Transforming agricultural systems and strengthening local economies in high biodiversity areas of India through sustainable landscape management and public-private finance

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID
10204

Project Type
FSP

Type of Trust Fund
GET

CBIT/NGI
CBIT **No**
NGI **No**

Project Title
Transforming agricultural systems and strengthening local economies in high biodiversity areas of India through sustainable landscape management and public-private finance

Countries
India

Agency(ies)
UNEP, IUCN

Other Executing Partner(s)
Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers? Welfare (MoAFW); Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC); State government of Andhra Pradesh; State government of Karnataka; Rainforest Alliance; Rythu Sadhikara Samstha (RySS); Foundation for Ecological Security (FES).

Executing Partner Type
Government

GEF Focal Area
Multi Focal Area

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Biodiversity, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Productive Landscapes, Mainstreaming, Agriculture and agrobiodiversity, Forestry - Including HCVF and REDD+, Financial and Accounting, Payment for Ecosystem Services, Influencing models, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Stakeholders, Private Sector, Capital providers, Financial intermediaries and market facilitators, Large corporations, Civil Society, Non-Governmental Organization, Community Based Organization, Communications, Education, Awareness Raising, Local Communities, Type of Engagement, Information Dissemination, Participation, Consultation, Partnership, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Women groups, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender-sensitive indicators, Beneficiaries, Gender results areas, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Participation and leadership, Capacity Development, Access and control over natural resources, Access to benefits and services, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Generation, Knowledge Exchange, Enabling Activities, Learning, Indicators to measure change, Theory of change, Adaptive management, Innovation, Land Degradation, Land Degradation Neutrality, Land Productivity, Sustainable Land Management, Sustainable Agriculture, Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Sustainable Livelihoods, Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach, Income Generating Activities, Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques, Ecosystem Approach, Climate Change Adaptation, Climate Change, Climate resilience, Climate Change Mitigation, Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use, Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration, Integrated Programs, Smallholder Farming, Sustainable Commodity Production, Deforestation-free Sourcing, Comprehensive Land Use Planning, Landscape Restoration, Integrated Landscapes, Deploy innovative financial instruments

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation

Climate Change Mitigation 1

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation 0

Submission Date

12/8/2020

Expected Implementation Start

7/1/2021

Expected Completion Date

6/30/2026

Duration

60In Months

Agency Fee($)
590,767.00

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount($)	Co-Fin Amount($)
LD-1-1	Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem services to sustain food production and livelihoods through Sustainable Land Management (SLM)	GET	2,900,000.00	58,900,000.00
LD-1-4	Reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses and increase resilience in the wider landscape	GET	1,574,352.00	4,690,000.00
BD-1-1	Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes through biodiversity mainstreaming in priority sectors	GET	1,792,531.00	5,000,000.00
		Total Project Cost($)	**6,266,883.00**	**68,590,000.00**

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

To reduce land degradation and conserve biodiversity in agricultural landscapes in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, by promoting sustainable agricultural production, supply chains and public- private finance

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
Component 1: Enabling Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and biodiversity conservation in priority landscapes through national fiscal and agriculture policies and multi-stakeholder landscape management	Technical Assistance	**Outcome 1.1** SLM and biodiversity conservation in production landscapes are successfully integrated into fiscal and agricultural policy instruments and planning processes implemented by key central and State level government agencies and ministries. ***Indicator 1.1.1*** *Number of adjustments made to implementation of policies relating to agricultural subsidies, commodity production and ecosystem conservation that increase integration of SLM into agriculture production landscapes*. ***Indicator 1.1.2*** *Number of policies, procedures and measurement mechanisms in place to implement and monitor the government?s restoration commitments to UNCCD* ***Indicator 1.1.3*** *A formal coordination mechanism between key Central and State government institutions is established* **Outcome 1.2** Integrated development of productive agriculture and SLM enabled in two States, through multi-stakeholder participatory landscape planning ***Indicator 1.2.1*** *Number of agreements in place with local governments to establish Multi-Stakeholder Landscape Management Bodies*	**Output 1.1.1** Proposals developed and advocated to lead Government agencies and key landscape stakeholders to improve policy coordination and better integrate SLM and biodiversity conservation in project landscapes. **Output 1.2.1** Micro-landscapes agreed in consultation with representatives from *Gram Panchayats* and representatives of all key stakeholders, and structures established to enable multi-stakeholder planning and management of SLM at landscape scale.	GET	822,561.00	1,500,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
Component 2: Scaling up of sustainable agriculture and SLM to restore degraded land, conserve biodiversity and improve human wellbeing in priority landscapes	Technical Assistance	**Outcome 2.1** Land degradation reduced, biodiversity conserved, and increased farmer satisfaction achieved on farms through adoption of sustainable agricultural practices based on Community-Based Natural Farming (CNF) and the Rainforest Alliance Sustainable Agriculture Standard (RA-SAS) in the project landscapes. ***Indicator 2.1.1*** *Number of farmers, farm workers, service providers and beneficiaries applying sustainable agriculture practices in micro-landscapes (Gender- and youth- disaggregated.)* ***Indicator 2.1.2*** *Percentage of project-supported farmers experiencing increased satisfaction**[1]** in project landscapes from application of sustainable agricultural practices (Gender- and youth- disaggregated.)* ***Indicator 2.1.3*** *Number of hectares of farmland in project landscapes applying new practices to conserve biodiversity (BD) and reverse land degradation (LDN).* ***Indicator 2.1.4*** *Number of hectares in project landscapes (certified and non-certified) under sustainable production systems* ***Indicator 2.1.5*** *Number of project-supported*	**Output 2.1.1** Capacity building and technology transfer delivered towards successful adoption of CNF and RA-SAS practices by 765,000 farmers and farm workers **Output 2.1.2** Innovations in agri-tech[1] and digital information systems tested for scaling up adoption of sustainable agriculture and directly benefitting 1000 farmers. **Output 2.1.3** Farmer organizations? capacities strengthened in business management and product development to drive adoption of sustainable agriculture by 3,000 farmers on 10,000 ha of farmland. **Output 2.2.1** Technical support provided to the MSLMBs to develop a Sustainable Landscape Management Plan in each micro-landscape. **Output 2.2.2** Landscape management bodies guided and mentored to implement their SLMPs at landscape scale to restore 20,000 ha of degraded forested land off-farm and conserve 25,000 ha of HCVF. **Output 2.2.3** Technical support provided to micro-landscapes with potential for scale to develop comprehensive	GET	3,376,340.00	50,431,138.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
Component 3: Market mechanisms and public-private finance for scaling up sustainable agriculture and landscape-scale SLM.	Investment	**Outcome 3.1** Companies increase their buying of commodities sourced from sustainably managed landscapes. ***Indicator 3.1.1*** *Number of buying companies implementing commitments to responsible sourcing from farmers in project landscapes.* ***Indicator 3.1.2*** *Percentage increase in sales of products from farmers participating in project.* **Outcome 3.2** Private and public institutions make investments to incentivize scaled-up adoption of sustainable agricultural practices and landscape-scale SLM, contributing to LDN, biodiversity conservation and human well-being. ***Indicator 3.2.1*** *Value (US$) invested through private and blended financing mechanisms in- and off- farm SLM (disaggregated by source of finance and targeted land use benefit)* ***Indicator 3.2.2*** *Number of new farmers accessing commercial loans to invest in sustainable agricultural practices (Gender- and youth-disaggregated)*	**Output 3.1.1** Private sector engaged and incentivized through improved producer organization and increased sustainability of supply to strengthen its commitment to responsible sourcing. **Output 3.2.1** Portfolio of feasible impact investments and financial instruments developed and negotiated with financial services providers, combining investment in SLM at farm and landscape scales.	GET	890,847.00	11,681,933.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
Component 4: Knowledge management and outreach to scale-up sustainable value chains and landscape-scale SLM	Investment	**Outcome 4.1** Scale-up of project experience is enabled by key decision makers convinced by the evidence-based Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning (MEL) system of the environmental, technical and socio-economic benefits from application of SLM and landscape approaches and of the strategies to achieve that. ***Indicator 4.1.1*** *High quality of field data enables project to operate effective MEL system to enable adaptive management and measurement of project achievements* ***Indicator 4.1.2*** *Percentage of farmers with proven positive cost-benefit records from application of sustainable agricultural practices* ***Indicator 4.1.3*** *Project results and learning about project approach success factors convincingly showcased to provoke replication through new programme investment by government and financial service organisations.* ***Indicator 4.1.5*** *Number of plans based on the SLM integrated approach on-farm and off-farm in*	**Output 4.1.1** MEL system implemented to track project progress and measure performance against targeted outputs, outcomes, GEF Core Indicators and GEBs. **Output 4.1.2** Evaluations of cost-benefit undertaken on the economic returns to farmers from adoption of sustainable agricultural practices, as well as environmental benefits on- and off-farm, and improvements in human well-being in the project landscapes **Output 4.1.3** Learnings from project and conditions for scalability prepared and presented to central and State governments and target financial services organizations and companies and disseminated through selected events and publications.	GET	878,712.00	1,603,544.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
				Sub Total ($)	**5,968,460.00**	**65,216,615.00**
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
	GET		298,423.00		3,373,385.00	
Sub Total($)			**298,423.00**		**3,373,385.00**	
Total Project Cost($)			**6,266,883.00**		**68,590,000.00**	

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

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount($)
Recipient Country Government	RySS/State government of Andhra Pradesh	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	60,000,000.00
Private Sector	Private investment facilities via Rabobank	Guarantee	Investment mobilized	5,000,000.00
Private Sector	Tata Coffee	Grant	Investment mobilized	1,500,000.00
Private Sector	S&D Sucden	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	500,000.00
Civil Society Organization	Rainforest Alliance	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,400,000.00
GEF Agency	UN Environment Programme	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	100,000.00
GEF Agency	IUCN	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	90,000.00
			Total Co-Financing($)	**68,590,000.00**

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

Private sector partners including finance institutions and impact investors were engaged throughout the PPG stage, through direct one to one meetings as well as through mechanisms such as stakeholder engagement workshops. Companies and corporate partners collaborated in the design of new project activities. In addition, through their existing, on-going work (and/or products and services) that are relevant to project stakeholders and beneficiaries, these companies were able to commit to mobilizing the investment that is outlined in the table above. The investment mobilized relates to a significant amount (US$ 5,000,000) secured via the Rabo Foundation (the Corporate Foundation of Rabobank) by way of a guarantee finance facility set up by Rabobank in collaboration with USAID. For the purposes of this project the guarantee, which has been extended to two non-banking finance companies (NBFCs), will be offered to participating project companies and/or cooperatives. The partnership between Rabobank and the project will secure US$ 5,000,000 (minimum) of relevant private investment and Rabobank has confirmed in writing that it will be happy to extend the facility for this amount. Further detail regarding the additional co-finance that has been secured is included in the co-financing letters, attached as Appendix 11 within the Prodoc.

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

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount($)	Fee($)
UNEP	GET	India	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	3,786,279	359,696
IUCN	GET	India	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	688,073	61,927
UNEP	GET	India	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	1,563,173	148,502
IUCN	GET	India	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	229,358	20,642
				Total Grant Resources($)	**6,266,883.00**	**590,767.00**

E. Non Grant Instrument

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Required **false**

PPG Amount ($)

130,000

PPG Agency Fee ($)

12,350

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount($)	Fee($)
UNEP	GET	India	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	95,000	9,025
UNEP	GET	India	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	35,000	3,325
				Total Project Costs($)	**130,000.00**	**12,350.00**

Core Indicators

Indicator 3 Area of land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
150000.00	75000.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
130,000.00	75,000.00		

Indicator 3.2 Area of Forest and Forest Land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
20,000.00			

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and shrublands restored

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

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

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

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
1850000.00	1175000.00	0.00	0.00

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
350,000.00	135,000.00		

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	75,000.00		

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

Rainforest Alliance PPG to set target on ha certified & confirm volumes traded

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
1,350,000.00	940,000.00		

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

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
150,000.00	25,000.00		

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

Title	Submitted

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO?e (direct)	0	22406180	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO?e (indirect)	0	0	0	0

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

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO?e (direct)		22,406,180		
Expected metric tons of CO?e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting		2041		
Duration of accounting				

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

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

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

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

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

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	850,000	304,000		
Male	850,000	466,000		
Total	1700000	770000	0	0

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

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

Whilst there have been **no significant changes since PIF stage to the global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers,** further, in-depth analysis was undertaken during the PPG phase that explored these issues in more depth. This analysis confirmed that the root causes and barriers outlined within the PIF remain the most relevant in order to achieve the project outcomes. A summary of the root causes and barriers is included in the following paragraphs. For a more detailed description, please refer to the Prodoc.

Context: The project will be implemented in two states: Andhra Pradesh, the eighth-largest State in India, situated in the south-east of the country, and Karnataka, the sixth largest Indian State situated in the south-west region of India where the Western and Eastern Ghats converge. Both states are characterised by high levels of desertification or land degradation (14.35 percent in Andhra Pradesh, 36.24 percent in Karnataka), largely driven by the destruction of vegetation as a result of human activities. Agriculture is of significant importance in both states, representing 34 percent of Andhra Pradesh?s gross domestic product[1][1] and employing 62 percent of the population, and representing 54.6 percent of the work force in Karnataka. Important crops in Andhra Pradesh are rice (paddy), the major crop, followed by sugarcane, cotton, mango, tobacco, maize, pulses, turmeric, chillies, sunflower and peanuts. Karnataka is the largest producer of coffee, raw silk, and sandalwood in the country, ranks fifth in India in total area under horticulture, including vegetable crops (eight percent of national production), third largest in fruit crops (12 percent), third largest producer of sugar, second in milk and floriculture, and fourth in sugarcane production[2][2].

The agricultural context in each of the two states sits alongside (and, in certain districts, within) areas of rich biodiversity and dense tropical forests, with forested areas characterised by significant forest cover loss: in Andhra Pradesh, a study in 2018 found that forest cover had declined from 43.4 percent of Total Ground Area (TGA) in 1920 to 27.5 percent in 2015.[3][3] Karnataka has a recorded forest cover of 38,575 km2, which constitutes 20.09 percent of its TGA[4][4]. These forests support 25 percent of the elephant and 10 percent of the tiger populations of India[5][5]. Across the State of Karnataka, the Biodiversity Board has recorded over 120,000 species, of which 4,500 flowering plants, 508 birds, 150 mammals, 156 reptiles, 135 amphibians, 405 marine fishes, 289 freshwater fishes, 330 butterflies and 1,493 medicinal plants, of which 300 species are in commercial use[6][6] - however just under 10 percent of the Western Ghats (13,465 km2) lies within the network of Karnataka?s protected areas.

The production capacity of India?s agricultural land and the conservation of India?s biodiversity both on farm and in forested landscapes are under threat from a variety of forces, including drought, extreme

climate events, low agricultural productivity, the vulnerability of smallholders, forest fragmentation and loss, watershed degradation and human wildlife conflict. The **root causes of and barriers** to addressing these threats are multifaceted and interrelated, but primarily consist of the following (with further detail contained within the Prodoc):

? *Policy coherence and implementation capacity.* Whilst there is extensive legislation in India to protect its natural environment, conserve biodiversity and guide development of agriculture as productive and not destructive to the environment, this is not always effective because of several factors: investment capacity to operationalize the policies; capacities to monitor and enforce laws protecting forests and wildlife; inconsistencies in policies that undermine the government?s targets for LDN and biodiversity conservation; and lack of synergy and integration of policies to meet the desired LDN and biodiversity goals.

? *Unsustainable agricultural practices.* Policies such as price support for a few major crops, the commercialization of agriculture as more farmers plant cash crops, and land degradation resulting from use of chemical inputs and lack of soil and water management have led to a reduction in the mix of crops on farms, reducing the resilience of soil and increasing degradation. In addition, modern agricultural systems that require farmers to rely heavily on inorganic external inputs, such as chemical fertilizers and pesticides, have contaminated groundwater and other water-dependent ecosystems, affected soil structure and contributed to biodiversity loss in farmlands. Declining soil quality caused by application of agrochemicals, without applying natural soil replenishment processes, such as recycling of crop residues, green manuring and composting, is contributing to low growth of agricultural productivity and further pressure on the land. In Karnataka, The expansion of coffee plantations until the 1990s is one of the major causes of deforestation, along with urban development, tourism-related construction and regularization of forest land encroachments by tribal populations[7][7]. This deforestation and related loss of biodiversity leads to further land degradation and an unsustainable downward trajectory of decreasing productivity requiring an increase of external inputs. Moreover, environmental loss is accompanied by loss of livelihoods, further adding to the unsustainability of agricultural practices.

