1°C in the intervention areas of the STRADAP project.



Inter-annual evolution from 1951 to 2013 of the minimum temperature index annual averages in N'Djamena from 1951 to 2013 (Source, National Meteorology Department of Chad, 2016).

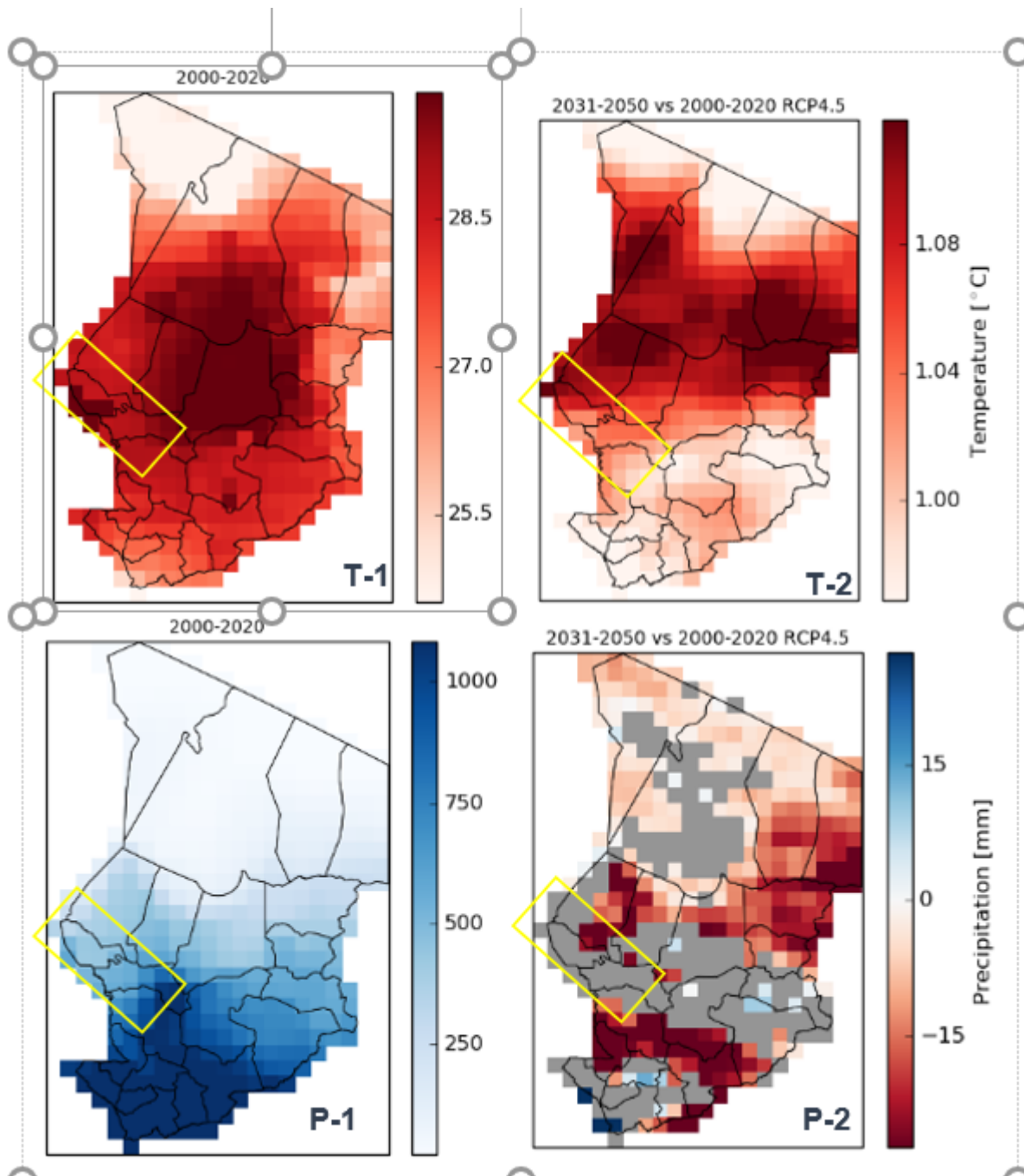


Inter-annual evolution from 1951 to 2013 of the temperature index annual average maximums in N'Djamena from 1951 to 2013 (Source, Directorate of National Meteorology of Chad, 2016).

The increased variability of precipitation, the resurgence of phenomena extreme weather such as droughts, floods, heat waves, violent winds are manifestations of climate change in Chad. The violent floods in October 2012 affected more than 55,000 households who lost their shelters, sown areas and animals, which reduced their production farmers and their income from livestock. These developments make it the country most vulnerable to global warming, given the dependence on climatic variations, primary sector activities (agriculture, livestock breeding, fishing, etc.) that the population practices.

The fight against the negative impacts of climate change has been placed at the heart of the government's concerns for Vision 2030. There is a real understanding awareness of the authorities of the urgency of the situation, and of the need to act in order to protect the population. These upheavals also create opportunities in terms of creation of green jobs for the development of a resilient, low-cost economy carbon emissions.

In terms of comparison between historical and projected changes in temperature and precipitation, the maps below illustrate the changes between 2000 - 2020, and 2031 – 2050.



The maps illustrate the historical context (2000 - 2020) in terms of temperature and precipitation (T-1 and P-1, respectively), and projected changes (2031-2050) in terms of terms of temperature and precipitation (T-2 and P-2, respectively) under RCP4.5.¹⁹ The marked areas indicate target provinces for the STRADAP project.

Overall, Chad is considered by the international scientific community as one of the world's climate change hotspots. The country represents a case that highlights that climate change, coupled with environmental degradation, public health risks, social inequalities, migration, and violence are increasingly correlated, with cascading effects through entire systems.²⁰ In a study on climate vulnerability, Chad was classified as the country most at risk, out of 186 countries assessed.²¹ Additionally, with an HDI of 0.39 (2021) and population of 17.2 million people (2021), Chad has a vulnerability score of 0.652 and readiness score of 0.191. It ranks 185 Chad, the 2nd most vulnerable

country and the 190th most ready country on the ND-GAIN country index - needing for investment and innovations to improve readiness and a great urgency for action.²²

Overall, Chad is considered by the international scientific community as one of the world's climate change hotspots. The country represents a case that highlights that climate change, coupled with environmental degradation, public health risks, social inequalities, migration, and violence are increasingly correlated, with cascading effects through entire systems.²⁰ In a study on climate vulnerability, Chad was classified as the country most at risk, out of 186 countries assessed.²¹ Additionally, with an HDI of 0.39 (2021) and population of 17.2 million people (2021), Chad has a vulnerability score of 0.652 and readiness score of 0.191. It ranks 185 Chad, the 2nd most vulnerable country and the 190th most ready country on the ND-GAIN country index - needing for investment and innovations to improve readiness and a great urgency for action.²²

Gender considerations: Women are the primary target of this project. Indeed in Chad, the index gender inequality was at 0.701 in 2018, one of the highest. Because of the standards social and cultural, women do not have access to human capital and capital necessary for the creation of an income-generating activity. Only 1% of women managed to obtain credit to create, operate or develop a business agricultural, compared to 4% of men.²⁴ The high number of early pregnancies (164.5 births per 1000 adolescent girls aged 15 to 19) is another indicator of the situation difficult for young girls.

A study carried out in the provinces of Lac and Eastern Logone, as part of the National Climate Change Adaptation Plan (NAPA) project from UNDP Chad,²⁵ revealed that women, widows, female-headed households, and single mothers are among the groups most vulnerable to climate change. However, to the extent that they constitute a large part of the rural population, their consideration in projects to strengthen agricultural entrepreneurship is essential.

Access to land and resources is discriminatory in general. Men can have access to land through their customary rights, while women must either rent plots, buy them or be allocated cultivable spaces by the authorities administrative or traditional. In 2014, only 20% of rural women owned an agricultural plot.²⁶ The gender context in Chad is very much influenced by the political context. Political stability in the country has been challenged by armed groups, and therefore, repression of civil society including women's groups has occurred.²⁷

*In Chad there is a certain level of knowledge about the link between gender and climate change among some the national actors. Yet this knowledge is not uniform, and major gaps remain. Weak political leadership regarding equality, paired with a lack of information about gender, has resulted in a limited understanding of the concept of gender and of its relevance in policies relating to climate change adaptation.*²³

The youth: Women and young people under 15 make up 50.6% of the population Chadian. Young people under 25 represent 68%. The average age is 19.7 years, while the median age is 14.8 years.²⁸ The literacy rate of young women aged 15 to 24 is 22.4%,²⁹ and only 13% of these are in rural areas. The net rate of primary school enrolment is 51.8%, while the net secondary school enrolment rate is 16.7%. Regarding the unemployment rate of young graduates, the figures stood at 42% in 2015 and went to 60% in 2017 following the economic recession.³⁰ As has already been noted above, a big

number of the young are poorly educated and/or trained and are therefore entering the job market, without having the right skillsets to enable them to compete more favourably. This more particularly affects rural youth whose prospects for empowerment face additional layers of challenges. Self-employment in the agricultural sector, which represents a major exit route, is not favored by the entrepreneurial environment. This is linked to various factors which include lack of technical training in agriculture and business management, limited access to financing and technologies, and to land as a production asset.

In terms of inclusive participation, the youth face four main barriers, namely: paternalism, contested definition of youth from development perspective in the Chadian context, a lack of intersectionality and elite capture.³¹ Therefore, despite being the vast majority demographically, the youth have little access to power and production assets for them to contribute to socioeconomic development, but also that limits their ability to cope with the impacts of extreme weather events. To address these issues faced by the youth, concrete and bold actions are required to empower them and increase their access to productive resources and assets as well as to services and skills – essentially empowering them socioeconomically, but also creating space for them to be active participants in building household and community resilience through sustainable production systems and sustainable management of natural resources.