? *Spatial scale of planning, decision-making and natural resource management.* Conservation and sustainable development cannot be tackled adequately at the scale of a production unit or protected area because these land units are subjected to impacts from social and environmental issues beyond their boundaries. Management structures are not in place to tackle this, and as a result, site-scale initiatives, for example by a group of farmers to apply sustainable agricultural practices, may be undermined by deforestation or water pollution caused by other economic activities adjacent to their farms. Conversely, if SLM is applied across an ecosystem by different land users, all benefit from the actions of the others and ecological stability can be achieved. Policies in India give substantial rights to communities to manage natural resources and participatory management structures exist within the legislative framework for specific activities, such as forest management and watershed protection. However, these structures have not been mobilized for collective planning, decision-making and actions on a holistic approach to land use and conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem flows.

? *Supply chain operations.* Agriculture cannot be transformed by policy and technical services alone. Farmers sell to markets and respond to the signals that markets give. To change day to day farm behaviour requires their supply chains to demand products that are not associated with environmentally destructive or socially exploitative practices. Innovative supply chain models are needed to facilitate producer-oriented aggregation, more direct access of producers to markets in towns and cities, and distribution of technical, business and financial services to farmers. If farmers are to gain additional

value from producing according to a set of sustainable practices, their output must be traceable in the supply chain rather than mixed with other farm output produced in a more conventional way. Presently, most Indian commodity markets and distribution channels do not work in this way. In addition, capital, including working capital, is a crucial component of a business that depends on seasonal production with increasing insecurity about the timing of rains, because of climate change. Private finance is needed to scale up agricultural transformation, perhaps working in conjunction with public finance to de-risk investment, given the high risks associated with investment in smallholder agriculture. Financing mechanisms available to the agricultural sector presently in India are concerned primarily with a return on investment and do not adequately incorporate environmental and social targets in their loan criteria. Moreover, A business case is lacking for investment in SLM beyond a specific supply chain in which a company or investor has an interest and as a result, capital is not available to develop SLM at landscape scale.

To reduce these threats to land degradation, biodiversity and rural livelihoods and tackle their root causes, the project will seek to lower four barriers to change. Within the Prodoc the four main barriers that were identified at PIF stage have been reworded slightly to ensure greater clarity and emphasis. These barriers have been revised as follows:

? *Barrier 1: Inadequate integration of environmental and social safeguards in agriculture sector policy, insufficient coordination among departments and lack of governance structures for SLM at landscape-scale.* There is limited integration of land degradation, biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation (CCM) issues within agricultural policies and related institutional frameworks. Moreover, while these policies have led to substantial increases in agricultural production, it has often been at the cost of negative environmental consequences. Production of key agricultural commodities has been largely driven by price supports and market demand. Most policies encourage production of a narrow range of crops and use of chemical inputs. For example, farmers grow heavily irrigated crops in very arid regions as a result of the subsidies for pumped groundwater extraction and fertilizers.[8][8] Agricultural investments and support systems are not presently directed towards the promotion of ecosystem-based solutions that consider the farm as a critical piece of a landscape-scale SLM system. To change this situation would require building the capacity and commitment of authorities at all levels to mainstream global conservation values within policies, particularly agricultural policies, and facilitating coordination at central and State government levels of agricultural production with the government?s environmental commitments to the restoration of degraded land, SLM and biodiversity conservation. Even with achieving a higher level of convergence, additional structures are required to enable local communities to play their full part in restoring degraded land, conserving High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF)[9][9] and achieving SLM at landscape-scale. Involving them is essential because of their long-term commitment to the region and their role in the economic and social drivers determining land use. Other parties with economic interests also need to come formally into processes to agree to SLM strategies and targets. The effort to achieve LDN cannot be limited to policies, nor the responsibility placed only on the government; the structures that exist at local levels within the districts should be harnessed to bring together all the interested parties that are using land or influencing how it is used.

? *Barrier 2: Limited knowledge, experience and technologies for sustainable agricultural practices and landscape-scale SLM.* India has many programmes promoting sustainable agricultural management, agroforestry and organic farming, led by government, civil society organizations (CSOs) and private sector companies. However, these initiatives are not yet at a scale relative to the need for agricultural production systems that maximize the use of nature and minimize the damage to it from external inputs and destructive land management practices. India?s smallholder farmers have little capacity or safety valve for taking risks. They need extensive guidance and support to move to applying sustainable agricultural practices that can deliver increased productivity and income. However, most farmers do not have access to the government?s agricultural support and extension

services. Moreover, those services are not resourced and equipped through training in natural farming approaches. Rather, they are still predominantly based on input supply. Extension officers and their support institutions do not have the tools and capacities to equip farmers with the knowledge and services required to deliver growth of agricultural production while conserving biodiversity and maintaining ecosystem services on- and off- farm. With an estimated 90 million smallholders in India,[10][10] more innovative methods and improved reach are required for more of them to benefit from new technologies and information.

? *Barrier 3: Weak market signals and business case for investment in sustainable agricultural production and SLM.* To apply sustainable practices at scale, India?s agricultural producers must have not only access to the knowledge, technologies and services required but also the incentives from the product and financial services markets to make the decision to do so. International commodity markets often recognize and reward sustainable management practices by giving market preference and offering incentives over the market price, but Indian markets have not yet embraced the concept to enable producers to access improved market conditions for their products. For this transformative change to occur, the companies that buy from farmers need themselves to be informed of what is involved in developing responsible sourcing strategies and convinced of the business value of doing so. It implies a changed relationship in supply chains of shared responsibility and exchange of information and knowledge. While Indian companies do support farmers and their communities through many social and environmental initiatives, these are mostly in the realm of corporate social responsibility (CSR), as opposed to business operations. The process of transforming supply chains to incentivize farmers to apply sustainable practices is still at a tiny scale. the business case for private investment in sustainable agriculture and SLM has not been adequately made. Until it is, there are insufficient financial data that can be used as the basis for negotiating with investors, which traditionally point out the high risk of the agricultural sector, with its dependence on weather patterns, volatile commodity markets and preponderance of small producers who lack any experience of managing loans and any collateral to cover the risk. At landscape-scale, the lack of experience to date means that models for the financial sustainability of land use planning and management have still to be developed.

? *Barrier 4: Limited knowledge management and proof-of-concept for learning and scaling up of SLM practices through policies and programmes.* Once successes are achieved in sustainable agriculture and SLM and shown to deliver benefits to farmers, protect and restore ecosystems and reverse the trend of land degradation, they need to be shared widely with other farmers, companies sourcing agricultural products and government departments investing in programmes. A great deal of information on the value of SLM for farmers and the natural environment is presently available through project evaluations that are public documents, web sites of institutions promoting SLM and Indian media channels that write more and more frequently on key environmental and social issues; but mechanisms to share such information are very limited and it is not easily accessible. Government departments miss the opportunity to inform policy development or their programme investments with lessons learnt. Farmers wishing to learn from sustainability initiatives elsewhere in India or in other countries have no platform or other mechanism through which to obtain information or indeed share their own experiences. The most important data set to generate for transformative change is economic. Farmers, especially smallholders, cannot afford to take risks by adopting new techniques that may not give a positive economic return. It is essential to understand and measure the benefits of sustainable agriculture not just for biodiversity conservation and land degradation but also for farmer income. Such data are presently lacking.

The environmental problem, threats, root causes and barriers are elaborated in further detail in the Project Document (Prodoc) sections 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3.

The impact of COVID

The impact of COVID-19 on farmers in India has been severe, affecting the availability of inputs, labour, transport and markets. When the economy was locked down in March 2020, the decline in production across all sections of the economy affected the supply of inputs just at the time when farmers should have been harvesting their *rabi*[11][11] crops. Where supplies were available, shortages led to price increases. Agricultural labour, which is crucial for both harvesting operations and post-harvest handling of produce in storage and marketing centres, became in short supply, as millions of migrant workers returned home. Transport was affected by restrictions on movements and willingness of drivers to continue working. The government-regulated Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMCs), where farmers could receive a secure price selling for procurement by government agencies, were disrupted, as were retail markets.

While impacts were nation- wide, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka States have been strongly affected because they are predominantly agricultural economies. Moreover, Karnataka is the third highest affected State by COVID-19, with over 900,000 cases reported by the end of 2020. It is followed by Andhra Pradesh, the fourth highest number of cases at over 800,000.[12][12] The Hans News Service, which covers Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana and Tamil Nadu, reported an immediate slow-down in the uptake by farmers of CNF once COVID-19 became present in the State.[13][13]

The Indian government?s response was quick and extensive. It made available support for families in the form of cash and food, although a study found that a quarter of agricultural families were eating less because of reduced food crop availability and that a large number of people were not able to access the government?s emergency support. [14][14] The government?s economic recovery package included support for smallholder farmers to mitigate their difficulties. The Reserve Bank of India announced measures to reduce the costs of debt servicing due to COVID-19. Agricultural term and crop loans were granted a moratorium of three months by banks, with a concessional interest rate for crop loans up to INR 300,000 for borrowers with good repayment history. The movement of farm labourers was exempted from lockdown restrictions. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) issued State-wise guidelines for farmers to be followed during the lockdown period, covering specific practices during harvest and threshing of various *rabi* crops, as well as post-harvest, storage and marketing of the farm produce.

Longer-term, the land management practices that the project will promote are well aligned with the international call for nature- sensitive economic reconstruction. The UN Secretary General urged that ?Recovery must focus on 2030 Agenda and SDGs and include restoration of degraded land? (it must) re-balance the relationship between food systems and the natural environment by transforming them to

work better with nature and for the climate[15][15]? The project aims to support that process and demonstrate a more balanced production system. In January 2021, the government launched a nationwide vaccination programme, which is accompanied by a gradual reduction in restrictions to re-build confidence and economic recovery.

2) the baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects;

The baseline has been updated since PIF stage to ensure it is fully up to date with relevant new initiatives, including new government programmes and/or any recent changes to government departments or ministries. The baseline has also been updated significantly to be more specific to relevant state actions at priority locations and as a result of the more extensive information that was gathered on these during the PPG phase.

The **baseline scenario** is that India has an extensive range of policies and programmes related to SLM and conservation of biodiversity. It has established a decentralized structure for delivery of government programmes, in which authority, together with accompanying budget, is devolved to the States and Union Territories. Inter-departmental working groups exist to coordinate on delivering programmes that cut across lines of Ministerial division, such as watershed management.

The Government programmes that have been identified during the PPG phase with objectives compatible with the project?s and on which the project can build are detailed in Table 22 of the Prodoc section 2.6. To summarise, notable programmes from National Government that the project will align and connect with include schemes led by the *Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers? Welfare (MoAFW)* such as the ?Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied Sector Rejuvenation (RAFTAAR)? programme. Established in 2007 with a budgetary allocation of INR 3,700 crores (US$ 489 million) for the year 2020-21, this aims to support State governments in growing agricultural enterprises by providing stronger planning, better co-ordination and greater funding to improve productivity and overall output. The scheme is especially relevant to the project?s aim to facilitate development of value-added packaged products and improved agricultural production units that could benefit from improved infrastructure. Other relevant MoAFW programmes include the Rainfed Area Development Programme (RADP), the Integrated Scheme for Agricultural Marketing (ISAM), and the programme ?Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organizations?. Under the *Ministry of Rural Development*, the project will connect and align with ?Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY)?, a national programme to bring together various water management schemes within different Ministries. The project?s special interest in the Kaveri watershed will be presented to PMKSY for discussions on alignment and cooperation. The Common Guidelines will serve as an important document for the project?s design of activities in the micro-watersheds. Under the *Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)* the project will connect and align with Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (IDWH) a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to provide technical and financial assistance to States and Union Territories for protection of wildlife habitat.

Further relevant examples are outlined within the Prodoc, and as highlighted above, the range of relevant programmes related to SLM and conservation of biodiversity are extensive. However, the coordination in the implementation of government policies is often limited, and this reduces the effectiveness of the significant investments that the government is making in both environmental stewardship and agricultural development.

Whilst MoAFW employs extension officers, who may also support programmes of other Ministries, such as the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, which oversees the Commodity Boards, their reach is inadequate for the very large number of smallholders. The officers are trained and experienced in agronomy and concentrate their effort on key issues affecting crop productivity and quality. They are not generally deployed to train farmers in SLM practices and environmental management, although they may have undergone training in organic agriculture. The importance of farmland in conserving biodiversity is not normally reflected in their work. Only in new initiatives, such as the Community Resource Persons that train farmers in Andhra Pradesh in the CNF system, is there an active training and extension programme that incorporates SLM and biodiversity conservation in its core principles.

As a result, **without the project,** agricultural extension services will not support farmers to build knowledge of SLM practices. In addition, under the baseline scenario, most of the smallholders, who make up over 80 percent of the farming population, are not associated or organized and have little capacity for keeping records or developing business skills. Whilst Government programmes such as those outlined above, for example RKVY, encourage farmer entrepreneurship and organization of farmers into FPOs, point the direction for improvement, they are unable to achieve on their own the level of accompaniment and incentives of new opportunities to access markets or finance that would strengthen farmer motivation and commitment. Producer associations and cooperatives do not even have the same level of access to government support programmes as FPOs; as a result, they cannot deliver an extensive range of services to their members, who remain relatively isolated and dependent on local intermediaries for selling their commercial products.

For farmers to grow as entrepreneurs, they also need access to finance. The government has initiated schemes to mandate commercial banks to lend to the agricultural sector and to reduce interest rates for borrowing by smallholders. Self-help groups across the country have managed savings and loans schemes, and many groups are linked to banks formally through a scheme led by NABARD.[16][16] However, most smallholders are unable to access loans, because the banks require collateral and have demanding procedures. They fulfil their mandated quotas for the agricultural sector by lending to businesses further downstream in the value chain. Therefore, under the present arrangements, the 80 percent of agricultural production that is managed by smallholders is starved of investment capital and has no realistic opportunity of meeting the growth targets aspired to by the government. The large investment committed by the Andhra Pradesh State government to the roll out of CNF, which was publicly endorsed by the Prime Minister in 2019 as a key component of India?s LDN strategy, is a significant boost, but does not remove the long-term need of the programme to attract private investment if it is to be replicated in other States.

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

The **alternative scenario** under GEF7 will see a transformation of farming, land management, restoration and participatory governance for productive and sustainable agricultural landscapes, LDN, biodiversity conservation and improved rural livelihoods in the project landscapes in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. It is a model for the integrated implementation of government policies related to agriculture, water and the natural environment. It mobilizes farmers and communities to take initiatives in support of their common interests to conserve the natural environment, generates awareness and knowledge of biodiversity, SLM and water management, build skills to pursue livelihoods in harmony with them and leverages commitments and investment from commodity companies and financial services organizations to create capacity and motivation for the sustainable use of natural resources.

In policy, through the project, improved processes and coordination mechanisms will increase the alignment between policies related to land use, so that the pursuit of higher agricultural productivity and income does not further deplete water resources, degrade land or threaten biodiversity.

The project will mobilize communities, farmers, local businesses and other stakeholders to articulate their interests in conserving the natural environment on which their common wellbeing depends. They will be given a role in the MSLMBs that sets targets and organizes initiatives to conserve land that is important for biodiversity and ecosystem flows and to restore degraded land outside of farms, including through afforestation. They will introduce a landscape-scale approach that guides economic development so that individual interests do not undermine the efforts of others who are adopting SLM. Sacred groves, which are important biologically and culturally, will be better protected.

On farms across the large project landscapes, the alternative scenario will bring many more farmers into sustainable agriculture production systems that conserve biodiversity, improve soil quality and water retention. Farms will harvest rainwater, conserve forest patches and corridors for wildlife and reduce or eliminate their use of agrochemicals. Farmers already applying those practices will further develop agroforestry systems that further improve soils, provide additional crops and increase the ecosystem services to farmers through pollination, composting, habitat for beneficial insects and shade for young plants. Farmers of food crops will re-introduce indigenous varieties and landraces that strengthen the genetic stock of the crops.

In both landscapes, the executing partners will bring co-financing to training that is undertaken with farmers to enable them to apply the practices of the sustainability systems of RA-SAS and CNF. GEF funds will be invested in additional farm-scale activities that are not part of business as usual but that strengthen their contribution to restoring degraded soils, conserving water and enhancing biodiversity. Activities may include, for example, establishing an agroforestry system, maintaining an ecological corridor or protecting a stream that runs through the farm.

The developments on farmland will be measured for the costs and benefits that they imply for farmers. In the alternative scenario, claims based on hypothesis or modelling will be replaced by hard data that provides credible evidence of the economic impacts of SLM on farmer livelihoods. Farmers will be motivated to adopt practices by knowing that they give a positive financial return. State governments considering investment in CNF or other sustainable agricultural systems will be able to draw on independent evidence from a statistically valid sample of farmers applying them.

Farmers who belong to an association, cooperative or FPO will benefit from the project?s support in strengthening those organizations, with the purpose of improving the marketing and other services that they provide to their members. Farmer-managed organizations will become more skilled in business management and planning through specialist training and in communicating with the market. Their capacity for record keeping will improve and they will develop business plans. This will make them more investment-ready to fuel further growth. Farmers will feel less remote from the supply chains of the commodities they produce and increase their opportunity to keep their products distinct from others that do not apply SLM as they are distributed.