The policy context: Chad has prioritized climate change adaptation efforts and has developed a National Adaptation Plan (NAP) to address short, medium and long-term climate risks. In addition, Chad is committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 0.5% (unconditional) and 19.3% (conditional) compared to the baseline scenario, or business as usual, by 2030. A key element of Chad's response focuses on strengthening the resilience of local communities and ecosystems to the impacts of climate change by promoting a wide range of adaptation measures in agriculture, livestock, water management, environment and forests, renewable energy, risk management and other areas.

In the face of the climate change challenges and security and political instability, the country remains committed to enhancing the resilience of the neediest. In this regard, the country has pursued policies and development strategies to facilitate and guide its response to challenges of climate change and natural resources management. Besides the National communications to the UNFCCC (2001 and 2012), the National Adaptation Programme of Action – NAPA, (2009), the Nationally Determined Contributions – NDC (2021), and the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), the policy context and development strategies as related to this proposed project include the following:

Vision 2030: The Chad we want: Vision 2030 aims to ensure that Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and mitigation actions and climate-related disaster risk reduction (DRR) are developed in a coordinated and efficient manner to develop resilience in the face of climate variability and adverse climate-related impact on agro-pastoral production systems in Chad and their contribution to food security and the wellbeing of populations.

National Strategy to Combat Climate Change in Chad – NSCCCC, (2017): This NSCCCC aims for the sustainable and coherent integration of the challenges in CCA and mitigation into national development policies as well as improving effective coordination of initiatives aimed at the fight against climate change.

National Development Plan – NDP (2017-2021): The main objectives of the NDP is that of achieving food security through rural agricultural investments. The main sectors relevant to this project are those of agriculture, water and the environment.

National Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (NPRSP) (2008 – 2011): The NPRSP aims to: (i) promote good governance; (ii) reduce poverty through growth based on the development of rural areas and basic infrastructure; (iii) ensuring the development of human resources, particularly through education and health; (iv) improving the protection of vulnerable segments of the population; and (v) protecting ecosystems.

National Environmental Policy: The objective of the National Environmental Policy is to contribute to sustainable development through the rational management of natural resources by following specific objectives: i) effectively combat all factors of environmental degradation (e.g. climate change, desertification and all forms of ecological pollution and natural disasters), ii) promote the conservation and rational use of national biological heritage and iii) guarantee access for all to natural resources, including land, genetic resources and related knowledge.

National Climate Change Strategy: The National Climate Change Strategy aims to build a more climate-resilient economy by 2030 and is part of a development pathway that emits less greenhouse gas. The Strategy's overall objective is to guide and bring together political, institutional, technical, scientific and financial initiatives to address climate change.

National Programme of Action to Combat Desertification: The National Programme of Action to Combat Desertification, adopted in 2000, the central objective of which is to contribute to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought for sustained and sustainable production. Specifically, it aims to protect, restore and develop productive potential; protect and safeguard critical and threatened oases ecosystems; strengthen national capacities to combat desertification.

Areas of Project Interventions

The project is proposed to be implemented in three provinces of Chad. These are: Lac; N'Djamena and Hadja Lamis.

Lac Province: The province is characterized by a predominantly rural population. The vegetation is of the steppe type, made up of species like the palm tree, reeds and papyrus (in the Lake Islands). The climate of the region is sub-desert with a Sahelian tendency. The main socio-economic activities are agriculture, fishing and livestock. Some groups are dedicated to agro-pastoral or agro-fish farming activities. Nearly 95% of the region's population practices livestock breeding, which contributes to 55% in the constitution of the GDP of the zone. With a population of nearly 463 958 people,^[1] the province faces both environmental and insecurity problems. As of September 2021, there were 406,573 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the province as a result of armed conflict, that is, almost 62% of the province's population (657,000 people), as well as an increase in IDPs of 95% compared to the situation in January 2020, which was 208,300 IDPs.^[2]³ The year before in 2020, > 360,000 people were displaced by floods and insecurity, which corresponds to more than half of the population of the province.^[3]⁴ IOM reports that between August 8 and 16, 2020, almost 12,000 people were displaced to the departments of Fouli, Kaya and Mamdi in the Lac province. Among the displaced, 36% were due to displaced following floods and 64% due to the worsening security situation. The trend is concerning because displacements have become not only recurrent, but also

numerous and prolonged due to the deterioration of the security and environmental situation. In March 2020, Chad experienced its deadliest terrorist attack since the incursions began, when Boko Haram militants killed 92 Chadian soldiers in an attack in Boma, a town in the Lac province. In August 2021, Chad was again shaken by a Boko Haram attack on the island of Tchoukoutalia, 190 km northwest of N'Djamena, in the Lac province, with 24 soldiers killed.^{[4]⁵}

Overall, since 2015 the province has been going through security and environmental crises which have affected the lives of populations who find themselves forced to abandon their villages and their communities – thus, the displacement is both of physical and economic nature. In 2022, the damage caused by the August rains and the river flooding in September 2022 affected around 250,000 people, increasing the vulnerability of the population. As recent 2023, the humanitarian situation in Lac Province continued to be characterised by ongoing armed incursions, the effects of climate change and its impact on the population's nutritional status, child malnutrition and poor access to livelihoods and basic social services. The activities of non-state armed groups (NSAGs) continued to exacerbate the humanitarian crisis in the province, resulting in population displacement: 8,325 households (33,985 people) left the islands to settle on the mainland since the beginning of the year.^{[5]⁶}

Lake Chad, one of the largest lakes in Southern Africa of the Sahara, is largely fed by the Chari and the Logne. The surface area of Lake Chad has considerably decreased, more than 90% of its surface lost, since the beginning of the 1970s cause of climate change. In addition to being a source of drinking water, it is also a source of water used for the agricultural activities of the populations of the region. It should also be noted that the region is one of the most unstable in the world, with the terrorist threats posed by Islamist groups operating there.

N'Djamena Province: This is the main business center of the country, the tertiary sector which represents 40% of Chad's GDP. Economic activities include is present there (structured activities, import-export companies, wholesale or retail trade, marketing of petroleum products, etc.). In rural areas, agriculture, livestock and fishing are the main economic activities of the sector, in addition to crafts (picking, weaving of mast). With a population of nearly 1 024 000 people,^{[6]⁷} N'Djamena is highly vulnerable to a range of natural hazards that range from pluvial and riverine flooding to wind erosion and desertification. These vulnerabilities are further compounded by biodiversity loss, including loss of forest cover; and by weak infrastructure, including infrastructure that is insufficient with regard to flood risk management and flood protection; as well as the fragile and conflict-affected situation in the country.^{[7]⁸} The province experiences frequent episodes of floods. As a socioeconomic centre in the country, the province faces challenges linked to the combination of unplanned and rapid urbanization, environmental degradation, and climate change amplifies the risks of floods in Chad. N'Djamena exhibits the highest exposure of built-up areas at 14 and 74% exposed to 1-in-10 and 1-in-100-year floods, respectively. Inadequate storm water drainage and flood management infrastructure, often clogged by improper waste disposal, increase the likelihood and impacts of flash floods. The uncontrolled expansion of settlements and substandard construction practices further contribute to heightened flood risks in urban areas. As climate change brings more frequent and intense rainfall events, the ability of N'Djamena to benefit from urbanization becomes

limited.^{[8]⁹} The poverty rate in N'Djamena is an estimated 35%.^{[9]¹⁰} In sum, N'Djamena Province faces important climatic change challenges with socioeconomic and environmental implications. Rising temperatures characterizing many very hot years, frequent heavy rains leading to flooding, and very high wind speeds are the results of the oscillation of climatic parameters over many years in the city of N'Djamena. The results revealed the frequency and instability of these climatic parameters and showed that the extreme weather events that result from them are often catastrophic floods, recurrent heat waves, and violent winds. These results confirm those of numerous researchers. Extreme weather events such as floods, heat waves, and strong winds have affected not only the living environment but also human health in the city of N'Djamena, sometimes resulting in human deaths.^{[10]¹¹} N'Djamena abundant rainfall for the cultivation of land. Only the months of July and August are well watered during the year, between 144 and 175mm. The relief of the area is slightly flat, with a set of floodplains and exposed, extending on both sides of the Chari River²⁵. The hydrographic network is made up of two rivers: the Logone and the Chari. The dry tropical climate evolved from the Sudano-Sahelian type towards the Sahelian type, with two seasons: a long dry season and a short wet season.

Hadjer Lamis Province: With a population of nearly 699 222 people,^{[11]¹²} the province is one of the centres where the problematic of environmental challenges and insecurity converge in Chad. The province experiences droughts which have negative repercussions for pasturing. This is because of shortage of grazing lands and the lack of water sources (surface water as well as livestock wells). When rainfall is scarce, the pastures around the villages are quickly depleted. This situation means that herders need to constantly adapt. The availability of grazing lands is a real problem for the herders in the province of Hadjer-Lamis^{[12]¹³}. While some herders from Hadjer-Lamis chose to migrate to other regions to escape the effects of drought, those who remain can struggle to access forage and water. Some herders have opted to purchase fodder to feed their livestock. However, access to water remains a challenge, with more investment and financial resources needed to extract it. This is notably the case for petrol water pumps whose acquisition and use represent a significant financial cost.

Hadjer Lamis Province is an area agropastoral and fishing, it is part of the Sahelian agricultural zone. It is distinguished by significant agricultural potential with the main cultivated cereals being sorghum, millet, corn and certain vegetables and legumes. It is an area very suitable for agriculture, livestock and to fishing. Given the low rainfall, farmers adapt the agricultural calendar by depending on the seasons. Mobility is the main characteristic of pastoral activity in the area.

At the national level, the current environmental situation in Chad highlights a number of problems major impacts on the natural and human environment. On the natural environment, the drop on average of 40 to 60 % of the flows of the Chari-Logone river system, the shrinkage of the lake surface Chad, the decline in the recharge of aquifers, the degradation of plant cover and soil, and finally the continued decline in rain-fed agricultural yields currently observed are not only due to climatic causes but also population growth. These unfavorable conditions create conflicts over access to these resources between farmers and transhumant breeders/sedentary breeders and transhumant breeders.^{[13]¹⁴}

Addressing the compounded and intertwined nature of environmental challenges and insecurity in the context of building resilience and adaptive capacities to extreme weather events and climate change in general, Chad faces important challenges. These are linked to the following **key barriers**:

- **Barrier 1**: Limited institutional ability of the country to mainstream adaptation measures in national development priorities and plans;
- **Barrier 2**: Limited socio-economic opportunities to support youth empowerment and emergence from extreme poverty – exacerbating their precarities, inequality, social exclusion and vulnerability to exploitation, conflict and impacts of extreme weather events. Rural young people lack access to assets (land, productive technologies), capacities (soft and hard skills) and services (financial, extension and market) and many remain significantly underemployed within food systems;
- **Barrier 3**: Unsustainable agro-silvo-pastoral production systems which amplify the rate at which resource depletion in agro-silvo-pastoral production landscapes takes place; and
- **Barrier 4**: Limited ability of crop and pastoral communities to cope with extreme weather events due to limited opportunities to diversify and invest in alternative climate resilient income generating activities.
- **Barrier 5**: Lack of infrastructure to access product markets or for processing and storage of agricultural, livestock and fishery products. To address the lack of post-harvest infrastructure, in line with the RENFORT project's approach, short-maturity value chains that do not require large investments will be targeted first in order to achieve a rapid return on investment and enable young people and women to gradually increase their income. The project will provide the necessary support to youth and women entrepreneurs so that they can access remunerative markets through aggregation contracts with the private sector. It will then focus on other promising value chains, such as the processing of agricultural products, meat, livestock and fish, through the provision of shared-cost storage and processing infrastructure (and equipment). The project will also facilitate young people's access to the financial services and products that are part of the Youth Agribusiness hub approach.
- **Barrier 6**: Lack of basic education and knowledge in fishery and agro-pastoral techniques. 57% of men and 81% of the women responsible for plots have no formal education, and fewer than 2% of all plot managers have a level of formal education. This limits the adoption of technologies that can generate better added value. It's necessary also note that the low level of human capital constitutes an obstacle to creation of farmer organizations, which have a critical role in the success of value chains, and limits the use of digital and financial systems. The project will have an integrated, dynamic and differentiated approach. It will target different categories of young people and women, those who are already in business or who have some ideas, those who are literate and those who are not. 5 pathways are offered depending on the type of agripreneur in different training and incubation centres, which also offer literacy for those in need. After training, the youth agribusiness hub approach also provides coaching to help young people and women get started and/or strengthen their entrepreneurship.
- **Barrier 7**: Weak public investment in complementary services (insurance, land rights, information technology infrastructure and communication, etc.) does not promote the development of productive fisheries and agropastoral activities. With regard to land rights, the RENFORT project is investing in the dissemination of texts relating to land rights and supporting young people and women to access land through the restoration of degraded and abandoned land.

Related services such as insurance and digitisation will be part of the support that agripreneurs will receive from incubation centres through the Youth agribusiness hub approach. The first component of the project will provide support for access to and availability of climate information.

Within the broader context of political and environmental fragility, the aforementioned challenges constitute important barriers to Chad's ability to adapt to the following context summarized below:

The Republic of Chad's land-locked climate is dominated by increasing aridification. As one of the world's most vulnerable countries to the adverse effects of climate change, Chad is particularly affected by low yields and a decline in harvests, which are exacerbated by weak forecasting, preparedness, response and adaptation. [14]¹⁵ With 88% of the population being dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods, the impact of global warming on people's economic wellbeing is enormous. The youth that constitute the majority of the population have severely limited socio-economic opportunities to support their empowerment and emergence from extreme poverty – exacerbating their precarities, inequality, social exclusion and vulnerability to exploitation, conflict and impacts of extreme weather events. The effects of vulnerability in agriculture, forestry and land use are leading to 10-25% reductions in yields of food crops, primarily millet, sorghum and maize. These productivity losses are due to water deficits caused by successive droughts, high temperatures, dysfunctional agricultural seasons, disturbances in crop life cycles. Poor access to irrigation infrastructure, desertification and degradation of land and forests are exacerbating the effects on the entire food chain. The post-pandemic challenges and the war in Ukraine are further deepening Chad's food insecurity. [15]¹⁶

STRADAP key enablers include strong stakeholder engagement and partnerships with relevant organizations, active gender and youth mainstreaming to ensure equitable participation, robust knowledge management and learning systems for continuous improvement, policy support to create an enabling environment, capacity building to enhance skills, financial inclusion to empower local communities, climate information systems for informed decision-making, climate-proof infrastructure development, adaptive management practices, and a focus on research and innovation to explore new opportunities and technologies. These enablers collectively contribute to the project's effectiveness and resilience, ensuring that climate-resilient agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries value chains are established and sustained in Chad.

Factors of success include:

- Lessons learnt from IFAD's successful experiences in entrepreneurship for rural youth and women in the region (Cameroon, Nigeria, Senegal), from implementing the Youth agribusiness hub approach. Exchanges could be reinforced with new initiatives such as the PEAJ - in the Central African Republic;
- The availability and successful experiences of youth incubator centres in Chad, as well as the expertise of projects and partners working on youth and women entrepreneurship (such as *Jeunes vers l'emploi durable*, funded by the French Development Agency).
- The IFAD portfolio's successful partnership with the Green Great Wall agency, the ministry of environment and the meteorological department to set up an early warning system (with the installation of agro-meteorological stations) and the FAO's expertise in this field.

- The implementation of this project also benefits from the mechanisms developed by RENFORT in terms of targeting, categorization and integration of rural youth and women into the various learning paths, direct and innovative financing and digitalization.

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[13] FEW NET. (2023). Below-average agricultural production and pressure on livelihoods worsen food security in Lac Province and the East of Chad.

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B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project description

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

Project Description

The project is proposed to address adaptation challenges in Chad by strengthening the resilience of degraded agro-pastoral production landscapes and the livelihoods of vulnerable women and youth. The interventions will focus on Lac, Hadjer-Lamis and N'Djamena provinces to address adaptation bottlenecks related to weak institutional capacities, unsustainable agro-pastoral production systems in the target provinces and constrained opportunities for alternative climate resilient livelihoods.

Thus, this project is designed around the following three components: Component 1: Strengthening an enabling environment for building climate resilience within agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries value chains; Component 2: Supporting climate resilient livelihood and employment opportunities for rural youth; and Component 3: Project Monitoring and Evaluation.

These are described below:

Component 1: Strengthening an enabling environment for building climate resilience within agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries value chains

This component is rationalized on the understanding that strengthened institutions are critical to cope with and recover from impacts of extreme weather events in particular and in the short, immediate term, and climate change in general and in the long term. Building resilience to climate change reflects the need for the institutional capacity and policy environment at national and community level to transform itself in the face of climate change. This requires the need to improve the adaptive capacity to make and implement the appropriate policy decision to enable environment for building climate resilience within agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries value chains; and to implement integrated framework and community plan to strengthen climate resilience. The component will support a gender-responsive institutional environment that will elevate the role of the most vulnerable and marginalized so that they are better able to sustainably access, manage, preserve and benefit from natural resources and promote adaptive capacities that are risk-informed, disaster and climate-resilient. Rural youth and women will also be empowered to take part in local and national policy dialogues to voice their rights and concerns and to participate in decision-making processes. This component will be implemented with the National Agency of the Great Green Wall (NAGGW) and is aligned and responds to Chad's aspiration to integrate the NAPA into national and sectoral development policies through strengthening capacities to adapt to climate change.⁴⁷

The component has two outcomes:

Outcome 1.1: rural youth green jobs and climate resilience integrated into policies and planning at the subnational level

Outcome 1.1 will be achieved with the NAGGW, through the following outputs:

Output 1.1.1: Three (3) subnational policy frameworks for climate resilient agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries value chains and youth agribusiness facilities to support green jobs strengthened. The output will focus on the development and implementation of targeted policies at the regional level. This output aims to enhance the capacity of local authorities to address climate change challenges, incorporating adaptive measures into governance structures and frameworks. It may involve policy revisions, capacity-building initiatives, and community and youth engagement, fostering resilience to climate impacts.

Under this output, the project will support frameworks to facilitate access to resources, market linkages, and training, enabling youth to adopt sustainable practices and innovate, and grasp green jobs opportunities. Additionally, the frameworks will empower the target young entrepreneurs to drive local development, foster resilience to climate change impacts, and contribute to the overall sustainable development agenda in rural Chad. The project will foster a more robust and responsive subnational policy framework that considers climate resilience in agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries value chains; sustainably nesting the agribusiness hubs approach within the development plans and priorities of the target provinces; and promotes green jobs opportunities.

Output 1.1.2: Three (3) community climate change adaptation plans strengthened: The output will focus on empowering local communities to enhance their resilience to climate impacts. This output includes the refinement and implementation of community-specific adaptation plans, integrating climate-smart practices. It entails capacity building, participatory approaches, and the incorporation of indigenous knowledge. Strengthened community plans aim to address vulnerabilities in sectors like agriculture, water resources, and infrastructure, ensuring sustainable adaptation strategies. Communities will be better equipped to navigate climate challenges, promoting self-sufficiency, and fostering climate-resilient livelihoods in the face of changing environmental conditions in Chad. It is recalled here that empowering communities to develop tailored strategies fosters local ownership, fosters proactive responses to climate risks, protects livelihoods, and promotes sustainable development, ensuring the well-being of present and future generations.

Output 1.1.3: 500 subnational decision-makers (50% women) and 500 rural youth empowered in climate resilience and sustainability policy development. The output will focus on empowering subnational leaders; enhancing decision-makers' skills while ensuring equal participation of women to promote gender balance in decision-making processes through targeted training, facilities and tools., There will be a more inclusive and knowledgeable cadre of subnational decision-makers adept at integrating gender-sensitive approaches into climate change responses, fostering equitable and effective policies for resilient and sustainable communities in Chad. The output will also empower 500 rural youth and women to participate in local and subnational policy dialogues and decision-making processes.