India?s extension services will be boosted by increased exposure to sustainable agriculture practices, as project trainers provide guidance and materials to government extensionists, so that the farmers they reach will also benefit from learning those practices. The government?s agricultural services will align more with other government programmes concerned to conserve natural resources and extension workers will be motivated to learn new skills. The workforce will increase by cascading training in sustainable agriculture practices through technicians in producer organizations and companies to include lead farmers and Community Resource Persons who acquire skills to become trainers.

Under the alternative scenario, new markets in India and internationally will be mobilized to demand products that come from farms applying sustainable agriculture practices. Indian consumers interested to extend social and environment benefit from their purchases to the communities that produce them will have an increased selection of products to buy. New brands will come onto the Indian market, building awareness of consumers about the conditions of farmers and the importance of sustainable agricultural practices. Companies that make commitments will be supported with promotion that validates their claims to their customers of responsible sourcing. In the PPG consultations, a senior officer in MoAFW said that the project would be very valuable if it could bring more demand from the private sector to drive uptake of sustainable agriculture.

Government programmes to facilitate lending from commercial banks to smallholder famers will receive support from initiatives to lower the risk of lending, enabling more smallholders to access loans. Financial services organizations will find new opportunities to invest in the production and supply chains of sustainable products. Private investment will be generated in landscapes that incorporate commodity production and conserve the natural ecosystem, by creating value for the commodities through securing the capacity of the ecosystem to sustain production over the long term.

To achieve these outcomes, the project team identified two landscapes, one in each State, in which agriculture is the main livelihood, there is high biodiversity and land degradation is a significant threat (See Prodoc, section 2.5). Within each landscape, the project will work at two scales. At farm scale, the project will build farmers? commitment to sustainable agricultural practices, including on-farm restoration, primarily through agroforestry. The benefits that the project offers to farmers include: (1) Building capacity and demonstrating a positive benefit-cost ratio on the farm from applying sustainable practices; (2) Strengthening their associations; (3) Enabling their greater access to technical and financial services; and (4) Generating market commitment to source sustainably produced commodities. Working with a large area of farmland across the project landscapes allows for a critical mass of sustainable agriculture and SLM activity that will enable service provision and meaningful dialogue with companies in the domestic and international markets and with financial services organizations.

At the same time, the project will sensitize farmers in the less tangible but critical values of sustainable agriculture for the ecosystem in which they farm: climate resilience, soil quality, water retention and the increased security of a more diversified cropping system. More visibly, applying the best

management practices on farm would ensure that run-offs from farm do not harm the waterbodies in the surrounding landscape. Evidence from the MEL system of RySS suggests that bird species are coming back into the landscape, due to the natural farming activities.

The project will also work at the scale of micro- landscapes. These are areas within the project landscapes where specific priority needs for restoring degraded land and conserving biodiversity have been identified. In these micro-landscapes, the project will involve the local farmers, the wider community and the government authorities in a process of participatory planning and implementation of activities for SLM, restoration and conservation. These local stakeholders will define their priorities and action plans based on their knowledge of how land degradation is affecting their livelihoods and wellbeing. They will be supported by scientific data gathered by the project team on land use change.

In the PPG stage, the micro-landscapes were provisionally identified. It is possible that additional micro-landscapes will be selected during the first year of the project, as the initial selection undergoes local validation and, as knowledge and contacts are built through further consultations with local governments and CSOs when project activities get underway. Dialogue with local stakeholders in the micro-landscapes has not yet begun, for fear of raising expectations before project timelines become clear. Hence, further definition of objectives and land areas is required.

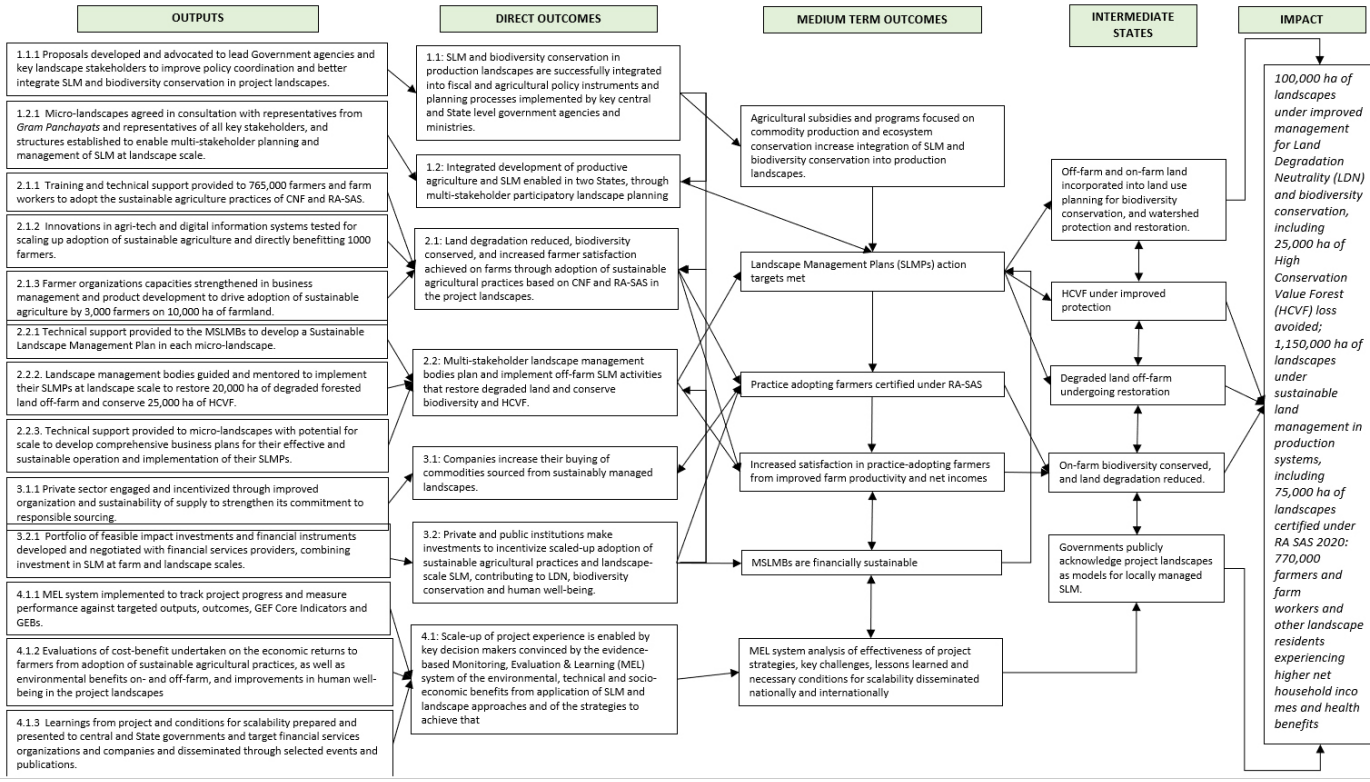
To build the support of the farmers and communities to engage in the participatory planning and commit to joint actions outside the farms, locally based Community Animators will build awareness of the need and mutual benefit from applying SLM at both scales, so that the practices of farmers do not undermine best management practices outside the farm and vice versa. Buy-in will be achieved by bringing all interested parties together to discuss and plan as a group.

Theory of Change

The intervention logic of the project is built from the analysis of threats to the sustainability of agriculture under the present agricultural policies and practices and the barriers to reducing or removing those threats and achieving the transformation of agriculture at scale (see section 1 on barriers, above). The barriers identified ?shortfalls and lack of integration in agricultural policies; absence of governance structures and experience for participatory management of natural resources; insufficient knowledge and access to services and technologies to enable farmers to increase productivity through natural farming techniques, weak signals from markets and investors that would drive sustainable agriculture; and limited evidence of and knowledge sharing about successful sustainable agriculture approaches- provide the organizational framework for the project. Its four components are designed to deliver a set of outcomes, outputs and activities that address the barriers at the levels of policy, production, markets, finance and knowledge building and sharing. The successful delivery and integration of these project results will lead to a situation in which farm yields are increased, farming household benefit economically, biodiversity is conserved, and land degradation is reduced. .

In summary, if farmers and their communities have the market and financial incentives to apply sustainable farm management and landscape-scale SLM and they acquire the necessary political support, skills, knowledge and organization, then transformative change can occur.

This is illustrated in the project?s **Theory of Change** (see figure below).



In terms of the **expected outcomes and components of the project,** variations from PIF Table B are summarized in the table below:

Summary of changes made	PIF	GEF CEO ER/ Prodoc	Rationale
Project Objective and Components			
Project Objective	To reduce land degradation and conserve biodiversity in agricultural landscapes in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka by promoting sustainable agricultural production, supply chains and public-private finance	***No changes made***	***N/A***
Component 1	Enabling institutional structures, fiscal policies, and strategic coordination, at the national and state levels, that promote sustainable agriscapes contributing to Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and biodiversity conservation	Enabling LDN and biodiversity conservation in priority landscapes through national fiscal and agriculture policies and multi-stakeholder landscape management	Amended wording to emphasise the multi-stakeholder element of landscape management and to use more precise language (as recommended during review)
Component 2	Scaling up of sustainable agriculture and landscape management for attaining LDN, biodiversity conservation and inclusive economic growth among rural producers in priority agriscapes of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh	Scaling up of sustainable agriculture and SLM to restore degraded land, conserve biodiversity and improve human wellbeing in priority landscapes	Re-wording to more specific language to: (1) emphasise reduction in land degradation; and (2) make the human wellbeing element holistic of benefits that are not only economic in nature as natural farming/sustainable agriculture is a healthier farming system. The outcome indicator defines meaning and includes economic. Scaling will depend more on individual farmer benefits than more general rural economic growth.
Component 3	Market mechanisms and public-private finance for long-term adoption of SLM practices and increased investment in priority landscapes in the two project states	Market mechanisms and public-private finance for scaling up sustainable agriculture and landscape-scale SLM	Re-wording to emphasise the purposes of engaging market mechanisms and attracting public-private finance by referencing the benefits.
Component 4	Knowledge management and national outreach	Knowledge management and outreach to scale-up sustainable value chains and landscape-scale SLM	Re-wording to clarify the purpose of the knowledge management and national outreach component
Project Outcomes			

Outcome 1.1 name and focus	At the national and state levels (priority agriscapes in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh), the institutional structures, fiscal policies, and strategic planning processes are reviewed and strengthened where necessary to enable transformation of agricultural systems and sustainable land management (SLM) at scale to reverse land degradation, improve community welfare and conserve biodiversity	SLM and biodiversity conservation in production landscapes are successfully integrated into fiscal and agricultural policy instruments and planning processes implemented by key central and State level government agencies and ministries.	Re-wording to shorten and clarify. Also, we decided for consistency of language not to use ?agriscapes? in our document, only ?agricultural landscapes?
Outcome 1.2 name and focus	*N/A*	Integrated development of productive agriculture and SLM enabled in two States, through multi-stakeholder participatory landscape planning	Outcome 1 in PIF was split into two as policy and landscape planning are qualitatively different; the same two outputs in component 1 have been retained.
Outcome 2.1 name and focus	Sustainable agriculture and SLM approaches for attaining LDN, biodiversity conservation and inclusive economic growth are adopted by rural producers in priority agriscapes.	Land degradation reduced, biodiversity conserved, and increased farmer satisfaction achieved on farms through adoption of sustainable agricultural practices based on CNF and RA-SAS in the project landscapes.	Re-wording to emphasize importance of farmer benefits and spell out the two sustainable agricultural systems; off-farm SLM moved to new outcome 2.2
Outcome 2.2 name and focus	*N/A*	Multi-stakeholder landscape management bodies plan and implement off-farm SLM activities that restore degraded land and conserve biodiversity and HCVF.	New outcome on the MSLMBs, which was not clear in the PIF Project Framework yet targeted and formulated in the section 1.3 description. These are the mechanisms well aligned with Indian government policy to achieve sustained impact through empowering local responsibility for managing natural resources responsibly

Outcome 3.1 name and focus	Market incentives for investing in sustainable commodities and value chains are strengthened and barriers to private finance are removed ? contributing to adoption of ZBNF and sustainable farm management, SLM and LDN.	Companies increase their buying of commodities sourced from sustainably managed landscapes.	The market incentives outcome has been split into two more distinct outcomes, one focusing on commodity purchases, and the second (outcome 3.2, below) focused on attracting investment to incentivize sustainable practices.
Outcome 3.2 name and focus	*N/A*	Private and public institutions make investments to incentivize scaled-up adoption of sustainable agricultural practices and landscape-scale SLM, contributing to LDN, biodiversity conservation and human well-being.	As above.
Outcome 4.1	Evidence-based Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning (MEL) system that documents, analyses and disseminates effective intervention strategies for restoring productive landscapes and sustainable food systems to enable uptake and replication at national and state levels.	Scale-up of project experience is enabled by key decision makers convinced by the evidence-based Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning (MEL) system of the environmental, technical and socio-economic benefits from application of SLM and landscape approaches and of the strategies to achieve that.	We meant by ?necessary conditions for sustainability? to provide the knowledge that will enable others to take up and replicate and we have reinstated that in the target; we meant to clarify that we would not be doing the replication
Project Outputs			

Output 1.1.1	Proposals presented for reforms to integrate concerns of food security, land degradation and biodiversity conservation in the National Forest Policy, National Agroforestry Policy and other key policies, and for introducing mechanisms to implement and monitor LDN targets so that there is better integration and replication potential of existing ?sustainable? agriculture sector policy and institutional frameworks.	Proposals developed and advocated to lead Government agencies and key landscape stakeholders to improve policy coordination and better integrate SLM and biodiversity conservation in project landscapes.	Expanded to ensure that proposals will be advocated for as well as developed (which is within scope given this is at output level). In addition, wording has been simplified. The output represents the feedback loop of field experience to policy development that distinguishes the project from one not based in the field
Output 1.2.1	Capacities established and institutional arrangements agreed for effective land use planning, and implementation guidelines at the landscape scale in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh to promote SLM and biodiversity conservation in agriscapes, including off-farm protection of watersheds, biodiversity, high conservation value forest (HCVF), habitat connectivity, and ecosystem services.	Micro-landscapes agreed in consultation with representatives from *Gram Panchayats* and representatives of all key stakeholders, and structures established to enable multi-stakeholder planning and management of SLM at landscape scale.	Capacity development is now covered under output 2.1.1.
Output 2.1.1	Farm-level scale up of agricultural practices that conserve biodiversity and reverse land degradation, particularly the Rainforest Alliance Sustainable Agriculture Standard (RA-SAS 250,000 ha), and ZBNF (1,250,000 ha).	Capacity building and technology transfer delivered towards successful adoption of CNF and RA-SAS practices by 765,000 farmers and farm workers	Scaling by farmers in an outcome so we adjusted language for output level and to emphasize incremental approach to sustainable agriculture, i.e. not business as usual

Output 2.1.2	Smallholders, company technicians, government extension services, and local CSOs are capable to lead on the adoption & replication of RA-SAS and ZBNF.	Innovations in agri-tech[1] and digital information systems tested for scaling up adoption of sustainable agriculture and directly benefitting 1000 farmers.	Covered through output 2.1.1 above. The new output on agri-tech has been shifted from the old output 2.1.4.
Output 2.1.3	Sustainable forest management, protection and restoration of watersheds, biodiversity conservation, HCVF, habitat connectivity, protection of ecosystem services, and landscape restoration agreed and implemented through PPP and impact investments (through 3.2) for stable and productive agriscapes.	Farmer organizations? capacities strengthened in business management and product development to drive adoption of sustainable agriculture by 3,000 farmers on 10,000 ha of farmland.	The original output here is covered through the development of the SLMPs (under outcome 2.2) and the investment component covered under output 3.2.1 This is a new output resulting from PPG process that emphasized need to build capacity of farmer producer organizations
Output 2.1.4	Best practices and innovations in agritech and digital information systems introduced and benefitting farmers, government and companies on upscaling and mainstreaming of sustainable agriculture.	*N/A*	Shifted to 2.1.2 above
Output 2.2.1	*N/A*	Technical support provided to the MSLMBs to develop a Sustainable Landscape Management Plan in each micro-landscape	MSLMBs need to operate based on plans with concrete actions to ensure that the landscape develops sustainably. These SLMPs will be the basis for Business Plans that ensure/ attract investments toward the planned actions in the landscape. Business Plans will also enable MSLMBs to have sufficient financial resources It is also important to have consistency between the two States

Output 2.2.2	N/A	Landscape management bodies guided and mentored to implement their SLMPs at landscape scale to conserve 25,000 ha of HCVF.	Supporting the landscape management bodies will be critical to their success and thus this has been identified as a new output.
Output 2.2.3	*N/A*	Technical support provided to micro-landscapes with potential for scale to develop comprehensive business plans for their effective and sustainable operation and implementation of their SLMPs.	These are essential to prepare for private investment, a key project target
Output 3.1.1	National and international markets leveraged to create incentives for investing in sustainable agriculture production and value chains ? contributing to sustainable farm management, SLM and LDN	Private sector engaged and incentivized through improved producer organization and increased sustainability of supply to strengthen its commitment to responsible sourcing.	The wording was changed to make the language more specific; how will markets be leveraged? By working with companies to develop sourcing commitments
Output 3.2.1	Portfolio of feasible impact investments developed with capital intermediaries and providers ? combining investment in sustainable agricultural/ZBNF with SLM objectives in the priority landscapes.	Portfolio of feasible impact investments and financial instruments developed and negotiated with financial services providers, combining investment in SLM at farm and landscape scales.	Changed to add ?financial instruments? as well as feasibility studies and to replace ?capital intermediaries? which seems rather unclear by ?financial services providers?
Output 3.3	Farmers benefitting with better access to capital by training of producer organizations (FPOs), CSOs and local social enterprises on accessing blended finance in the priority landscapes.	*N/A*	On reflection, this output was unclear, and beyond the sphere of influence of an output. It has been reflected elsewhere in the outcomes.

Output 4.1.1	MEL system implemented to track project progress and measure performance against targeted GEB and Core Indicators; as well as analyses of economics & scalability of ZBNF, and adoption of other best practices	MEL system implemented to track project progress and measure performance against targeted outputs, outcomes, GEF Core Indicators and GEBs.	Scalability moved to 4.1.3
Output 4.1.2	Communications campaign designed and implemented, including dissemination of best practices towards replication of agricultural practices that conserve biodiversity and reverse land degradation	Evaluations of cost-benefit undertaken on the economic returns to farmers from adoption of sustainable agricultural practices, as well as environmental benefits on- and off-farm, and improvements in human well-being in the project landscapes	It was recognized that gathering tangible evidence in the form of cost-benefit analyses will be critical. The business case for project-endorsed practices cannot be assumed a priori. Best practice adoption needs to make sense to farmers? pockets, and the project needs to prove that this is the case, prior to developing communications materials.
Output 4.1.3	*N/A*	Learnings from project and conditions for scalability prepared and presented to central and State governments and target financial services organizations and companies and disseminated through selected events and publications.	Once the required evidence has been gathered for all project components (Output 4.1.2), it will be systematized and analyzed, and learnings shared, including scalability of the project?s holistic approach to SLM.
GEF Budget			
Component budgets were adjusted	Component 1: $589,023 Component 2: $3,038,233 Component 3: $1,561,783 Component 4: $779,421 PMC: $298,423 **Total: $6,266,883**	Component 1: $ 822,561 Component 2: $ 3,376,340 Component 3: $ 890,847 Component 4: $ 878,712 PMC: $ 298,423 **Total: $6,266,883**	Component budgets have not changed significantly since PIF stage
Cofinancing			
Component budgets were adjusted	Component 1: $4,949,374 Component 2: $19,050,626 Component 3: $44,000,000 Component 4: $250,000 PMC: $1,750,000 **Total: $70,000,000**	Component 1: $1,500,000 Component 2: $ 50,431,138 Component 3: $ 11,681,933 Component 4: $ 1,603,544 PMC: $ 3,373,385 **Total: $68,590,000**	The majority of (cash) co-finance has been secured through RySS for scaling up CNF explaining the high percentage under component 2. It is expected to generate new co-finance for component 3 as companies step up interest in the market opportunity.

Criteria for landscape selection

The project team undertook a research and consultation process in each State to select the project landscapes, in accordance with a PPG plan drawn up and approved by UNEP. A desk review of relevant information on biodiversity and socio- economic data, land use and land cover, incidence of drought, crops and presence of key commodities was gathered, mainly using published government documents and IUCN?s Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT). Land use and land cover was mapped for the districts that were identified as most important for the project?s objectives. Consultations were held with the concerned national and State level government officials and selected CSOs working in the two States. The landscapes were then defined through evaluation of findings with the executing partners, with respect to the criteria set.

Five criteria for selecting the landscapes were proposed in the Project Identification Form (PIF) and validated at the inception workshop for application in the PPG phase. Further detail on the locations of the selected landscapes is included in section 7.

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

The project is aligned with the **GEF 7 Land Degradation (LDN) focal area** goals of: 1) aligning GEF support to promote UNCCD?s LDN concept through an appropriate mix of investments; and 2) harnessing private capital and expertise to finance investments in SLM, in particular in cooperation with the LDN fund and other innovative financing mechanisms[2]. In terms of Biodiversity, the project is aligned with **the GEF 7 Biodiversity (BD) focal area** goal to ?maintain globally significant biodiversity in landscapes and seascapes? and its related objectives to: 1) Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes 2) Address direct drivers to protect habitats and species; and 3) Further develop biodiversity policy and institutional frameworks.

The project is also aligned with the government?s analysis of land degradation and its approach to LDN, as outlined by the Prime Minister at the Conference of Parties (COP) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in September 2019. He identified the main causes as: (1) over-exploitation of land though excessive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides and over-grazing of livestock; (2) deforestation; and (3) poor irrigation practices; and the three main solutions as: (1) afforestation; (2) sustainable agricultural practices; and (3) water resource management- ?When we address degraded lands, we also address water scarcity. Augmenting water supply, enhancing water recharge, slowing down water run-off and retaining moisture in the soil are all parts of a holistic land and water strategy?[3].

Within the project, the MSLMBs will have targets related to biodiversity conservation in their landscapes, for example, output 2.1.3, which will encourage landscapes to apply new practices that conserve BD, such as the protection of riparian areas, increasing shade cover or erecting bio-fences to protect animal movement. A focus of this work will be on identified HCVF that requires stronger protection. Policy development can support their activities. IUCN is presently engaged on an expert committee of the Government of India to develop a methodology for recognizing Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECM)[4], areas that are not formally protected but have significant biodiversity value. NBA is involved in this process, which is relevant for the project, as it will work outside areas that are part of the protected areas network.

India made a voluntary commitment to the Bonn Challenge to bring into restoration 13 m ha by 2020 and a further 8 m ha by 2030, with an estimated economic benefit of US $6.5 billion and carbon sequestration benefit of 1.99 $GtCO_2$[5]. In 2019, the government increased its commitment to 26 m ha and formalized it with the UNCCD. Under output 1.1.1, the project will work with the responsible government agencies and specialist partners to ensure that government policies, procedures and measurement mechanisms necessary to implement and monitor the restoration targets are in place, and to ensure that land restored under this project will count towards implementation of the Bonn challenge in India. The project will seek to facilitate alignment of India?s National Action Programme under the

UNCCD with the criteria of the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund (LDNF)[6], and in that way facilitate potential financing opportunities. The project would also be one of the transformational projects in line with India?s LDN land restoration targets under UNCCD.

Under the present arrangements, the 80 percent of agricultural production that is managed by smallholders is starved of investment capital and has no realistic opportunity of meeting the growth targets aspired to by the government. The large investment committed by the Andhra Pradesh State government to the roll out of CNF, which was publicly endorsed by the Prime Minister in 2019 as a key component of India?s LDN strategy, is a significant boost, but does not remove the long-term need of the programme to attract private investment if it is to be replicated in other States.

The purpose of the project is to support the government towards achieving India?s LDN and Aichi targets and develop the agricultural sector in line with the principles of the National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture and now the new National Coalition for Natural Farming. It aims to demonstrate additional value to central and State government programmes that relate to land use and agricultural production, so that those can take up the learning from the project and replicate the approach elsewhere in the two project States and beyond.

For example, adjustments in agricultural policy implementation that strengthen incentives for farmers to seek solutions to their concerns regarding crop productivity and water availability from natural farming techniques will point the way towards wider application that follows the Prime Minister?s call for sustainable agriculture and water conservation across the country (Outcome 1.1). At the level of the *Gram Panchayat,* the project will demonstrate how structures that have been created to enable local participation in managing natural resources can be strengthened to bring together different sectors to develop and implement a concerted plan for land use that conserves HCVF and ecosystem services that are vital for sustainable economic development (Outcome 1.2). A successful model can be replicated because such structures extend across the country.

The project will be executed in close and continuous coordination with the interested central and State government Departments. As results and learning about success factors are achieved, there will be immediate opportunities to share and discuss those with them. As it confirmed in the PPG phase, the government is expecting that the project develops a good model for achieving productivity, biodiversity conservation and LDN, so that it can then invest in scaling up and replicating the model beyond the project landscapes.

In addition to the political authorities, the project is targeted at agricultural producers, to build their knowledge and understanding of sustainable agricultural practices and accompany them through training and technical assistance in their application of the practices (Outcome 2.1). As positive results are experienced by the farmers, and validated by the project?s M&E system, replication can occur through government extension workers, whom the project will involve and who are part of a national system. The formal studies that the project will undertake will get wide dissemination, especially given the high-level political interest and State government investment in CNF (Outcome 4.1). Other State governments will follow this lead if they are convinced of the value for their farmers.

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

No change in expected contribution from the GEF TF.

However, the sources and amounts of cofinancing have changed from PIF stage. The number of sources of co-financing has been reduced and simplified (see co-finance table in section C, above). The total co-finance contribution has only slightly reduced from US$ 70,000,000 to US$ 68,590,000 (and is

expected to increase significantly during project life through identified convergence with government programmes and new investment by private sector).

The baseline associated with this project is US$ 51,200,000 (estimated as the amount of co-financing that would anyway have been invested without the project). The GEF Alternative has been costed at US$ 74,856,883. The incremental cost through implementing the project is US$ 23,656,883, of which US$ 6,266,883 is requested from GEF, with US$ 18,290,000 leveraged in co-financing for the alternative scenario.

Most of the GEF funds invested in land use will be in the micro- landscapes, which include farmland and target specific restoration and conservation objectives to create SLM at a scale necessary to conserve ecosystem flows. The two scales of the project are linked through the economic rationale of maintaining a healthy ecosystem for long-term production and livelihoods benefits. The project aims to demonstrate a model for a supply-chain approach to work within a landscape context, in which people use land according to an agreed plan, and in which investments by business and financial services organizations incorporate the larger land area beyond the individual farms and supply chains.

The incremental cost reasoning analysis for the project is explained in further detail in section 3.7 and Appendix 3 of the Prodoc. In summary, the incremental costs analysis is as follows:

Baseline (without project) scenario	**Incremental GEF investment**	**GEF Alternative, including Global and National Environment Benefits**
Component 1: Enabling LDN and biodiversity conservation in priority landscapes through national fiscal and agriculture policies and multi-stakeholder landscape management		

Baseline (without project) scenario	**Incremental GEF investment**	**GEF Alternative, including Global and National Environment Benefits**
- Policies on sustainable agriculture will be undermined by subsidies that do not promote practices designed to retain increase soil nutrients and moisture retention, and drought will remain a problem in the project landscapes. - Coordinating among multiple stakeholders to address biodiversity conservation and restoration of degraded land in globally important landscapes will be lacking and the people most affected by the land use in the area will have little voice in decision-making processes. - HCVAs will remain outside of formal protection - Sacred groves will continue to suffer degradation as traditional values and beliefs are weakened.	- Improved processes and coordination mechanisms to increase the alignment between policies related to land use, so that the pursuit of higher agricultural productivity and income does not further deplete water resources, degrade land or threaten biodiversity. - Local stakeholders will articulate their interests in conserving the natural environment on which their common wellbeing depends. and participate in landscape management body to restore degraded land outside of farms and conserve land that is important for biodiversity and ecosystem flows. - Structures and processes will be created to prepare proposals for HCVA conservation and awareness raised about biological and cultural importance of Sacred groves	- SLM better integrated into production landscapes through three adjustments to implementation and coordination of policies relating to agricultural subsidies, commodity production and ecosystem conservation. - 10 bodies established and formally recognized, comprising elected representatives of local stakeholders, with a mandate to plan and oversee SLM at landscape scale and mobilize community action. - Communities organized to improve protection of Sacred groves
Component 1 **Baseline funding:** US$0	**GEF funding:** US$ 822,561 **Co-financing:** US$1,500,000	**GEF alternative: US$** 2,322,561
Component 2: Scaling up of sustainable agriculture and SLM to restore degraded land, conserve biodiversity and improve human wellbeing in priority landscapes		

Baseline (without project) scenario	Incremental GEF investment	GEF Alternative, including Global and National Environment Benefits
- Forest cover may continue declining in Kodagu district, the most important coffee-growing district in the country. - Vulnerability to the landslides that occurred in 2017 and 2018 with such devastating effect will continue without concerted effort to conserve the forests, restore land and afforest to improve the resilience of the coffee production landscape, which is vital for livelihoods. - India?s agroforestry policy, which encourages the planting of trees on farm to improve soil quality, retain moisture, diversify the farm economy and enhance carbon sequestration, will not be widely taken up. - Agricultural extension services will not support farmers to build knowledge of SLM practices. MoAFW?s extension officers will maintain their focus on crop productivity and quality, rather than SLM - Smallholders, who make up over 80 percent of the farming population, will remain largely unorganized, with very little opportunity to improve their performance as businesses.	- Farmers will apply improved soil and water management techniques to improve soil nutrients and moisture retention and conserve biodiversity. Farms will harvest rainwater, conserve forest patches and corridors for wildlife and reduce or eliminate their use of agrochemicals. - Farmers will increase take-up of agroforestry systems that further improve soils, provide additional crops and increase the ecosystem services to farmers through pollination, composting, habitat for beneficial insects and shade for young plants. - Farms in CNF will re-introduce indigenous varieties and landraces that strengthen the genetic stock of the crops. - Farmer-managed organizations will become more skilled in business management and planning and in communicating with the market. Farmers will feel less remote from the supply chains of the commodities they produce. - India?s extension services will be strengthened in sustainable agriculture practices and farmers they reach will benefit from learning those practices. The government?s agricultural services will align more with other government programmes concerned to conserve natural resources. The workforce will increase by cascading training through technicians in producer organizations and including lead farmers and Community Resource Persons who acquire skills to become trainers.	- 765,000 farmers and farm workers implementing sustainable agricultural practices on 1,150,000 ha farmland in the project landscapes. - 125,000 ha of degraded land on farms restored, including through five later system - 1,000 farmers applying a new technology - 2,000 technicians, including lead farmers and CRPs, trained in sustainable agriculture practices - 10 FPOs with strengthened business management, including a digital information system - 6 new packaged food products in production, using crops grown in project landscapes. - 135,000 ha land on- and off-farm under improved management for biodiversity conservation. - 25,000 ha of HCVF under improved protection

Baseline (without project) scenario	Incremental GEF investment	GEF Alternative, including Global and National Environment Benefits
Component 2 **Baseline funding:** US$ 50,000,000	**GEF funding:** US$ 3,376,340 **Co-financing:** US$ 50,431,138	**GEF alternative:** US$ 103,807,478
Component 3: Market mechanisms and public-private finance for scaling up sustainable agriculture and landscape-scale SLM		
- The government?s ambitious target for export growth of agricultural products is unlikely to be met - The potential for growth in the Indian domestic market will remain under-developed; the few very small initiatives have started to package and brand food products and target them to the urban markets will struggle to grow. - Beneficial government schemes for financing smallholders will continue to miss their targets because of commercial bank procedures and attitude to risk. - Private investment in SLM at farm scale and sustainable supply chains will remain low; and SLM at landscape scale will not attract investment	- New markets in India and internationally will be mobilized to demand products that come from farms applying sustainable agriculture practices and supported with promotion - Indian consumers interested to extend social and environment benefit from their purchases to the communities that produce them will have an increased selection of products to buy. New brands will come onto the Indian market, building awareness of consumers about the conditions of farmers and the importance of sustainable agricultural practices. - Through financial innovation risks will be lowered for commercial banks to lend to smallholders. - Private investment will be generated in landscapes that incorporate commodity production and conserve the natural ecosystem., by creating new blended finance mechanisms.	- 35 companies sourcing sustainable commodities from project landscapes - US$ 5 million invested through private and blended financing mechanisms in SLM - 5,000 new farmers accessing loans to invest in sustainable agricultural practices
Component 3 **Baseline funding: US$** 723,700	**GEF funding:** US$ 890,847 **Co-financing**: US$ 11,681,933	**GEF alternative: US$** 13,296,480

Baseline (without project) scenario	Incremental GEF investment	GEF Alternative, including Global and National Environment Benefits
Component 4: Knowledge management and outreach to scale-up sustainable value chains and landscape-scale SLM		
- There will be a lack of robust data to quantify the value to farmers of applying SLM practices, as proposed by RA-SAS and CNF, increasing risk level for farmers and external investors. - There will continue to be no measurement system for landscape-scale impacts applied - No new data or financial models will drive government take-up of project successes	- The developments on farmland will be measured for the costs and benefits that they imply for farmers, providing data-driven evidence of the economic impacts of SLM on farmer livelihoods. - Landscape measurement tools will be introduced to provide evidence of impacts of SLM at landscape scale - Project learning and success factors will be shared with government	- Cost-benefit analysis of application of sustainable agricultural practices demonstrates credible results for farmers in economic terms. - Implementation of landscape-scale monitoring system generates robust data on SLM indicators - Project results and learning about success factors provokes new programme investment by government.
Component 4 **Baseline funding: US$** 0	**GEF funding:** US$ 878,712 **Co-financing:** US$ 1,603,544	**GEF alternative:** US$ 2,482,256
Project Management Cost	**GEF funding**: US$ 298,423 **Co-financing** US$ 3,373,385	**GEF alternative:** US$ 3,671,808
Total Baseline funding: US$ 50,723,700	**GEF funding: US$ 6,266,883** **Co-financing: US$ 68,590,000**	**GEF alternative: US$ 125,580,583**

6) global environmental benefits (GEFTF);

The project?s contribution to GEF-7 Core Indicators, as defined in the Updated GEF-7 Results Architecture, is shown in the table below.[7] The project will directly impact 1,150,000 ha of agricultural land, including restoration of 75,000 ha of degraded land, and manage 100,000 ha of land

for biodiversity and LDN, including conserving 25,000 hectares of HCVF. It will directly benefit an estimated 770,000 people (304,000 women), of which 765,000 are farmers and farm workers and 5,000 are other beneficiaries, including service providers to farmers, community members and other stakeholders who participate in or benefit from the landscape management activities. Over the five-year lifetime of the project, an estimated 5,601,545 tonnes of Carbon emissions will be avoided in the AFOLU sector (22,406,180 tCO2e over 20 years).