Outcome 1.2: Increased institutional capacity for climate adaptation

Output 1.2.1: Climate information **and early warning** systems strengthened in targeted regions: The output will focus on enhancing the capacity and functionality of climate information **infrastructure and the effectiveness of early warning** systems in the target provinces. This includes improvements in data collection, analysis, and dissemination to support informed decision-making. Strengthened climate information systems contribute to more accurate forecasting, early warning systems, and climate-resilient planning. There will be increased preparedness and adaptive capacity in targeted regions, enabling communities and authorities to respond effectively to climate variability and change. This output supports a more resilient and climate-smart approach to development in Chad, aligning with sustainable practices and minimizing climate-related risks. This output will also build the capacity of youth to be involved in collecting and disseminating climate information to their peers and communities.

Component 2: Supporting climate resilient livelihood and employment opportunities for rural youth

Component 2 aims to build resilience into production systems and agro-sylvo-pastoral value chains in order to provide green employment opportunities for rural youth and generate long-term environmental and socio-economic benefits. This requires the improvement of the youth access to productive assets through the restoration of degraded land and training in agricultural techniques and climate resilience mainstreaming throughout value chains. This component will build the capacity of youth for green wage employment or self-employment through agribusiness hub, an integrated approach developed and implemented by IFAD in 9 African countries. This component will upscale the good experiences and the lessons learned from this approach, combined with the youth support mechanism developed by the RENFORT project.

Outcome 2.1: Improved climate adaptive agro-sylvo-pastoral production systems in degraded landscapes
Output 2.1.1: At least 12,000 youth (50% women) trained on land management, climate-smart production and climate adaptive agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries value chains. Under this output, the project will support soft-skills enhancement and climate awareness along with technical and management skills development in agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries value chains: land and natural resources management, sustainable post-harvest management; green skills; and access to green/climate goods and services. The project will foster resilient farming ecosystems while promoting long-term environmental and socioeconomic benefits, ensuring the project contributes to improving the resilience of the socioecological system within the target provinces.

Output 2.1.2: 1,500 ha of degraded land under sustainable and climate adaptive production systems within the 3 provinces: under this output, the project will improve irrigation and soil nutrients through small hydro-agricultural schemes to store runoff and sediments rich in nutrients and organic matter (mulch, zai, basins, halfmoon, pound, etc).

The digitization is part of the core capacity building process of the integrated agribusiness hub model. During the hub nurturing phase, young beneficiaries will go through specific training pathways for skills development. Digital skills will be provided (for knowledge and facilitate access to digital services); the use of digital technologies will be promoted; and digital platforms and solutions will be foreseen.

Outcome 2.2. *Improved ability of youth and rural women to access sustainable employment opportunities contributing to climate resilience*

Output 2.2.1. Increased capacity of 5 000 rural youth (50% women) to seize green employment and entrepreneurship opportunities through integrated agribusiness hubs. Integrated agribusiness hubs combine talent, technology, know-how and capital and in turn support enterprise development by enhancing skills to unlock decent and green employment opportunities for youth. To meet the growing demand in the green, blue and orange economies, the hubs invest strategically in digitization, financial inclusion, renewable energies and green skills/technologies. The hubs address the mismatches and gaps between the supply of (green) skills and the emerging demands from labor markets. They also focus on building the capacity of entrepreneurial rural youth to either start up or expand existing (green) agribusinesses serving as an incubator and an accelerator. The hubs channel youth through two distinct pathways: wage employment and self-employment. Within the wage employment pathway, youth will be trained in labor demand skills and specific climate-smart technical aspects such as bio-pest management, organic agriculture, agroforestry, sustainable land management, bee keeping, renewables, water and soil conservation. Within the self-employment pathway, youth will be trained in business development either through incubation for start-up enterprises or through acceleration for existing micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). Young agripreneurs trained through the hubs will continue to receive mentorship support services. The output will build structured collaboration among key partners: private, public, individuals, youth groups, development projects and CSOs.

RENFORT foresees two types of financing for youth entrepreneurship: (i) direct financing through grants for start-up capital or growth funds, through a shared-cost mechanism (scaling up IFAD portfolio experiences), and a credit line with a financial institution to cover the participation of young promoters. The management of direct financing will be entrusted to a financial institution that will offer other financial services and products for youth education and financial inclusion. A differentiated targeting mechanism will be put in place depending on the capacity of youth to mobilise the counterpart funds. (ii) an innovative and green financing mechanism which will be supported by IGREENFIN in order to support young people's access to affordable and adequate loans to promote best climate adaptation practices and the use of renewable energies along the agro-pastoral and fisheries value chains; through two windows : a revolving fund window dedicated to investments in climate resilience and a revolving fund window dedicated to investments in renewable energy technologies. STRADAP will contribute to direct grant financing for youth entrepreneurship and will support the analysis and development of innovative and green financing mechanisms.

In terms of metrics to measure the increased capacity, some specific indicators to include at project level will comprise of the following:

- # of additional young women and men in employment
- # of agribusiness hubs facilitated
- # of companies offering apprenticeships or other forms of practical training
- # of youth reached by practice-oriented skills development (in particular green skills) and job matching interventions
- # of enterprises with access to (formal and informal) finance
- # of youth associations at the grassroots level integrated in the agribusiness hubs ecosystem participating in advocacy campaigns.

The PPG will provide more specific targets for each indicators.

The hubs are implemented through an incubation approach through phases by partnering with training centers and enterprises with specific technical platforms that can provide theoretical and practical knowledge to young beneficiaries. In the hub nurturing phase, the capacity building and skills development are implemented through tailored training curricula that encompasses relevant topics such as management, soft skills, financial literacy, climate awareness, among others. In addition, linkages with job markets will be facilitated through internships and apprenticeships for the wage employment pathway. For the self-employment pathways, in collaboration with training centers, start-up incubation will be provided for youth with entrepreneurial ideas and business acceleration for existing MSMEs in search for growth.

The integrated hubs rely on an ecosystem approach to provide key support and for sustainability. The post-hub phase consists of facilitating access to finance, markets and continued mentorships. This requires joining forces with financial institutions and the private sector, and to set up peer-to-peer exchanges and linkages with national and international markets. Private actors will be identified at early stage to show them the potential benefits from their participation – such as availability of skilled labour force. It is also crucial to engage with the private sector, for youth work based learning programs, understanding skills needs and addressing business constraints for growth. This engagement will include partnering with export companies and global buyers where possible.

The agribusiness hubs actively create peer groups and youth professional networks and are key indicators of the indirect impacts of the hubs.

For better impact and sustainability, collaborations with CSOs, youth organizations and member-based business organizations will be facilitated for a more enabling business environment (and inclusive green growth). These partnerships will ensure stronger and more effective advocacy campaigns.

Component 3: Project Monitoring and Evaluation Output 3.1.1: Project knowledge management has been improved and informs adequate technical monitoring and adaptive management. The output will focus on enhancing project knowledge management for informed decision-making. Improved systems ensure effective technical monitoring and adaptive management. This involves refining data collection, analysis, and dissemination mechanisms. There will be a more robust knowledge base, facilitating timely adjustments and evidence-based decision-making. The initiative aims to optimize project performance, ensuring that lessons learned, best practices, and evolving insights contribute to continuous improvement and successful implementation. Ultimately, the strengthened knowledge management framework enhances the project's adaptive capacity, fostering resilience and efficacy in addressing dynamic challenges.

Output 3.1.2 Information collection, lessons learned and dissemination mechanisms and tools developed. At least 80% of knowledge products will be focused on gender and youth. The output will focus on developing comprehensive mechanisms and tools for information collection, lessons learned, and dissemination. This includes creating structured systems to gather project data, distill valuable lessons, and efficiently share insights. The initiative aims to enhance the project's knowledge base, fostering continuous learning and improvement. By implementing effective information dissemination tools, the outcome is increased awareness, collaboration, and adaptability. This ensures that stakeholders have access to relevant insights, contributing to informed decision-making and optimizing project performance through the application of valuable lessons learned during the implementation process.

To this end, the knowledge dissemination mechanism will have 5 main strands. (i) internal learning through knowledge building workshops among project team and partners to improve project implementation and results achievement; (ii) sharing knowledge with rural youth, women and farmers' organisations in other provinces through local communication channels (radio, awareness campaigns, etc.) and social media networks to inspire them, strengthen their motivation and prepare for the scaling up of the project; (iii) Dissemination to training and incubation centres for youth and women through their networks and the networks of professionals for youth entrepreneurship and mentorships to improve training modules and supports; (iv) sharing with national and international stakeholders through learning routes, exchange visits and the dissemination of knowledge at relevant websites; (v) dissemination to policy-makers through exchange and policy analysis platforms so that they have the most relevant evidence and knowledge to strengthen the legislative, policy and regulatory framework on green jobs and the resilience of the agro-pastoral and fisheries value chains.

Output 3.1.3 M&E plan, including the Gender Action Plan, is elaborated and implemented and a Mid-term evaluation and Final evaluation is conducted.

The Theory of Change: In strengthening the resilience of degraded agro-pastoral production landscapes and the livelihoods of vulnerable women and youth, the project is thus designed to establish an enabling institutional and policy environment as well as support concrete measures to build adaptive capacities to their support their ability to better respond and cope with the impacts of extreme weather events (in the shorter term as floods and droughts occur) and more lasting impacts of climate change – which include increased desertification, water scarcity, and extreme weather events. Erratic rainfall patterns affect agriculture and livestock production leading to food insecurity. Rising temperatures exacerbate water stress, impacting both ecosystems and communities. These challenges pose significant threats to Chad's environment, economy, and overall sustainability.