*Global environmental benefits generated by the project**[8]***

GEF Core Indicator/GEB		**Project definition**	**Project target**		
			On farm	Off farm	**Total**
3.1	Area of degraded agricultural lands restored (ha)	Land restored on farms in project landscape	75,000		**75,000**
3.2	Area of forest and forest land restored	Off farm forested land that will be restored in project landscape			**0**
4.1	Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (ha, non-certified)	Land on- and off-farm in project landscapes that applies measurable practices in RA-SAS system to conserve biodiversity (excludes value of 4.2)	60,000	75,000	**135,000**
4.2	Area of landscapes that meet national or international third-party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations	Certified area in project landscapes under RA-SAS system	75,000		**75,000**
4.3	Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems	Farm area under RA-SAS or CNF (excludes values of 3.1, 4.1 and 4.2)	940,000		**940,000**
4.4	Area of High Conservation Value forest (HCVF) loss avoided	Area of HCVF (KBAs, wildlife corridors, Sacred groves, reserve forests, community conserved areas, forested areas protecting watersheds) identified and under improved protection		25,000	**25,000**

GEF Core Indicator/GEB		Project definition	Project target		
6.1	Carbon sequestered or emissions avoided in the AFOLU sector (tCO2e over 20 years)	Estimated emissions reductions total over 20 years (5,601,545 over 5 years) (tCO2e)			**22,406,180**
11	Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment	Farmers, farm workers, trainers, service providers, stakeholders engaged in landscape management	765,000	5,000	**770,000** **(304,000 women)**

The *changes* to the GEBs (since PIF) are summarized in the table below:

Number	Project Core Indicator	PIF	GEF CEO ER/ Prodoc	Rationale
3.1	Area of degraded agricultural lands restored (ha)	130,000	75,000	The PPG found that (i) some of the targeted farmland does not need/nor classify the term 'degraded farmland',
3.2	Area of forest and forest land restored	20,000	0	

4.1	Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (ha, non-certified)	350,000	135,000	yet rather in need of improved and more sustainable farming practices for generating multiple GEB (captured under 4.3). As a result, 3.1 target has decreased. Note: Some restoration of degraded land occurs on all farms that apply sustainable agriculture practices and natural farming through soil management, composting, etc. ? but we have maintained a distinction between sustainable management (4.2 and 4.3) and specific activities on farm beyond sustainable management that restore land and conserve BD, such as developing agroforestry systems (including the RySS Five Layer Model) tree planting increasing cover crops to strengthen the soil nutrient cycle, protecting a stream from run-off, etc. Through micro-landscape governance, the project will impact an estimated 135,000 ha to benefit biodiversity (wildlife corridors preserved, strengthened local biodiversity structures, community mobilisation, etc.).

4.2	Area of landscapes that meet national or international third-party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations	0	75,000	This does not represent a newly added target. In the PIF, the targets were not broken down to the same degree, so this area of certified land was previously included as part of the larger 4.3 target. As such, this does *not* represent a change in strategy from the PIF to the CEO ER, simply re-categorizing and being more specific about the land within the target. Certification according to the Rainforest Alliance standard has always been part of the project design to provide a market incentive to farmers to apply sustainable agriculture practices, especially in commercial crops, such as coffee and spices directed at export markets. The costs related to certification will all be covered by certified companies, and not by GEF resources. During the PPG phase, market research also concluded that the Indian domestic market has good potential for certified products. The COVID-19 pandemic has further raised consumer interest globally in products produced through healthy farming systems and also in the traceability of products from farm to market, a characteristic of certification.

4.3	Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems	1,350,000	940,000	The target stated in the PIF concerned the estimated total area of landscapes combined in the two States ? yet did not specify which part to be targeted for SLM. At CEO there is no actual difference from the PIF target but a difference in the measurement system to be adopted by RySS in Andhra Pradesh from that understood in the PIF. RySS will work in the project on 1,000,000 ha of land towards sustainable production systems in Andhra Pradesh. It is estimated that by the end of the project, 50 percent of this farmland area will be fully converted to natural farming, with the balance being completed after the project?s life through the anticipated State Government of Andhra Pradesh programs (see also below).

4.4	Area of High Conservation Value forest loss avoided	150,000	25,000	While the PIF already confirmed that the project would not work inside PAs and target only the corridors and buffer zones of concern to both PA connectivity as well as water catchment functions (which we assumed would all concern HCVF areas especially in Karnataka); the PPG however confirmed the much smaller areas of HCVF in the selected and targeted micro-landscapes and which being key to sustainable agriculture production, the protection of watershed and other ecosystem services functions, as well as with less overlap for connectivity related to PAs. As such the reality in the field is that the project can only provide incremental support towards the conservation/avoided loss of 25,000 ha HCVF.
6.1	Carbon sequestered or emissions avoided in the AFOLU sector (tCO2e over 20 years)	0	22,406,180	Due to limited data at PIF stage, this estimate had not yet been made

11	Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment	1,700,000	770,000 (304,000 women)	The over-estimation in the PIF was due to incorrect assumptions about farm size, which after field assessment appeared to be at average 40-50% bigger per farmer family; it was clarified in the PPG phase that the Prodoc adjustment more realistically reflects the number of individual farmers in the targeted areas that will directly benefit and is still considered a very large target group seen against the resources available.

7) innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up. ?

The project?s approach of working at multiple scales and with participatory processes will create the enabling environment, institutional capacity, knowledge and incentives to continue aligning agricultural production with SLM and biodiversity conservation beyond the project?s life.

The project will work closely throughout its life with the relevant Ministries and State Departments. It will develop its outputs in coordination with corresponding government programmes, as identified (see section 2.6 in the Prodoc), so that the project?s achievements can be integrated into the implementation of those programmes in future. Through its work on policy (Outcome 1.1), the project will strengthen the environmental focus of agricultural policy implementation and facilitate effective alignment between the objective of higher productivity and the objectives of protecting biodiversity, conserving water and maintaining soil quality.

By promoting sustainable agriculture across two large landscapes, the project will demonstrate how natural farming practices can deliver positive economic results for the farmer, as well as other elements of wellbeing, such as a healthier environment in which to live and work, improved variety of crops and more security about the supply of water. Soil fertility will be maintained, and future productivity secured (Outcome 2.1). As positive results are demonstrated, government agencies and famers will step up their interest, farmer to farmer exchanges will occur, and adoption will be scaled up. The incorporation of training in business management to increase farmer entrepreneurship will further

strengthen the case for adoption and motivate younger farmers to see farming as a viable livelihood option, as well as help producer organizations of smallholder farmers to become more bankable.

The project will generate robust evidence of the positive results on farmers through cost-benefit analysis and case studies (Outcome 4.1). The dissemination of the results obtained with both the producers as well as the government, will strengthen the case for adoption of sustainable agricultural practices and influence government programmes to support it, all ensuring stronger likelihood of potential scale up.

As well as increasing farmers? capacity to apply practices, the project will enable the growth of a network of trainers who are informed about sustainable agricultural practices and have supporting materials to train farmers. The trainer selection and training process in communities, where lead farmers and Community Resource Persons are selected, builds skills, knowledge and motivation that will help keep people in farming. The involvement of government and company technical staff will help to embed the sustainability concepts into common practice in extension services. This will in turn be facilitated by developing training resources together with the government to secure its buy-in (Outcome 2.1).

At landscape scale, the project will enable stakeholders who have a common interest in maintaining a healthy natural environment, because they all benefit from its ecosystem services, to come together to define and undertake initiatives beyond farms for LDN and biodiversity benefits (Outcome 2.2). The project will leverage structures already created for participatory management of natural resources, such as the local committees for Biodiversity Management, Joint Forest Management and Watershed Management, to develop consolidated landscape-scale management bodies (Outcome 1.2). These will give a voice and a vote to the local interest groups in conserving environmental services from which they all benefit, restoring degraded land, protecting areas of biological and cultural importance and promoting agricultural production systems that contribute to SLM and the achievement of LDN. The project will ensure that the process is inclusive of women and minority groups, creating a socially equitable structure for long-term environmental sustainability.

The market-based approach of the project will make a strong contribution to the sustainability of the results achieved, because it will influence supply chain dynamics in support of SLM at farm level. Companies that commit to responsible sourcing will drive demand for sustainable production through the supply chain (Outcome 3.1). Additional costs incurred by farmers, which will be recovered over time on farm through improved performance, may be offset additionally by premiums paid to the farmers by companies to reflect the additional value of products that deliver social and environmental benefits. The certification system that the project will incorporate through Rainforest Alliance, strengthens the market incentive by providing companies with third- party verification and enabling them to carry the message to their customers and consumers.

Some companies will invest beyond their purchasing budgets to employ their own trainers and technicians, whom they deploy to train farmers. Moreover, a few forward-looking companies are now investing in landscape-scale SLM, recognizing that their long-term supply security is affected by the ecological health of the ecosystem outside the farm and the threat of deforestation that threatens ecosystem services and leads directly to climate change. The project will harness these market forces, especially in Karnataka, and thereby strengthen the role that the private sector plays in transforming agriculture to a sustainable approach as a logical business choice.

By building the business case for sustainable agriculture and landscape-scale SLM, the project will stimulate investment at both scales through blended finance models that accompany the private investment in sustainable production and marketing activities and de-risk it through integrating into the investment grant finance for capacity building, infrastructure or other items that offer no direct financial payback but present barriers to market (Outcome 3.2). Sustainability becomes mainstream when it attracts private investment. Demonstrating and presenting in investment proposals the economic, social and environmental returns of a sustainable production landscape, the project will be able to leverage new financial instruments that are recently under development.

Other means to disseminate positive results of sustainable agricultural practices and the other project outputs related to farmers receiving improved services from socially representative and democratically governed producer organizations include the innovative digital information service and the activities that will be organized to share learning with interested stakeholders. Rainforest Alliance works with farmers? organizations around the world. Learning and resources are shared among countries for continuous improvement of practice through the internal knowledge management system. The training department will provide support to the project (co-financed) to ensure that it has access to resources and to integrate learning on effective techniques into its resources for technical teams in different countries.

Rainforest Alliance?s participation as a founding member of the initiative, One Thousand Landscapes for One Billion People, led by Eco-Agriculture Partners, will create an effective channel for replication of success in mobilizing landscape-scale SLM (Outcome 2.2), The initiative is creating a suite of resources to guide and support landscape-scale projects across the tropical world. The project?s activities and learning will be shared continuously with the initiative as a contribution to the process of developing best practices in landscape-scale development.

In addition, the mobilization of companies operating in commodity markets (Outcome 3.1) and of financial services organizations (Outcome 3.2) has substantial replication potential. Indian companies that will engage with the project have buying operations across the production zones of their sector, with the potential replication likely to extend to other districts of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka and into Tamil Nadu and Kerala. The certification system that is expected to be picked up by coffee and spices companies facilitates replication, as companies apply it across more products sourced from outside the project landscape. International companies have the capacity to replicate the approach to sustainable agriculture to other countries by demanding products that comply with the practices leading to certification.

The main activity of the project in finance is to develop blended approaches for larger-scale finance in SLM, which is most likely- from research undertaken in the PPG phase- to flow through supply chains, with additional financing beyond the farm in activities in conserving the landscape to enable long-term sustainability of commodity production. The institutions targeted for developing this approach have programmes elsewhere in India and (in some cases) other countries and will be keen to extend successes into their further portfolio development.

In summary, the project aims to demonstrate the additional value of an approach in which policy, SLM, participatory governance, markets and finance work in an integrated way. The project?s success and clear articulation of the success factors would provide the motivation and justification for replication beyond the project participants and landscapes.

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[1] Agri-tech is the use of technology that is developed to improve farm yield, efficiency and profitability. It can be products, services or applications derived from agriculture that improve various input/output processes.

[2] See Guidelines for the Application of the ?Scientific Conceptual Framework for Land Degradation Neutrality?. GEF. 2019. https://www.thegef.org/council-meeting-documents/guidelines-application-scientific-conceptual-framework-land-degradation.

[3] Speech, 9th September 2019.

[4] The CBD defines OECM as ?*A geographically defined area other than a Protected Area, which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the in situ conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem functions and services and where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio?economic, and other locally relevant values.? (CBD, 2018)*

[5] http://www.bonnchallenge.org/content/india

[6] The Land Degradation Neutrality Fund was launched in September 2017 at the UNCCD COP to channel public and private money for sustainable land management and landscape restoration activities. The Fund is managed by Mirova, an affiliate of Natixis Investment Managers, and has a Technical Assistance Facility, managed by the Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH).

[7] GEF Assembly Background Note: Updated GEF-7 Results Architecture. June 2018

[8] In the Results Framework (Appendix 4) value under 3.1 is included in Core Indicator 4.3 . Values in 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4 do not overlap, although the descriptions do overlap to some extent. For example, 4.2. area of certified land is a sub-set of 4.1 but the value of 4.2 is not included in 4.1.

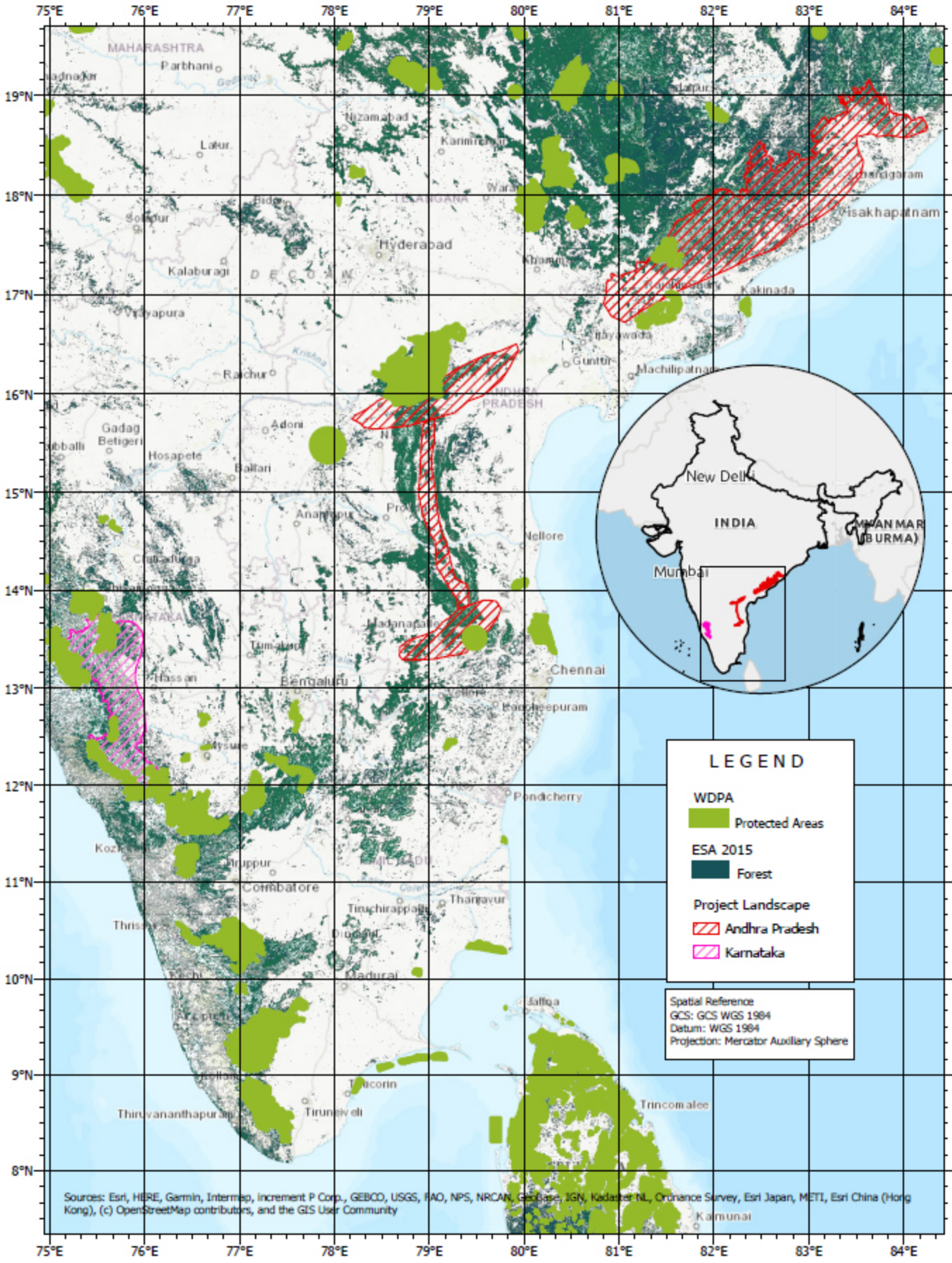
1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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

Map 1 (below) shows the location of the wider project landscapes against grid-referenced latitude and longitude lines, from which geo-referenced coordinates can be determined. The Andhra Pradesh landscapes fall within two areas: (i) the most northern landscape area within Andhra Pradesh lies in a pentagon between 19.14?N, 83.60?E at its most northern point, to 16.43?N, 80.73?E at its most southern point, 16.43?N, 80.73?E at its most western to 18.35?N, 84.02?E eastern; (ii) another three large landscape areas that lie in a pentagon between 16.29?N, 80.08?E; 13.62?N, 79.84?E; 13.36?N, 78.71?E; 15.73?N, 77.92?E. The Karnataka landscapes will all fall within the pentagon 13.66?N, 75.96?E; 13.38?N, 75.02?E; 12.44?N, 75.41?E; 11.95?N, 76.09?E.