In the conception of the project, the political context of Chad is duly considered that does not easily favour the participation of women and the youth in key political and policy decision-making processes that have important implications on the equitable access and use of natural resources – and consequently, the ability to adapt to the impacts of climate change. It is recalled that since women are often in marginalized positions

of political representation, they are especially vulnerable to repression and violence during periods of political instability.⁴⁸

Thus, the theory of change of this project is embedded in the rationale that in the face of extreme weather extreme events that affect agro-silvo-pastoral landscapes, and disproportionately women and the youth within a context of political instability and extreme poverty, a two-step approach is critical – this constitutes pathway elements to strengthen the resilience of degraded agro-pastoral production landscapes and the livelihoods of vulnerable 63 000 people (12 000 youth and women led households) with particular emphasis on women and youth:

Provide *technical assistance* to establish an enabling institutional, policy and technical environment to support the implementation of measures to strengthen the ability of the most affected and vulnerable communities to better cope with the impacts of extreme weather events which have increased in frequency and severity; and Going beyond the enabling environment to *provide investments* in: a) concrete ‘first line of defense against impacts of extreme weather events’ climate-resilient alternative livelihood opportunities; and b) agro-sylvo-pastoral landscapes that are the lifeline for the youth and the vulnerable and affected communities in the target provinces. This project innovatively embraces an ecological system approach to create integrated agribusiness Hubs to generate climate resilient green wage and entrepreneurial-based job opportunities. The two-step approach is strategic for sustainability but also to facilitate adaptability to current and future changes. Building capacities and investing in concrete activities are built in the sustainability thinking of the project. To strengthen the resilience of degraded agro-pastoral production landscapes and the livelihoods of vulnerable women and the youth, STRADAP will therefore, support activities to:

- Strengthening subnational policy frameworks for youth agribusiness hubs to support climate resilient agro-pastoral and fisheries value chains;
- Conduct capacity building programs for 500 subnational decision-makers on climate resilience and sustainability policy development;
- Empower 500 rural youth to take part in policy dialogues and decision-making processes;
- Strengthen climate information systems in targeted regions and develop tools for climate adaptation-related information collection and dissemination to catalyze preparedness and responses to extreme weather events.
- Improve early warning and climate information systems in the 3 target regions;
- Train 12,000 youth on land management, climate-smart production and climate adaptive agro-sylvo-pastoral value chains.
- 1,500 of degraded land under sustainable production within the 3 target provinces;
- Build the capacity of 5,000 rural youth (50% women) to seize green employment and entrepreneurship opportunities through integrated agribusiness hubs.

Assumptions:

1. Institutional strengthening will lead to improved governance and adaptive capacity (pertains to Component 1). If institutions are not strengthened, it can lead to a lack of oversight, regulation, and support for artisanal fisheries.

2. Communities will adopt climate resilient practices and young agripeneurs are motivated to uptake green jobs (directly linked to Component 2). If communities don’t adopt climate-resilient practices, agro-sylvo pastoral systems may not be restored or protected, affecting resources and livelihoods. Women and youth will embrace climate-resilient technologies (related to both Component 1 and 2). The success of climate-resilient technologies is dependent on them being embraced by key demographic groups, ensuring inclusivity and wider reach.

3. Market-driven models will ensure economic viability and inclusivity (linked to component 2). If the market management models are not economically viable and inclusive, the value chains may not be sustainable or accessible to all.

4. Private sector engagement will drive sustainable development. Linked to Component 2, The development of infrastructure and technologies relies heavily on private sector engagement

Causal Pathways: The ToC for STRADAP is rooted in understanding the interconnected challenges facing Chad's agricultural sector. Each challenge isn't isolated but overlaps and influences the others. Addressing these multifaceted challenges requires a multi-pronged approach that takes into account the following Pathways:

1. Strengthened enabling environment for a climate resilient agro-sylvo pastoral sector: Without strengthened institutions,

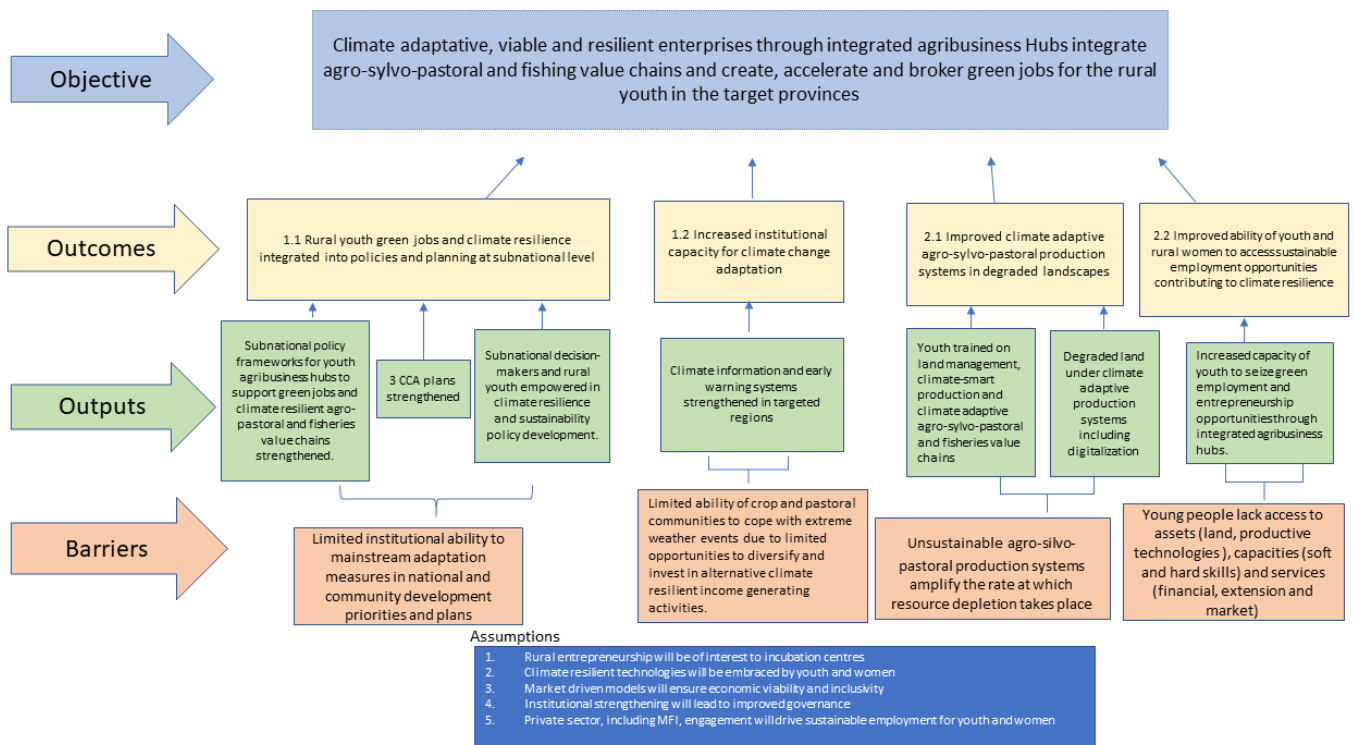
policies, and implementation mechanisms, even the best-laid plans can falter. Component 1 is crucial as it ensures that the other interventions are grounded in a supportive, well-regulated environment.

2. Enhanced management and rehabilitation of agro-sylvo-pastoral systems: A direct causal pathway is established between resource degradation and the project's focus on promoting climate-smart practices and rehabilitation of agro-ecosystems. If the natural and agro-sylvo pastoral resources are not protected and restored, the entire agricultural sector remains at risk. Therefore, interventions in Component 1 are necessary.

3. Enhanced profitable and climate resilient agro-sylvo- pastoral and fish value chains: There's a clear link between climate vulnerability, the declining profitability of agricultural products and food security. A climate event can result in loss of productivity, leading to income loss and food scarcity. Component 2 bridges this gap by ensuring that agro-pastoral and fisheries sub-sectors and value chains are not only climate-resilient but also economically viable.

For the project objective to be achieved, all these pathways must be addressed simultaneously. Each is necessary and collectively, they are sufficient, creating a holistic intervention model.

STRADAP Theory of Change:



As can be discerned from the focus of activities as detailed above, the success of this project to strengthen the resilience of degraded agro-pastoral production landscapes and the livelihoods of vulnerable women and the youth, the project will build on lessons and experiences from previous and ongoing initiatives in the country. These constitute an important baseline scenario and include the following:

- *Strengthening Agro-ecosystems' Adaptive Capacity to Climate Change in the Lake Chad Basin (Lac, Kanem, Bahr El Ghazal, and Part of the Hadjer-Lamis Region)*: This is a \$4 million GEF-funded project implemented by FAO.
- *Enhancing the Resilience of the Agricultural Ecosystems*: This is a \$7.3 million GEF-funded project implemented by IFAD.
- *Restoration of the ecological corridors of Mayo-Kebbi, Tandjilé and Fitri in Chad, in support of multiple land and forest benefits*: This is a \$4.1 million GEF-funded project implemented by IUCN.
- *Strengthening rural and urban resilience to climate change and variability by the provision of water supply and sanitation in Chad*: This is an \$8.7 million GEF-funded project implemented by AfDB.
- *LCB-NREE Chad Child Project: Integrated Management of Natural Resources in the Chadian part of the Lake Chad Basin*: This is a \$2.3 million GEF-funded project implemented by AfDB.
- *Project for the Development of Resilience and the Fight against Food Insecurity in Chad*: This was an IBD \$28 million-funded project (2015-2023) that was designed to contribute to the reduction of food insecurity and strengthen the resilience of vulnerable populations in 12 provinces in Chad.
- *Reversing the degradation trend in the oases of Borkou, Ennedi West and Wadi Fira through strengthening adaptation measures and improving resilience to climate change of vulnerable communities*: This is a \$10 million concept note has been approved and will be implemented by the Sahara and Sahel Observatory with funding from the Adaptation Fund.

- Chad Territorial Development and Resilience Project: World Bank-implemented project, approved in 2023 and is active with a budget of \$140 million.
- Chad Local Development and Adaptation Project: World Bank-implemented project, approved in 2020 and is active with a budget of \$50 million.
- Climate Resilient Agriculture and Productivity Enhancement Project (PROPAD) – Additional Financing: World Bank-implemented project that closed in 2021 with a budget of \$15 million.
- Development of drinking water supply, sanitation and pastoral hydraulic works in the Kanem region' (2021-2024): Total Budget: €6 million. It aims to improve the living conditions of border populations in the Kanem region through better access to drinking water, sanitation and pastoral water services. The project is implemented by the Consortium Action Contre la Faim (ACF) as lead partner and a local NGO called: Sahelian Alliance for Applied Research and Sustainable Development.