Please note that these coordinates are only available at a high level at this stage, as the micro-landscapes within these larger pentagons are yet to be more specifically determined, which will happen during project inception.

Map 1: Project Landscapes in Karnataka (pink) and Andhra Pradesh (red) with Latitude and Longitude grid references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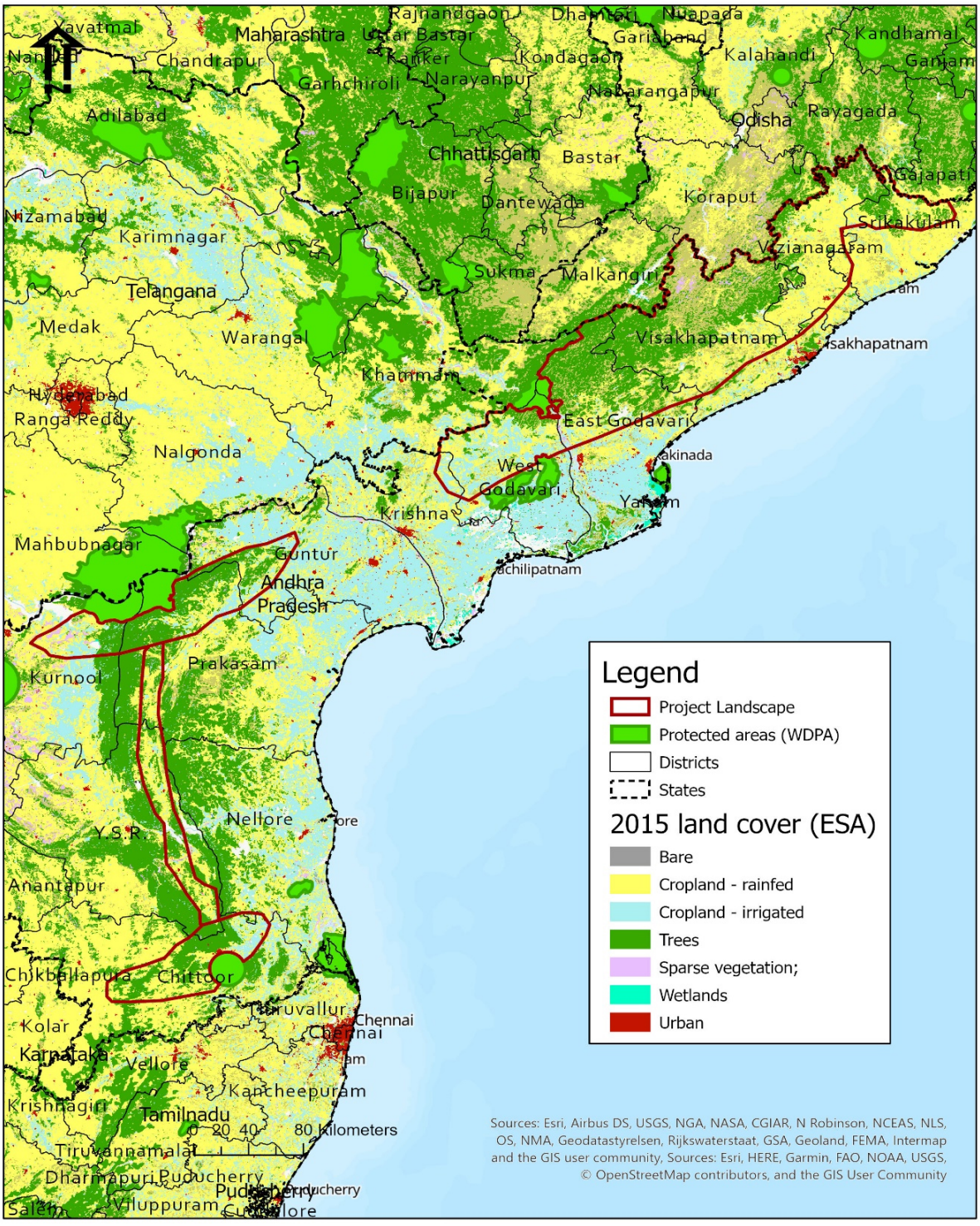
Latur
Nizamabad
Karimnagar
Warangal
TELANGANA
Bidar
Solapur
Hyderabad
Kalaburagi
DECCAN
Vijayapura
Raichur
Krishna
Visakhapatnam
Kakinada
Vijayawada
Guntur
Machilipatnam
ANDHRA PRADESH
Gadag Betigeri
Adoni
Hubballi
Hosapete
Ballari
Anantapur
Nellore
Chitradurga
Tumakuru
Hassan
Bengaluru
Chennai
Kanchipuram
Mysuru
Pondicherry
Kozhikode
Tiruppur
Coimbatore
Tiruchirappalli
Thanjavur
Thrissur
Dindigul
Madurai
Kochi
Alappuzha
Kollam
Thiruvananthapuram
Tirunelveli
Tuticorin
Jaffna
Trincomalee
Kamunai
New Delhi
INDIA
MYANMAR (BURMA)
Mumbai
LEGEND
WDPA
Protected Areas
ESA 2015
Forest
Project Landscape
Andhra Pradesh
Karnataka
Spatial Reference
GCS: GCS WGS 1984
Datum: WGS 1984
Projection: Mercator Auxiliary Sphere
Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Andhra Pradesh landscape

From the Inception workshop consultation and desk review, seven of the thirteen districts of Andhra Pradesh were identified as those where agriculture is important, there is significant forested area and important biodiversity. All seven fall within the Eastern Ghats. The project team decided that the project landscape should encompass the main agricultural areas in the seven identified districts[1], a total of 3.775 million ha. The landscape falls into the East Coast plains and hills agro-climatic zone no. 11 (see Map 2) and there is a small overlap with the Southern plateau and hills agro-climatic zone no.10. The priority area will be the hill zone in the northern district of Visakhapatnam. It is an important area for animal and plant biodiversity and has a large tribal population, who are considered vulnerable and are a priority for the State government to support.

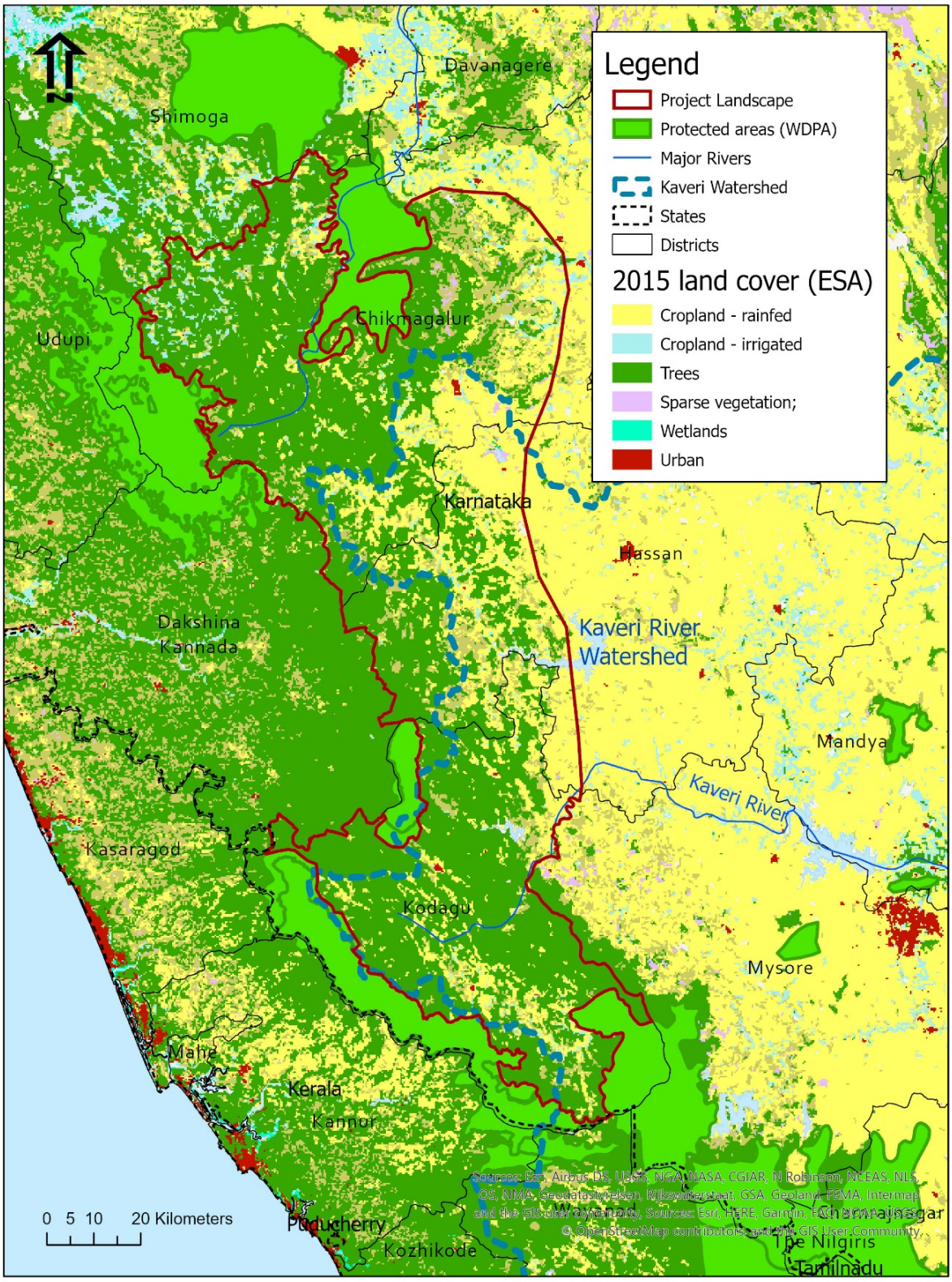
Map 2: Andhra Pradesh Project Landscape



Karnataka Landscape

Based on discussions among the project executing partners and other stakeholders in the landscape, the project team decided to select a landscape in Karnataka that overlaps with the river Kaveri?s 81,000 km2 of watershed. The landscape, covering 901,000 ha, is a biodiversity hotspot and falls in the West Coast plains and hills agro-climatic zone no. 12 (Map 3). There is a small overlap with the Southern plateau and hills agro-climatic zone no. 10.

Map 3: Karnataka project landscape



[1] While the landscape is considered to operate in seven districts, its north-eastern tip crosses into Srikakulam district and the southern tip into Chittoor district.

1c. Child Project?

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

2. Stakeholders

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

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none of the above, please explain why:

Government, CSO and private sector stakeholders will play an active role in project execution, as summarized in the table below and **in further detail in Prodoc Section 5: Stakeholder Participation**. Through the implementation arrangements, the project will be closely connected with UNEP, while the Project Coordinator will develop a broader engagement with the UN country system. Over the lifetime of the project, the project team?s interactions with stakeholders will expand, as activities get underway and new opportunities for market development, partnerships and alignment with other programmes occur.

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

Stakeholder mapping conducted

The stakeholders consulted in the PPG phase were in five categories: (1) Central government Ministries and State government Departments; (2) Indian and international CSOs working in the project States in the broad field of biodiversity conservation and sustainable production; (3) Producer organizations, including FPOs; (4) Companies in the domestic and international markets that buy agricultural commodities; and (5) Financial services organizations.

The PPG research, mapping and stakeholder consultation focused on land degradation and biodiversity in the landscapes for project implementation, supported by RySS, which also led State government consultation in Andhra Pradesh. Rainforest Alliance staff in India undertook additional consultation with central and State governments, CSOs and producer organizations and developed a baseline of the coffee and spices sectors, as those are the primary crops targeted in the Karnataka project landscape. A consultant in agribusiness and finance was contracted to consult financial services organizations on potential models for attracting private investment. UNEP?s National Coordinator for India facilitated several contacts with central and State government officials.

In accordance with normal process for GEF PPGs, stakeholder mapping consisted of numerous field visits, an inception workshop, further meetings with central and State government officials, as well as CSOs, producer organizations and companies, to present the project and understand their perspectives.

Due to the corona virus situation in India, it was not possible to plan and hold a physical Validation workshop, however an online validation workshop was held by video conference on 12 August 2020 (Section 5). In order to ensure adequate consultation on the draft project design, the project team prepared updated materials about the project (briefing note and power point presentation) and undertook individual and small group consultations with the central government, each State government (Andhra Pradesh in June 2020 and Karnataka in July 2020), target partners and other key stakeholders. Senior government and IA officials signalled the value of the project as a contribution to India?s land restoration targets and commitment to LDN, and its relevance at the start of the United Nations Decade of Ecosystem Restoration. The project team explained that it had not been possible to complete all necessary government consultations prior to the workshop and that the team would continue during the project review period. Achieving convergence with government programmes in the project landscapes will be a critical strategy not just to achieve scale in the project?s life but also to ensure that the project is aligned to government policy and thereby to provide the basis for ongoing impact after the project ends.

In total, 68 stakeholder institutions were consulted during the PPG phase. A summary by category is given in the following table:

Stakeholder institutions consulted during PPG phase**[1]**

	Total
Central government	10
State government (Andhra Pradesh)	6
State government (Karnataka)	6
CSOs (national)	14
CSOs (international)	7
Companies (national)	9
Companies (international)	6
Financial services organizations	6
Producer organizations	4

Stakeholder participation in project execution

Central government	

MoAFW	As National Nodal Agency, MoAFW will chair the PSC, and house the PMU once confirmed by the Ministry, and specifically the Project Coordinator in its offices. It will also chair the Project Inception workshop. It will ensure that the Project Coordinator is fully informed about and connected to the Ministry?s key Missions, schemes and programmes. It will support where necessary the Project Coordinator?s engagement with other Ministries and State Departments to ensure alignment of the project with government policies and programmes regarding natural resource use, agricultural commodity development and welfare of tribal people. and to facilitate the project?s convergence with those.
MoEFCC	As GEF focal ministry and UNCCD focal point, MoEFCC has responsibility in government for the issues of biodiversity and land degradation. It will co-Chair the PSC and ensure that the Project Coordinator is fully informed and connected to the Ministry?s key Missions, schemes and programmes. The Project Coordinator in turn will keep MoEFCC fully informed about the project and hold periodic meetings outside of the PSC to achieve this and discuss opportunities for convergence.
National Biodiversity Authority	The NBA is an autonomous body within MoEFCC. It has participated actively in the PPG phase and proposed the Biodiversity Management Committees as coordinating structures for the MSLMBs in the micro-landscapes. This will be taken up where there is geographical alignment and local validation. In those situations, close coordination will occur between the Landscape Mangers and the State representatives of the NBA, as well as the local coordination in the micro-landscapes with the BMCs. The NBA is expected to be a member of the PSC.
Ministry of Commerce and Industry	The Ministry houses the Commodity Boards, and the Coffee and Spices Boards are key stakeholders in the project. The relationship with the Boards will be led by the Senior Technical Officers in each State, while the Project Coordinator ensures that the Ministry is informed of the project?s activities. In the project landscapes, the project team will seek convergence with the programmes of the Boards, and with the National Sustainable Spices Programme, in which the Spices Board of India participates.
State government Departments	
Department of Agriculture (Andhra Pradesh)	The Department of Agriculture in Andhra Pradesh has a unique role in the project, because RySS is an autonomous State government organization within the Department, whose representative is the Chair of RySS. As such, it will guide RySS?s approach in the project and provide the political support for the project?s promotion of CNF. It is expected to be a member of the PSC.