Initial lessons:

Community-centric approaches: Implementing climate change adaptation and natural resources management projects in Chad underscores the importance of community-centric approaches. Lessons highlight the necessity of involving local communities in decision-making processes, recognizing indigenous knowledge, and tailoring strategies to meet their specific needs and priorities.

Integrated solutions: Lessons emphasize the significance of integrated solutions that address multiple aspects of climate change and natural resource management concurrently. Comprehensive approaches and activities that consider the interconnectivity of ecosystems, water resources, agriculture, and community livelihoods tend to be more effective and sustainable.

Stakeholder collaboration: Successful projects underscore the importance of stakeholder collaboration. Lessons learned stress the need for engaging a diverse range of stakeholders, including governmental bodies, NGOs, local communities, and businesses, to harness collective expertise, resources, and support. STRADAP will collaborate with the private sector, for example, in its support for climate-resilient seed variety production and distribution, including crop husbandry practices of improved seeds.

Adaptive management: Implementing projects reveals the importance of adaptive management. Lessons highlight the dynamic nature of climate change impacts and natural resource challenges, emphasizing the need for flexible strategies that can be adjusted based on evolving conditions, new information, and community feedback.

Capacity building: A key lesson involves the importance of capacity building at various levels. This includes empowering local communities with the skills and knowledge necessary for sustainable resource management, enhancing the capacity of governmental institutions for effective governance, and building resilience at both individual and organizational levels to cope with climate-related changes.

Coordination and Cooperation with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Does the GEF Agency expect to play an execution role on this project?

If so, please describe that role here. Also, please add a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects, including potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing

Institutional anchor. The LDCF contribution will be embedded in the RENFORT project which is placed under the administrative and technical supervision of the ministry of agriculture. The project will utilize the existing Steering Committee for RENFORT, which already includes the Ministry of the Environment and will also include the GEF Focal Point and the GGW Agency. The steering committee is headed by the Ministry of the Economy. The steering committee provides strategic guidance for the implementation of the project and approves the action plans and annual activity reports. The project will also benefit from the provincial technical committees set up for RENFORT in the 3 targeted provinces to ensure that specific regional features are considered in the interventions.

Coordination and implementation arrangements. The proposed activities will be hosted by RENFORT field offices and implemented through the Programme Implementation and Management Unit of the RENFORT project, which is established within the Ministry of Agriculture. An operation manager will be hired to coordinate activities. The intervention will be supported by existing financial management and procurement systems but dedicated personnel will be recruited and the accounting software will be set up to ensure suitable management of the GEF funding. It will also benefit from the support of experts in environment, gender, literacy, value chains, agribusiness and digital agriculture from the RENFORT project. RENFORT's existing operating manuals and monitoring and evaluation system will be updated to integrate the LDCF project's interventions.

The proposed activities will benefit from capacity-building and support mechanisms for agripreneurs developed by RENFORT and implemented in collaboration with strategic partners such as incubation and training centers. They will also benefit from the water and soil management infrastructures installed by RENFORT and will be implemented in partnership with the GGW agency, the ministries of environment and agriculture, local NGOs, farmers' organizations and youth associations at national and provincial level.

Core Indicators

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

META INFORMATION – LDCF

LDCF true	SCCF-B (Window B) on technology transfer false	SCCF-A (Window-A) on climate Change adaptation false
Is this project LDCF SCCF challenge program? false		
This Project involves at least one small island developing State(SIDS). false		

This Project involves at least one fragile and conflict affected state.

true

This Project will provide direct adaptation benefits to the private sector.

true

This Project is explicitly related to the formulation and/or implementation of national adaptation plans (NAPs).

false

This project will collaborate with activities begin supported by other adaptation funds. If yes, please select below

Green Climate Fund	Adaptation Fund	Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR)
true	false	false

This Project has an urban focus.

false

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

true

This project will support South-South knowledge exchange

true

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

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

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

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

CORE INDICATORS – LDCF

	Total	Male	Female	% for Women
CORE INDICATOR 1				
Total number of direct beneficiaries	63,000	31,500.00	31,500.00	50.00%
CORE INDICATOR 2				
(a) Area of land managed for climate resilience (ha)	1,500.00			
(b) Coastal and marine area managed for climate resilience (ha)	0.00			
CORE INDICATOR 3				

Number of policies/plans/ frameworks/institutions for to strengthen climate adaptation	6.00			
CORE INDICATOR 4 Number of people trained or with awareness raised	18,000	9,000.00	9,000.00	50.00%
CORE INDICATOR 5 Number of private sector enterprises engaged in climate change adaptation and resilience action	0.00			

Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	Substantial	The occurrence of extreme weather events (droughts, floods), poverty levels, environmental challenges in terms of degradation and general vulnerability of local communities have informed the choice the target states. These events are frequent and growing in severity. The project will provide technical support and investments in building resilience and reducing vulnerability of rural communities through climate resilient livelihood and employment opportunities for rural youth. The project will also improve climate information and early warning systems to reinforce the preparedness and resilience of the communities.
Environmental and Social	Moderate	There is overreliance on the exploitation of natural resources, largely due to chronic poverty levels in the target provinces. The institutional and policy capacities are also weak. The project will support activities that will mainstream adaptation in provincial development strategies and planning, thereby ensuring policy coherence across sectors.
Political and Governance	High	Chad has known years of political fragility, and as noted above, institutional and policy context is weak. This has serious implications on governance that cannot be downplayed. Since 2023, IFAD has set up the national portfolio coordination unit in Chad (CNCRAT), which will ensure institutional memory given the frequent change within the government and the focal points designated for the IFAD portfolio within each sectoral ministry will ensure that communication flows smoothly. Financial management and procurement control measures will be strengthened (internal auditor, IFAD supervision mission, etc.) to overcome the risk in the governance of public funds.
INNOVATION		
Institutional and Policy	Low	The institutional capacity for implementation and sustainability is generally low in the country, and would present a substantial risk if this were the first intervention. However, the project will build capacities, but also draw lessons from the institutional arrangements RENFORT.

Technological	Low	IFAD is currently implementing the Project to Strengthen Innovation in Youth and Women Agro-pastoral Entrepreneurship in Chad (RENFORT). Therefore, there is already experience in the field to support the technical design of the project. Additionally, the project will build institutional and community capacities that will be critical in developing technically sound project activities
Financial and Business Model	Low	IFAD is currently implementing the Project to Strengthen Innovation in Youth and Women Agro-pastoral Entrepreneurship in Chad (RENFORT). Therefore, there is already experience in the field to support the technical design of the project. Additionally, the project will build institutional and community capacities that will be critical in developing technically sound project activities
EXECUTION		
Capacity	Low	The institutional capacity for implementation and sustainability is generally low in the country, and would present a substantial risk if this were the first intervention. However, the project will build capacities, but also draw lessons from the institutional arrangements RENFORT.
Fiduciary	Low	Though the capacities are generally low in Chad, the project will build on the successes and lessons RENFORT to ensure sound financial management and procurement processes
Stakeholder	Low	There is various stakeholders in Chad working on different development challenges that the country is going through. There are opportunities for collaboration and engagement to facilitate the implementation of the project.
Other		
Overall Risk Rating	Moderate	There are aspects of risks that are beyond the reach of the project. For those within the influence of the project, the project will remain strategic and facilitate capacity building, cross-learning and engagement with other on-going initiatives and stakeholders to minimise risks.

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

Describe how the proposed interventions are aligned with GEF- 8 programming strategies and country and regional priorities, including how these country strategies and plans relate to the multilateral environmental agreements.

Confirm if any country policies that might contradict with intended outcomes of the project have been identified, and how the project will address this.

For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e., BD, CC or LD), please identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and explain how. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

The proposed project are aligned to the National Development Plan (TCHAD-PND 2024-2028), and to national development priorities as set out in the National Investment Plan in the Rural Sector,

the National Youth Policy and National Gender Plan. It will also contribute to the achievement of targets prioritized by the Government of Chad for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, namely SDG 1 (Eradicate poverty in all its forms and worldwide, specifically for target groups); SDG 2 (Eradicate hunger, ensure food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture); SDG 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower women and girls); SDG 8 (Promote sustained, shared and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for everyone) and SDG 13 (Take urgent measures to address climate change and its effects).

The project is also in line with other guidelines, such as the National Adaptation Plan (NAP, 2021), the National Strategy to Combat Climate Change (SNLC, 2017), the national environment policy (2017), and the National Strategy for the Great Green Wall of Chad (2022-2026), The National Rural Sector Investment Plan (PNISR, 2016-2022), the 2018 Agro-silvo-pastoral and Fisheries Orientation Law (LOAH), the National Nutrition and Food Policy (PNNA, 2015-2025) and the revised Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 2021).

The preparation and implementation of the STRADAP builds on lessons learned from previous IFAD-led interventions and from various initiatives in the country, including from stakeholders at national and subnational levels. The implementation will ride on what has been achieved by other initiatives. In this regard, the project is consisted and aligned with resource mobilisation for large scale adaptation finance so that the country can cope better with the impacts of extreme weather events within a context of political and socioeconomic fragility. The project will ensure continuity and sustainability of what has been achieved, thereby ensuring transformative action in response to the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events in the agro-silvo-pastoral landscapes. The project will provide technical support for an enabling policy and institutional environment for implementing adaptation measures in agro-silvo-pastoral landscapes – thereby reinforcing policy coherence entry point while strengthening institutional capacity entry point.

The design of this project is to strengthen the resilience of degraded agro-silvo-pastoral production landscapes and the livelihoods of vulnerable women and youth. It is designed to respond to the adaptation challenges within a context extreme poverty, political instability and frequent and severe extreme weather events that have led to mass physical and economic displacements. As entry points to lead to a transformed socioecological context that strengthens community resilience and the country's ability to adapt, the project is designed on linked pillars: enabling policy and capacity environment; improving the production capacity of agro-silvo-pastoral landscapes, diversified income generating activities and knowledge generation and dissemination. These pillars reflect the constituent elements of the three components of the project. Thus, the project is aligned with the LDCF programming priorities as tabulated below:

Project component and focus	Alignment with LDCF GEF-8 programming
<p>Component 1: Strengthening favorable conditions for the climate resilience of agro-silvo-pastoral systems. Under component 1, provide technical capacity to enhance stakeholder capacities at all levels, including improved early warning systems to help inform the development of adaptation plans at national, subnational and even household level. The project for example, will develop and conduct climate adaptation training programs for 1,800,000 people (50% women).</p>	<p><i>Institutional strengthening and capacity building efforts at all levels:</i></p> <p>Targeted capacity building initiatives for relevant stakeholders, including community-based organizations and local level, are essential to enable them to develop robust adaptation plans and interventions which prioritize the needs of the most vulnerable communities.</p>

<p>Component 2: Supporting agro-sylvo-pastoral production systems to improve resilient livelihoods. Under Component 2, the project will invest improving degraded agro-silvo-pastoral production systems, and providing diversified livelihoods and improved and alternative income-generating activities. Activities will focus on promoting agroecological practices, strengthening gender-sensitive agricultural value chains, developing gender-sensitive agricultural microenterprises, supporting access to financial services.</p>	<p><i>Using grant finance to share risk and catalyze private sector investment:</i></p> <p>Providing technical assistance and grant-based guarantees for microfinance institutions create lines of credit dedicated to microloans at accessible terms to help smallholder farmers and MSMEs to invest transitioning to climate resilient activities.</p> <p><i>Incubating and Accelerating Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises:</i></p> <p>Holistic value chain approach that simultaneously focuses on climate resilient production, as well as innovative financing ensure local business have the tools and access, they need to adapt to increasing climate impacts.</p>
<p>Component 1, 2 and 3: Gender and stakeholder inclusion is thematically cross-cutting in all the components. It should be reminded that the emphasis on women and the youth does not necessarily exclude men from participating in all the phases of the project. The emphasis on women and the youth simply reflects the fact that women and the youth bear the brunt of adaptation challenges due to factors that include limited socioeconomic opportunities and unfavorable socio-cultural norms that keep these two from taking critical decisions that enhance their adaptive capacities. The design of the project recognizes the roles that these vulnerable groups play and can play not only in accessing benefits but also in contributing to environmental restoration. They can also provide important traditional knowledge to inform investments in sustainable practices, including lived experiences of adaptation challenges.</p>	<p><i>Priority Area 3: Fostering Partnership for Inclusion and Whole-of-Society Approach:</i></p> <p>Partnership with vulnerable groups such as women and girls, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities will not only make LDCF investment efficient, effective and responsive to climate risks in LDCs but also provide critical local knowledge relevant for adaptation interventions over different timeframes.</p> <p>Engaging with a wide range of groups and organizations, including the private sector, to harness the knowledge, experiences and capabilities of affected and interested individuals and groups.</p>

Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the LDCF and co-financing: GEF funding will be used to enhance climate change adaptation related benefits of the GGW national programme in Chad. It will specifically target two priority areas of the GGW programme: Area 1 - Improvement and sustainable management of production systems and Area 3 - Development of income-generating activities. Building on IFAD's baseline of relevant projects and investments in the GGW, the project will provide new and additional funding to strengthening the resilience of youth entrepreneurship to the effects of climate change, through (i) enabling environment on rural youth green jobs and climate information systems; (ii) climate adaptive agro-sylvo pastoral production systems improvement in degraded landscapes; (iii) capacity building of rural youth to seize green employment and entrepreneurship opportunities; (iv) knowledge products developing and sharing. The co-financing ratio of GEF grants to the IFAD investment project RENFORT will be across the 3 selected intervention provinces as well as for the project as a whole.

D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:

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

Yes

Stakeholder Engagement

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

Yes

Were the following stakeholders consulted during project identification phase:

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities:

Civil Society Organizations:

Private Sector:

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

The stakeholder consultation process was held in 2 phases: (i) preliminary consultations to draft the project document; (ii) second consultation to finalise and validate the project's scopes, objectives, components and expected results.

The first consultation took place from 05 to 10 August 2023 in N'Djaména with a workshop to exchange views and present the draft project proposal to key stakeholders. Consultations were held with the GEF Focal Point, the general directors of environment and climate change and their experts, the national agency for the Great Green Wall (ANGMV), national producer organisations (CNCPR and CELIAF), IFAD portfolio managers and the 'Project to Strengthen Governance and Climate Resilience - Global Climate Change Alliance - AMCC+'. The first draft of the document was drawn up on the basis of these consultations.

The second consultation took place in two stages: (i) a meeting with the GEF Focal Point and his team on 21 November 2023 to present the project proposal and prepare the consultation workshop (ii) a workshop with key stakeholders on 30 November 2023, led by the Director General for the Environment. The aim is to ensure that the project is aligned with national priorities and with the expected results of RENFORT and the ANGMV. The choice of the 3 intervention provinces was one of the main decisions of the consultation workshop. Participants include senior staff from the Ministry of the Environment, the GEF focal point and the technical directorates responsible for soil management and climate change; the RENFORT and ANGMV project teams; producer organisations at national level (CELIAF).

The following table illustrates the main stakeholders involved in project design and implementation, their role and engagement:

Stakeholders	Features - Roles	Project activity
<p>Ministries and regional/provincial departments (Agriculture, Environment, Social Action, Health, Gender, Youth)</p>	<p>Collaboration with government agencies ensures compliance with regulatory frameworks and can provide additional, and very often value-added, technical support. In addition, the involvement of stakeholders, particularly ministries and decentralized state bodies, promotes transparency in the implementation of project activities and contributes to ownership. Open communication channels strengthen trust between stakeholders, reduce potential conflicts and increase the project's chances of success. In Chad, where environmental challenges are intimately linked to socio-economic complexities, effective engagement of these entities is essential to creating resilient and locally relevant natural resource management initiatives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strategic direction - Community support and advice - Facilitation - Follow-up
<p>Farmer/producer organizations (POs), cooperatives, umbrella organizations, unions, inter-professional organizations including those for specific sectors, women and young people at different levels (national, regional, provincial, communal).</p>	<p>Producers in the agro-sylvo-pastoral sector are often organized within producer organizations (POs). In Chad, the CNCPRP is an umbrella PO with a national network. This network is essential for the implementation of initiatives in the agricultural sector in general. As such, it will play a decisive role as a forum for exchange and consultation.</p> <p>Involving producers ensures a holistic understanding of the socio-economic and environmental context. This inclusive approach facilitates the identification of relevant issues, needs and priorities, contributing to the development of effective, context-specific strategies and implementation. Engagement also fosters a sense of belonging and empowerment within local communities. By including them in decision-making processes, projects are more likely to align with their values, traditions and aspirations. This participatory approach increases the chances of successful project adoption and long-term sustainability.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Awareness / Orientation - Targeting / Selection of beneficiaries and activities - Sales partnerships - Consulting
<p>Private economic operators</p>	<p>These are actors upstream and downstream of production, with whom producers in general and processors in particular will enter into commercial relationships (agreements, partnerships) for the supply of goods (seeds, fertilizers, materials, equipment, livestock feed, etc.) and services, and for the processing and marketing of their products. The project will facilitate these relationships and partnerships. In the case of Chad, there will also be hubs for training young people and helping them to set up green micro-enterprises.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sales partnerships
<p>NGO, Training and incubation centres</p>	<p>A number of national and international NGOs are involved in rural development programs, supporting local communities, agro-pastoral organizations and food and nutrition security. The project will draw on these locally-established NGOs to capitalize on their experience. Training and incubation centres</p> <p>will facilitate the training of young people and guide them towards two poles: salaried employment and self-employment and will provide a specific coaching depending on their entrepreneurship paths.</p> <p>As part of the salaried employment pathway, young people will be trained in skills related to labor demand and climate-specific technical aspects, such as organic pest control, organic farming, agroforestry, sustainable land management, beekeeping, renewable energies, water and soil conservation.</p> <p>As part of the self-employment pathway, young people will be trained in business development, either through incubation for start-ups, or through the acceleration of existing micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). Young agripreneurs trained under these two poles will continue to benefit from mentoring support services. The results will enable structured collaboration between key partners: private, public, individuals, youth groups, development projects and CSOs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Awareness - Targeting / Beneficiary selection - Training - Learning - Mentoring - Framing
<p>Bilateral and multilateral partners</p>	<p>A large number of partners (INGOs, UN agencies, USAID, SWISSAID, etc.) are supporting the government in national and local development programs. Exchanges and lessons of good practice will be shared and synergies established.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partnership - Information sharing - Synergy - Learning

Stakeholders	Features - Roles	Project activity
Local authorities, their systems and local/decentralized institutions	<p>Local authorities (Provinces, Communes, Cantons, etc.) play a decisive role in local development processes.</p> <p>As a result, community-centered approaches are likely to be more effective in implementing climate change adaptation and natural resource management projects in Chad. Their involvement in the decision-making process right from the design stage, through consultations, is a recognition of indigenous values and a willingness to adapt strategies to meet their specific needs and priorities. This approach underlines the importance of community-centered approaches.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Awareness / Orientation - Identification / Targeting / Selection of beneficiaries and activities

In building on lessons and experiences from previous and ongoing initiatives in the country, the project will equally engage and involve various stakeholders. The project will employ a participative approach that will create space for different stakeholders to inform the full development activities to respond better to the challenges of climate change. The development of this PIF has benefited from views and concerns of various stakeholders from national and subnational levels who were brought together to identify the climate change related challenges and to prioritise the components. The participatory approach and stakeholder engagement will remain critical and will be pursued because:

Firstly, involving diverse stakeholders, including local communities, government agencies, NGOs, and businesses, ensures a holistic understanding of the socio-economic and environmental context. This inclusive approach facilitates the identification of relevant issues, needs, and priorities, contributing to the development of effective and context-specific project strategies.