Department of Agriculture (Karnataka)	The Department of Agriculture in Karnataka also incorporates Watershed Development and is the key Department for coordination at State level. The Senior Technical Officers will lead this. The Department will support the project team with guidance and information about opportunities for convergence with its programmes. Additionally, it is hoped that it will make its technicians available for training in sustainable agriculture, so that the project?s approach is integrated into the Department?s technical capacity. The Department is expected to be a member of the PSC.
Other State government Departments	The Ministry of Rural Development (rural development), Jal Shakti (sustainable use of water and conservation of water resources) and Ministry of Tribal Affairs (well-being of tribal communities) have an interest in the project. Relationships will be maintained mostly at State level through the corresponding departments. The purpose is to ensure the project?s alignment with policies and its convergence with State programmes where possible.
CSOs	
Rainforest Alliance	Rainforest Alliance is the lead Executing Agency for the project and responsible for coordinating the planning, execution, monitoring and evaluation of all partner activities, organizing Steering Committee meetings, maintaining close and continuous relations with the government Ministries and fulfilling the financial and progress reporting requirements. It will guide and support KMFT in the technical execution in the Karnataka landscape, according to the sustainable agriculture practices of RA-SAS. It will mobilize Indian and international companies to create demand for sustainably produced commodities and facilitate new blended financial investment in the micro-landscapes and agricultural supply chains.
Foundation for Ecological Security	FES will be the Executing Agency for IUCN. It will lead the policy component of the project (Outcome 1.1) and provide the guidance and technical support to establishing the MSLMBs and developing their SLMPs across both landscapes.
Kodagu Model Forest Trust	KMFT will be a key executing partner for Rainforest Alliance in Karnataka It will deliver training and technical support to farmers and smallholder groups in sustainable agricultural practices, based on RA-SAS. It will engage and oversee the Community Animators in the micro-landscapes. Further, it will engage and oversee a specialist in human-wildlife conflict. Through its integration with the College of Forestry, it will mobilize students to participate in the project?s M&E system to support gathering data.

Kovel Foundation	The roles envisioned for Kovel Foundation as a partner of RySS are to: (1) Lead the planning and implementation of marketing of NTFP products and forestry- related activities; (2) Coordinate in mapping the local and indigenous knowledge of tribal communities in the project landscape; (3) Coordinate field testing of digital platform applications among forest dependent communities. Kovel is a key agency and go-to partner for activities in the tribal areas in Visakhapatnam district, Andhra Pradesh, Therefore, it is expected that its role may become more significant as the project develops closer alliances with other initiatives in the region.
Centre for Sustainable Agriculture	CSA will be contracted by RySS to undertake the following work areas: (1) Build capacity of local partner CSOs to form FPOs and develop appropriate business plans; (2) Build capacity of households on value chain activities and marketing; (3) Coordinate designing and implementing digital solutions across the farming communities in the Andhra Pradesh project landscape.
Watershed Support Services Activities Network	RySS will partner with WASSAN to: (1) Support the project with GIS related analysis and data collation, for the larger landscape and selected microsites; (2) Lead the planning and implementation of integrated farming practices.
Jattu Trust	Jattu Trust will be a partner of RySS to: (1) Refine the existing training curriculum to cover biodiversity conservation, soil, water and agroforestry systems; (2) Facilitate the Train the Trainers programme on planning landscape-scale activities, including biodiversity conservation; (3) Develop the skills of field technicians
Private Sector	

Tata Coffee	Tata Coffee (a division of Tata Consumer Products Ltd.) is the most active private company in the project landscape in Karnataka. As a member of KMFT, it will indirectly engage with the project?s activities, and through its close relationship with Rainforest Alliance, it will drive market demand for certified coffee. It is expected to develop bilateral collaboration in programmes related to biodiversity conservation and sustainable land use during the project?s life; and will represent the private sector on the PSC.
Other companies	Other companies purchasing products in the project landscapes (Table 18) will generate demand for sustainable agricultural production that motivates uptake by farmers of CNF and RA-SAS. A few companies will have capacity and interest to invest additionally in initiatives to support the project objectives. A further few will have technicians that can be trained in sustainable agriculture practises.
Financial Services Organizations	
Rabobank	Rabobank and the financing agencies through which it operates its guarantee scheme will engage with the project team to co-develop opportunities for private financing as part of a blended finance package to drive SLM at landscape scale.

The project design includes several mechanisms to ensure the above stakeholders? participation during project implementation, including the following:

Multi-Stakeholder Landscape Management Bodies (MSLMBs)

The MSLMBs are set up to determine and implement Sustainable Landscape Management (SLM) at a landscape scale and will be responsible for the development and implementation of the Sustainable Landscape Management Plans (SLMPs), based on stakeholders sharing a vision of conserving the biodiversity in the landscape. Government representatives participate in the formalizing of the MSLMBs which comprise representatives of local political authorities, decentralized government bodies established to give communities a role in natural resource management, farmers, companies and representatives of all demographic groups in the micro-landscape.

Project Inception Workshop

The project inception workshop, chaired by MoAFW as the National Nodal Agency, will present the approved project document to direct stakeholders and the public. The project inception also represents the official launch of the project and presents stakeholders with the work plan of the project. Design details will be fine-tuned during the inception workshop and period in order to ensure that implementation is well-attuned to local needs and circumstances, and to ensure that stakeholders have sufficient opportunity to engage with and contribute towards the project design.

Project Steering Committee (PSC)

The Project Steering Committee (PSC) is the oversight, advisory and support body for the project and ensures representation of key stakeholder groups and interests in the project execution. As National Nodal Agency, MoAFW will chair the committee, assigning a senior official as its representative for the project to play this role. A senior official of MoEFCC will serve as Co-Chair on the PSC. It is expected that The National Biodiversity Authority will have a seat on the PSC, given the key role of its local structure as a basis for the landscape management bodies. Senior representatives from the two State governments, Rainforest Alliance, RySS and key partners will also be represented on the PSC. Additionally, each Co- Implementation Agency, UNEP and IUCN, will be represented on the PSC. Tata Consumer Products Ltd. and Rabobank India will be invited to nominate a member, to bring the private sector perspective. The exact composition of the Committee will be finalized once the project is approved.

Technical Coordination Committee (TCC)

A Technical Coordination Committee, chaired by the Project Coordinator, will be formed, comprising the field teams of Rainforest Alliance, RySS, their partner organizations and FES. Other organizations, particularly external specialists, may be invited, as appropriate. The Committee will guide approaches in the planning and implementation of landscape scale activities and discuss progress and challenges encountered. With regards to stakeholders, the TCC is relevant as it will be the vehicle for bringing in technical external expertise, which may include, for example, that of academic institutions or other expert CSOs such as those identified during the baseline analysis (section 2.6 of the Prodoc).

Preliminary draft Terms of Reference for all of these bodies are given in Prodoc Appendix 10.

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[1] Table considers each different government department as a unit

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

Communications and Dissemination of Information

The project has several targets for public awareness building and communications: (1) Farmers, to orient them in sustainable agriculture practices; (2) Community-level stakeholders, who will be developing their SLMPs and taking initiatives at landscape scale to protect the natural environment; (3) Government officers, with whom close communication is essential during project execution to ensure alignment with their policies and programmes; (4) Companies, in support of their commitments to responsible sourcing, to inform their customers and consumers about the social and environmental issues in their supply chain and how these are being addressed through project and other activities; and (5) Institutional stakeholders, including CSOs working in the field of sustainable agriculture and landscape development, which will be very interested in the project?s results.

Establishing the landscape planning and management structure (Outcome 2.2) will require raising awareness across the communities, related private sector entities, and local authorities of the value of biodiversity and ecosystem conservation and restoration of degraded land. The approach will be through consultation, mapping and review meetings in the target micro-landscapes with the stakeholders. Facilitating multi-stakeholder meetings requires a different skill from training farmers, especially to give adequate opportunity and voice to communities to contribute. The project will draw on materials developed in other countries on the processes and value of landscape management to support the community outreach.

Building the awareness and support of government officials for the project?s approach will be carried out mainly by personal engagement and is a major responsibility of the Project Coordinator, who will have the support of Rainforest Alliance?s Country Director, who is based in Delhi, and the senior managers of RySS, who are based in Guntur, and in regular contact with other senior government officials at State and central levels. Periodic project updates will be made through project Steering Committee meetings and in power point presentations and short briefing notes, so that all interested Ministries and Departments can be kept informed of progress.

Both Rainforest Alliance and RySS will be active participants in events that take place in India to discuss sustainable production and supply chains. One that is widely attended by CSOs is the annual conference of the Centre for Responsible Business.***[1]*** Industry also hosts relevant events, where sustainability is regularly discussed, including IBBI***[2]***, the Confederation of Indian Industry***[3]*** and the Institute of Directors.***[4]*** Such events provide an opportunity to speak and network with important stakeholders, as well as debate success factors and challenges in promoting sustainable production systems.

As the project documents successes and accumulates a substantial body of knowledge, so opportunities for communication to the government, companies, CSOs and the public will increase. The project will engage external media to support the building of awareness in India about sustainability. It will also provide material to the project?s Implementing Agencies, IUCN and UNEP, so that they also can promote the project though their communications channels.

Grievance Mechanism

A grievance mechanism will be established as an integral part of the participatory, conflict resolution and planning process, and published so that all stakeholders are aware of its existence. It will be operated as part of the governance mechanism, once that has been established. Until that time, the Project Coordinator will be responsible for receiving and responding to grievances.

Activities, Training and Engagement Plans

The lead responsibility for communicating with farmers and community-level stakeholders rests with the technical staff assigned to the project. They will receive the support of the technical and training specialists of the two lead executing agencies, Rainforest Alliance and RySS. The key to success in training (Outcome 2.1), which will be measured by attendance (segregated by gender) and levels of adoption of the training content, is not just the quality of the content but the capacity of a trainer to communicate it. Hence, training materials of three types will be produced: technical manuals for trainers, guidelines for effective communication in training, and materials for farmers, which should be primarily visual and where words are used, in the language of the State (Telugu for Andhra Pradesh and Kannada for Karnataka). Printed materials will be supported by digital resources. As well as the digital information app, My Crop Care, Rainforest Alliance will maintain its online training platform[5] (both co-financing), which has an extensive range of photographic and video material to guide farmers on sustainable agricultural practices.

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[1] http://www.c4rb.org/events&updates

[2] http://www.indo-germanbiodiversity.com/subproject-indian+business+andd+biodiversity+initiative.html

[3] https://www.cii.in/Events.aspx

[4] https://www.iodglobal.com/

[5] https://www.rainforest-alliance.org/business/training/

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor; Yes

Co-financier;

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

Executor or co-executor;

Other (Please explain)

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.

During PPG stage, the gender analyses conducted identified the local gender issues relevant to each project location and as they pertain to different stakeholder groups, including tribal groups (see Prodoc section 2.4). Whilst there are notable examples of projects promoting and supporting, for example, Women?s Self-Help Groups in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka (see Prodoc p65), women?s empowerment has not permeated more traditional institutional structures. In the coffee sector, women are estimated to make up 63 percent of the total workforce on coffee plantations, the highest percentage in any plantation sector*[1]*. Migration of men to towns leads more women to assume farm ownership and management roles, as well as labourers. Yet, a very much lower percentage of women are represented in member- based organisations of coffee growers. One reason is that women are often not registered landowners, because land title is in the husband?s name. This consideration will influence the project?s interaction with producer groups, to make sure that barriers to participation of women are understood by the members and steps taken to remove them, such as allowing wives of farmer landowners to register as members with their husbands.

The information from the gender analyses conducted has been built into the design of specific project activities. For example, at a community level, gender sensitization activities will be included in community interactions; the organization of training will allow for constraints on women for attending and the project will strive to train women trainers, as this has been found to increase women?s participation in training events. As highlighted above, the PPG research confirmed that women are under-represented in producer organizations, while groups have substantial social as well as economic value for women (see Prodoc section 2.4). The project will involve women in all aspects of planning and implementing activities. Producer groups will be required to develop gender policies as part of the group strengthening process and such policies should define locally determined steps to increase women?s membership of groups and their assuming officer roles.

The Senior Technical Officers will be the key functions for ensuring that the project fulfils its gender mainstreaming approach (Section 5 of the Prodoc, and also on page 27 of this document). Drawing on support from a gender specialist consultant, they will ensure that the technical teams at farm and landscape levels are trained and committed to pro-actively promote gender equity in carrying out their activities. The gender specialist will be engaged from year 2 to guide gender mainstreaming and train the project?s technical teams working at farm and micro-landscape levels. The specialist will maintain involvement in subsequent years to monitor progress and propose adjustments in activities and approaches.

In addition to the gender mainstreaming plan (outlined below), the project M&E system has disaggregated performance indicators by gender, so that the participation of women in the project and the resulting benefits can be understood from a gender perspective (see Prodoc Appendix 3 Results Framework).

Gender mainstreaming in the project:

In line with the 2018 GEF Policy on Gender Equality, the project will take the opportunities that are relevant to the project activities to address gender gaps and promote the empowerment of women. For example, the PPG research confirmed that women are under-represented in producer organizations, while groups have substantial social as well as economic value for women (Prodoc Section 2.4). The project will involve women in all aspects of planning and implementing activities. The table below outlines how this will apply in the different project activities and its governance structure.

Component	Activities	Gender approach
Component 1. Enabling LDN and biodiversity conservation in priority landscapes through national fiscal and agriculture policies and multi-stakeholder landscape management	Consultation will take place at village level to build awareness of the importance of SLM and biodiversity conservation and to generate commitments for collective initiatives.	Technical teams will ensure that women and minorities are properly included in consultation process
	Local structures will be created to enable participatory landscape management	Women will be fully included in the process to select representatives and have representation on the multi-stakeholder bodies created.

Component 2: Scaling up of sustainable agriculture and SLM to restore degraded land, conserve biodiversity and improve human wellbeing in priority landscapes	Farmers will be trained in sustainable agricultural practices	The timing, location and structure of training events will be tailored as far as possible to allow for women?s household and caregiving responsibilities. Training courses in the project will be tailored to the project?s priority technical areas. Similarly, they will include topics of special interest to women, such as improved nutrition, which is a key benefit of natural farming and a specific objective of CNF. Trainers will be taught how to be aware of, responsive to and advocate for gender equity and equipped to counter negative gender stereotypes. Emphasis will be given to training women trainers.
	Producer groups will be strengthened and trained in business planning and management	Producer groups will undertake self-assessments of their gender practices and make appropriate action plans to improve them, for example targeting women for officer roles. Women tend to have financial management skills, developed in managing household budgets. Women members of producer organizations will have equal access to such training, with a view to strengthening their participation in the organization and improving their status.
Component 3: Market mechanisms and public-private finance for scaling up sustainable agriculture and landscape-scale SLM.	Value addition to commodities will be facilitated, for example through processing, packaging and certification	Women?s enterprises will be supported in the project landscapes to develop new products and new markets, including through leveraging government programmes with this objective.

	New mechanisms will be developed to enable smallholder access to finance	The importance of including women farmers as targets for loans will be communicated in discussions to develop these mechanisms.
Component 4: Knowledge management and outreach to scale-up sustainable value chains and landscape-scale SLM	The project will measure project performance against targets	The M&E system has disaggregated performance indicators by gender, so that the participation of women in the project and the resulting benefits can be understood from a gender perspective (see Appendix 4 Results Framework)
	The project will undertake a farmer survey on perceptions of wellbeing	The representative sample of farmers to take part in the survey will be gender balanced.
Governance	The project will have a Steering Committee and Technical Committee The Project Coordinator will be a member of Rainforest Alliance staff.	Ensure women?s representation on Steering Committee and other Committees or ad hoc groups. Rainforest Alliance has a full-time gender specialist in its global technical team, who will guide mainstreaming gender in project activities.
Project budget		Adequate GEF budget has been made available to gender inclusion in training and M&E data collection, as well as review of performance against gender targets (see Appendix 1 in the prodoc)

To summarise, and in accordance with the GEF7 Results Reporting Policy, the proposed project will:
- identify relevant gender differences and gaps in their analysis (see gender mainstreaming table, above);
- address these differences and gaps through specific measures (see gender mainstreaming table, above); and
- link measures to gender-sensitive indicators in the project results framework (see project results framework).

[1] S Patkar. 2015. Gender and the plantation sector: Explorations into the world of women?s work in coffee plantation of Kodagu district.2015. Center for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram/ Department of Commerce and Industry.

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

Yes

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

Improving women's participation and decision making Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women Yes

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

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

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

The strategy for introducing public and private financing in the project draws on conclusions from the PPG consultation and research, where fifteen companies (nine national companies and six international) were involved in stakeholder consultation. The same participatory approach inclusive of the private sector will continue from PPG stage through to project implementation, monitoring and evaluation. To support the achievement of project outcomes, private sector engagement is necessary at different levels. Most importantly, they will provide the market incentive for producers of commodities to adopt the sustainable agricultural practices promoted by the project. Supported by the international markets team in Rainforest Alliance, the project team will build on existing relationships with companies that have been established through certification and aim to strengthen their sourcing commitment. At a project governance level, two private sector partners (Tata Consumer Products Ltd and Rabobank India) will be invited to sit on the project steering committee. Private sector partners will also be engaged at a landscape-level, with interaction ensured through participation on mechanisms such as the multi-stakeholder landscape management bodies (MSLMBs).