Secondly, engagement fosters a sense of ownership and empowerment among local communities. By including them in decision-making processes, the projects are more likely to align with their values, traditions, and aspirations. This participatory approach enhances the likelihood of successful project adoption and long-term sustainability.

Moreover, stakeholders bring valuable knowledge, expertise, and resources to the table. Collaborating with governmental bodies ensures compliance with regulatory frameworks, while partnerships with non-profits may provide additional funding and technical support. Local communities, as primary custodians of natural resources, offer indigenous knowledge crucial for sustainable resource management.

Lastly, stakeholder engagement promotes transparency and accountability. Open communication channels build trust among stakeholders, reducing potential conflicts and enhancing the likelihood of successful project outcomes. In Chad, where environmental challenges are intertwined with socio-economic complexities, effective stakeholder engagement is indispensable for creating resilient and locally relevant natural resources management initiatives.

The government of Chad indicates that current and future state of climate vulnerability is negatively affecting the most important socioeconomic sectors of Chad – slowing down the country’s development. This is particularly so because the country has fragile ecosystems that underpin agro-silvo-pastoral activities. This makes the country very vulnerable to extreme weather events within a weak socio-economic context that further stifles the ability of the country and communities to adapt. This is how the primary sector, the basis of the economy of the country constituted which occupies almost 80% of the Chadian population suffered the negative effects of the drought in the 1970s and 1980s.

The rural context remains relevant to national development. For example, the rural context makes the following contributions to the nation’s GDP: food crops (20.2%), industrial crops (3.7%), livestock (11.6%),

and forestry (2.8%).⁴⁹ Faced with the frequency and severity of extreme weather events and climate change in general, besides poverty, political fragility and insecurity, the need cannot be overemphasized for technical support and investment in priority sectors to enhance adaptive capacities. This will also support the country's course to achieve some of the sustainable development goals as well as other multilateral environmental agreements to which Chad is a Party.

In this regard, the project is designed to respond to the adaptation challenges of Chad, building on the existing policy environment and drawing on lessons and experiences from other on-going and recently completed project and programs that have thematically directly and indirectly supported interventions to strengthen the resilience of degraded agro-pastoral production landscapes and the livelihoods of vulnerable community members, women and youth.

The contribution of the NAPA to reducing the harmful effects of climate change on most vulnerable community members falls within the framework of the National Poverty Reduction Strategy (NPRS) by the choice of a certain number of adaptation measures. The objectives of Chad's national development policy are consistent with the NPRS developed in 2003 then revised in 2007 considering climatic hazards in Chad. The objectives of the NPRS in its initial version relate to (i) promoting good governance, (ii) ensuring growth of strong and sustained economy, (iii) improve human capital, (iv) improve the living conditions of vulnerable groups and (v) restore and safeguard ecosystems. The revised version builds on these priorities and emphasizes agriculture and the development of the rural sector to increase food production, ensure nutrition security and diversified climate resilient incomes for rural communities. The policy context in this regard is therefore, consistent with the project's focus to provide technical support towards strengthening enabling and supportive environment for enhancing climate resilience of agro-silvo-pastoral systems. In this regard, the project is designed to be transformative, and

In achieving the above, and as alluded to above, the project will continue engaging stakeholders as it has done in the preparation of this PIF. The following pictures highlight the participatory and inclusive approach that the project has undertaken in the development of this PIF.



Participatory approach for stakeholder engagement during PIF development in N'Djamena, November 30, 2023
 Family photo (picture 1), and stakeholder discussions (pictures 2-5)
 Source of picture: IFAD 2023

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

Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

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

Yes

Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

We confirm that we have provided indicative information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed project or program and any measures to address such risks and impacts (this information should be presented in Annex D).

Yes

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
Medium/Moderate			

E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Knowledge management

We confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been clearly described in the Project Description (Section B)

Yes

ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES

GEF Financing Table

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

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non-Grant	GEF Project Grant(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total GEF Financing (\$)
IFAD	LDCF	Chad	Climate Change	LDCF Country allocation	Grant	7,105,936.00	675,064.00	7,781,000.00
Total GEF Resources (\$)						7,105,936.00	675,064.00	7,781,000.00

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Is Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount (\$)

200000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

19000

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non- Grant	PPG(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total PPG Funding(\$)
IFAD	LDCF	Chad	Climate Change	LDCF Country allocation	Grant	200,000.00	19,000.00	219,000.00
Total PPG Amount (\$)						200,000.00	19,000.00	219,000.00

Please provide justification

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

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

Indicative Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Co-financing(\$)
CCA-1-1	LDCF	7,105,936.00	35263305
Total Project Cost		7,105,936.00	35,263,305.00

Indicative Co-financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
GEF Agency	IFAD	Grant	Investment mobilized	28063305
GEF Agency	IFAD	Loans	Investment mobilized	1800000
Recipient Country Government	Government of Chad	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3500000
Beneficiaries	Communities in target provinces	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1900000
Total Co-financing				35,263,305.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

IFAD's investment mobilized comes from two sources blending grants and loans: 1) IFAD's RENFORT project for a total of USD \$ 14,000,000; 2) IFAD's IGREEFIN (GCF financed, under design) country activities in Chad for a total of US\$ 15,863,305.

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

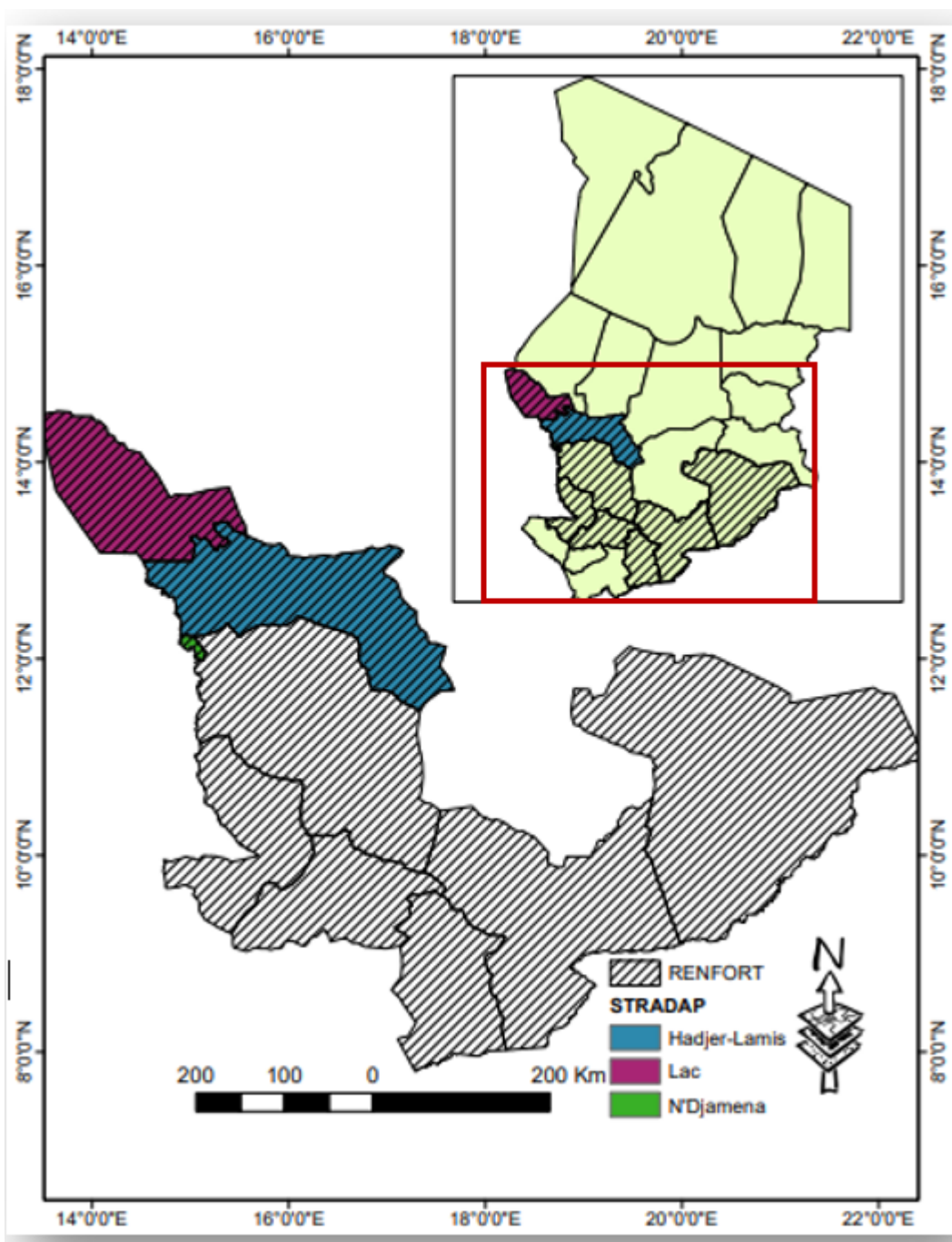
GEF Agency Type	Name	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator		3/18/2024	Juan Carlos Mendoza Casadiegos		Juancarlos.mendoza@ifad.org
GEF Agency Coordinator		3/18/2024	Janie Rioux		j.rioux@ifad.org
Project Coordinator		3/18/2024	Rachel Senn		r.senn@ifad.org

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

Name	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Mr. Oumar Gadji Soumaila	Climate Change Director	Ministry of Environment, Fisheries and Sustainable Development	9/19/2023

ANNEX C: PROJECT LOCATION

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



ANNEX D: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING

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

Title

GEF Offline SECAP ESC Screening CHAD

ANNEX E: RIO MARKERS

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

ANNEX F: TAXONOMY WORKSHEET

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Influencing Models	Strengthen institutional capacity/decision making Transform policy and regulatory environments		
Stakeholders	Indigenous people Beneficiaries Local communities Civil society organizations Private Knowledge and learning Stakeholder engagement		
Capacity, Knowledge and Research	Capacity development Knowledge generation and exchange		
Gender Equality	Gender results Gender mainstreaming		
Focal Area/Theme	Climate change Biodiversity		

	Forest Land degradation		
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