Leading companies are already setting an example of engagement beyond the particular farms in their supply chain. The coffee sector, severely affected in recent years by the impacts of climate change on coffee plant diseases and loss of land in torrential rains, is particularly active, as companies invest to secure their future supply of raw material without further destroying or degrading the natural environment or damaging their corporate reputations. They are also interested to remove deforestation from their supply chains and to reduce the carbon footprint of their operations. Research undertaken in the PPG phase suggests that coffee, as a perennial crop, is also the most interesting sector for financial service companies.

The increasing interest of the private sector in supporting landscape-scale approaches because deforestation or carbon neutrality cannot be achieved at only a farm scale, strengthens the project?s rationale and facilitates company engagement. For example, Tata Coffee has partnered with the Nature Conservation Foundation and Tamil Nadu Forest Department to study the impact of habitat modification on the breeding biology and nesting behaviour of the Great Indian Hornbill. Insights from this study were used to design strategic interventions, which included increasing food plant diversity, protecting trees for nesting and roosting, and restricting human activity[1]. Nedcoffee is investing in tree planting in Kodagu?s coffee growing region. The project will build on the relations established through certification with the leading coffee and spices companies operating in the project landscapes to present the opportunity to these and other companies to leverage the project investments to make an additional contribution to a more sustainable production landscape that will help secure their supply of raw materials over the long term. Rainforest Alliance has several such partnerships in other countries.

In terms of project execution, private sector participation will include the following companies:

Tata Coffee	Tata Coffee (a division of Tata Consumer Products Ltd.) is the most active private company in the project landscape in Karnataka. As a member of KMFT, it will indirectly engage with the project?s activities, and through its close relationship with Rainforest Alliance, it will drive market demand for certified coffee. It is expected to develop bilateral collaboration in programmes related to biodiversity conservation and sustainable land use during the project?s life; and will represent the private sector on the PSC.
Other companies	Other companies purchasing products in the project landscapes (Table 17) will generate demand for sustainable agricultural production that motivates uptake by farmers of CNF and RA-SAS. A few companies will have capacity and interest to invest additionally in initiatives to support the project objectives. A further few will have technicians that can be trained in sustainable agriculture practises.
Financial Services Organizations	
Rabobank	Rabobank and the financing agencies through which it operates its guarantee scheme will engage with the project team to co-develop opportunities for private financing as part of a blended finance package to drive SLM at landscape scale.

As highlighted above, engagement with private sector partners will be sustained on an ongoing basis throughout the project, with companies expected to show even greater interest once they see project activities underway and are relevant to sourcing areas and targeted crops. Whilst there has already been strong corporate interest in the project, this is expected to increase further during project execution, with companies such as Nestl?, Olam, McCormick & Company Inc., Griffith Foods, SLN Coffee,

Nedcoffee, ITC and others (all consulted during PPG stage, see table 18 in prodoc section 2.5), expressing significant interest and asking to be re-engaged to discuss further details around collaboration once the project has been approved.

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[1] Tata Sustainability Group. 2020. The Web of Life

5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

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

While risks identified at PIF stage have largely been maintained, further knowledge gathered throughout project preparation from stakeholder workshops, baseline studies and literature research has allowed to complete the picture about risks that the project is likely to face. The risk rating is based on the probability of a given risk occurring combined with its potential impact on the success of the project. The risk assessment matrix used for scoring is shown in table below. The key risks that could threaten the achievement of results though the chosen intervention strategy are shown, alongside the mitigation measures, which will be continuously monitored and updated throughout the project, and will be reported in the PIRs. Risks change during a project and the evaluation of them and the required mitigation measures will be updated at least annually by the Steering Committee as part of the review of progress and approval of subsequent work plans. Significant changes will be reported to UNEP and IUCN in the Project Implementation Review (PIR).

Table 1. Risk Assessment Matrix

Risk description	Probability	Impact	Mitigation measures

Policy risk Change in government policy could occur, especially regarding support to CNF. During the PPG phase several articles have appeared in serious media questioning its approach; this situation reflects the concern that while meeting environmental criteria, the system represents risk for the farmer?s productivity and hence income.	Low	High	The project is well aligned with Indian government policies and priorities (see Section 3.6). The government has confirmed these in its Five-Year Plan (2019-2024), so that the policy environment is stable. Moreover, MoAFW has established a National Coalition on Natural Farming in 2020, and the Minister has spoken publicly in 2020 to confirm a strong support of the concept. During the PPG phase the project team has met continuously with central and State government officials. Key comments have been taken account of in the Prodoc, for example the inclusive approach to sustainable agriculture that does not make the project dependent on only one system. Nevertheless, the CNF system will be dominant in Andhra Pradesh. To counter the risk to farmers, RySS promotes application of CNF on farms over a period of three to five years, during which the farmer can evaluate the benefits. The project will support credible studies to demonstrate the cost benefit of CNF and of RA-SAS, which will be dominant in the Karnataka project landscape. Such studies will provide data to support the debate on CNF, which is likely to continue, as it challenges some of the fundamental approaches in Indian agriculture over the last fifty years.
Legal risk Two potential risks were identified in the Environmental, Social and Economic Review Note (ESERN)- now replaced by the Safeguard Risk Identification Form (SRIF) -relating to the rights of indigenous peoples on lands and territories on land on which the project will work; and to child or adult forced labour occurring in the project landscapes	Low	High	See Prodoc Section 3.11

Land use risk Competing demand from other sectors could intensify if farmers perceive better financial returns from other cropping systems. The total amount of land under agriculture could reduce if the trend intensifies of. young people choosing not to pursue agriculture as their livelihood because the economic return is too low. Continued pressures of growing urbanization may threaten agricultural areas adjacent to towns.	Moderate	Moderate	The predominantly food crop systems under CNF are less susceptible to crop conversion, as they are generally quite well diversified. The risk is higher with cash crops, where volatile commodity prices impact farmers? decisions. The project will provide technical support to farmers on issues that concern them, such as pest and disease control, and enable a higher return from the land through natural solutions. Most coffee farmers in the project landscapes have farmed the crop for a long time and will prefer improving their coffee yields than moving out of the crop. Young people will be more encouraged to stay in agriculture when it becomes more business-like. Strengthening FPOs and producer groups and supporting their business planning and access to financial services will resonate with people who want to bring a more entrepreneurial approach to farming.
Forest conversion risk Pressure on land also contributes to the conversion of forested land for agricultural purposes. Even though producers are trained on how to obtain improved production on existing farmland, smallholders may still encroach on forest to expand their production.	Moderate	High	Under the project, the SLMP process will seek agreement with a broad representation of stakeholders to reduce these negative developments and build commitment to planning and implementing SLM practices. The MSLMBs will also organize monitoring land use, including the protection of HCVF. Monitoring by peer groups is likely to be more effective than monitoring from outside the group. At farm scale, the risk will be managed through the uptake of sustainable agriculture practices that educate farmers about the value of forests and biodiversity for the productivity and resilience of their farms CHF farmers are in continuous contact with the CRPs. The RA-SAS system incorporates a formal auditing and certification process that verifies that no forest conversion or destruction of natural ecosystems has taken place on farmland. The project targets uptake of certification in Karnataka, where it is already established.

Climate Change risk *(see also further information on climate risks below this table)* Climate change impacts, especially drought, as dry seasons become longer and rainfall less frequent, may render agriculture no longer viable in some regions.	Moderate	High	The CNF and RA-SAS farm management systems promoted in the project incorporate measures to build climate change resilience, through improved soil quality and water retention, natural techniques for managing pests and diseases and maintaining cover crops and shade canopies. The systems incorporate assessment of climate change risk and design and application of practices to mitigate and adapt to climate change, to build farmer understanding and encourage proactive response, including conserving trees, planting native trees and not encroaching on forested land. The agroforestry concepts that the project will promote enable farmers to become more productive and diversified economically, leading to more secure livelihoods.
Finance risk Farmers will require access to finance to convert their practices; yet most cannot secure credit or loans on reasonable terms. At landscape scale, private investment is needed to scale up restoration of watersheds and conservation of HCVF, yet few companies or financial services organizations have yet entered this field to date.	High	High	CNF has demonstrated the success of organizing self-help groups to access bank finance. The project will build on this experience and engage with Indian financing facilities to reduce barriers for smallholders to access finance from the several government facilities that exist (Section 2.4). The project?s approach of strengthening business management capacity and market linkages of farmer groups and FPOs will create a better opportunity for attracting independent private finance from commercial banks that will reduce dependence on value chain finance. At landscape-scale, selected micro-landscapes will develop business plans and promote them for blended finance investment, in which grant funding reduces the risk for private investors. The project?s connections to the growing field of landscape finance will strengthen its approach, and companies and financial services organizations are beginning to recognize the importance for long-term growth and security of investment of working at this scale.

Attitudinal risk Farmers may resist adopting sustainable agricultural practices because of fear of change and risks, lack of available farm labour or pressure of local traders who might be threatened by strengthening of farmer organizations. Farmers may be reluctant to work with local authorities and other stakeholders on SLM in the landscape (on- and off-farm)	Moderate	High	The project will use bottom-up approaches to training and technical assistance, drawing on resources within the communities, as with the CRPs trained by CNF; farmers respond best to their peers. Farmers themselves are worried about climate change and experiencing its negative effects. An approach to training and extension that builds from their concerns and addresses them directly is more likely to be understood and applied. As farmers perceive benefits from improved practices, reduced costs, stabilised or increased harvests, and reduced health problems from agrochemicals, they will be increasingly willing to collaborate in planning and implementing SLM on- and off-farm Incorporating awareness building about the value of biodiversity to long-term productivity and education about nutrition and food safety into training, as CNF does presently because it is an objective of the system to produce safe and nutritious food, responds directly to concerns especially of women farmers about their family?s well-being and feeding their children properly. Farmers respond positively to new techniques that help resolve their problems. The RA-SAS approach was applied by tea farmers during the GEF project, ?Mainstreaming Sustainable Management of Tea Production Landscapes? (2014-2018). The technique saves labour costs and maintain healthy soils. The project was recognized in the evaluation for its innovation in non-chemical weed management, which has been taken up by farmers to reduce agrochemical use both in India and Sri Lanka.

Social risk Inequities in social structures, including discrimination based on gender, traditional social status or ethnic origin, could undermine the inclusiveness of the project activities.	Moderate	Moderate	The project will work with tribal groups in Andhra Pradesh in close collaboration with the government authorities responsible for tribal affairs. The experience of RySS and its relationships built in the region will ensure inclusion and equitable treatment of tribal groups (see also Section 3.11). Gender sensitization activities will be included in community interactions; the organization of training will allow for constraints on women for attending and the project will strive to train women trainers, as this has been found to increase women?s participation in training events. Producer groups will be required to develop gender policies as part of the group strengthening process. Such policies should define locally determined steps to increase women?s membership of groups and their assuming officer roles.
Market risk Markets are volatile and commodity prices fluctuate; as a result, markets may not offer favourable transaction terms for sustainable production systems, thereby reducing the incentive for farmers to apply them	Low	Low	The project will focus primarily on demonstrating and measuring the value of sustainable agriculture in terms of productivity, farm organization and family wellbeing. The benefit of favourable terms from the market when products are sold will be an additional value but not the sole value on which the sustainable production proposition depends. The risk is in any case considered low for sustainable commodities bought for export, as with most coffee and many spices, because sustainability premiums are well established in the international market (although see COVID-19 risk below). The project will contribute to the development of markets for value added brands for the domestic market that promote credentials of sustainable production. Such products put producers more directly in contact with manufacturers, retailers and end users, deliver a higher return to farmers and create a strong incentive for producers, who do not see what happens to their yields when they are sold as raw materials into commodity markets.

COVID-19 risk India has been heavily affected by COVID-19, generating risks for the project on several fronts: producers are finding it difficult to secure labour needed for harvesting their crops, as many traditional seasonal workers have returned home and some may not come back; exporters of coffee face a slump in world prices during 2020 and, as demand falls from the international market, orders have been cancelled and other shipments have been delayed, due to logistical difficulties with transport and port operations. International demand has fallen, because so much coffee is consumed out-of-home, and coffee shops have been closed in many countries and re-closed during renewed lockdowns towards the end of 2020. COVID-19 has affected project preparation through difficulties in contacting government and other stakeholders, and this situation is expected to continue in 2021.Travel to project sites has not been possible since February 2020, nor face to face meetings. This situation risks slowing down the project?s start-up, because government officials understandably have much higher competing priorities.	High	Moderate	It is reasonable to assume that, while 2021 will continue to be difficult, social and economic exchanges will gradually rise to previous levels, with good fortune and good medical advances by the end of the year. Producers will continue to grow and harvest their crops and will most likely heighten their interest in natural farming techniques that can save them cost, provided they can meet their labour requirements. Rainforest Alliance has continued to deliver training and technical services to producers by video conference and mobile phone. It has trained its technicians in delivering training by such means as opposed to face to face. Markets have developed a strong interest in 2020 in knowing the origin of products, because of health concerns. There is expected to be a strongly positive response to natural products as economies pick up, standing the project in good stead. Government officials have adapted their procedures to meet by video conference, so that the project?s start-up can proceed through this method, if required.

To note that the UNEP Safeguard Risk Identification Form (SRIF) has been applied during project preparation and can be found in Appendix 15 of the prodoc.

Climate Risk Analysis

In line with STAP guidance on climate risk screening, the short- and long-term risks posed by climate change and other natural hazards have been considered in the design of the project, and will continue through to project inception and implementation stages when more detailed climate risk assessments for each micro-landscape will be conducted.

As outlined in the Prodoc, the production capacity of India?s agricultural land and the conservation of India?s biodiversity both on farm and in forested landscapes are under threat from a variety of forces, particularly a changing climate, that results in significant risks that have been taken into account in project design. In particular, these include:

? *Drought* - India accounts for about 17 percent of the world?s population but has only four per cent of the world freshwater resources[1]. Agriculture is the biggest user of water, accounting for about 80 percent of water withdrawals[2]. Many farmers use boreholes and pumps to irrigate their fields, a practice that leads to severe depletion of ground water resources and makes it critical to increase water use efficiency and to conserve watersheds for the replenishment of surface and groundwater resources. The increased intensity, frequency and geographical coverage of drought represents one of the most serious risks to the Indian economy and its people. Higher temperatures, increased evapo-transpiration and decreased winter precipitation are trends likely to bring further droughts. Andhra Pradesh has particularly low rainfall, averaging 600- 650 millimetres per year. Anantapur district in the south west of the State is the most drought-affected and was recorded with 64.41 percent of land degradation in 2011-2013[3].

? *Extreme climate events* - While the overall quantum of rainfall over the years has been consistent, the rainfall has become concentrated into shorter periods and of higher intensity, a pattern consistent with a changing climate. A study of extreme rainfall in Andhra Pradesh found that significant changes are occurring in the high rainfall receiving coastal zones of the State[4]. Heavy rains in Kodagu and Chikmagalur districts in Karnataka in 2017 and 2018 led to severe landslides. In 2019, Kodagu district experienced severe flooding, because of the intensity of the monsoon rains, and in August 2020, landsides were again reported near Mudigere in Chikmagalur district, as well as overflowing of the Bhadra river, due to heavy rains.

Susceptibility to soil erosion and landslides is due to the soil characteristics and the physio-geographic conditions (topography, internal drainage, soil depth, presence of aquifers). The Geological Survey of India estimates that 100,000 km2 in the Eastern and Western Ghats regions are vulnerable to landslides.[5] The actual occurrence of soil erosion and landslides is caused by human intervention, especially deforestation, which results in loosening the landmass. The impact on livelihoods as cropland has been destroyed has been severe, and the capacity to recover is affected by irreversible environmental damage, which includes loss of topsoil[6]. Climate change is expected to increase the severity of flooding in many Indian river basins. Cyclonic storms, storm surge and coastal inundation will also become more severe threats as the temperature of the sea?s surface rises.

The project will seek to mitigate the impact of these risks through strategies that will be built into several project activities, particularly under Component 2. In addition, and as outlined above, a more detailed and location-specific climate risk analyses will be undertaken as part of project inception within each micro-landscape, following robust, scientific methodologies. The results of these analyses will be shared and discussed with the MSLMBs and considered as part of the development of the SLMPs.

Additional considerations in response to Covid-19 and the opportunity to contribute towards a green recovery

In addition to the Covid-19 risks and mitigation measures outlined in the table above, there is a recognition of the opportunity that the project presents to help mitigate impacts of future potential pandemics and to ?build back better?. On review of the GEF guidance note "Project Design and Review Considerations in Response to the COVID-19 Crisis and the Mitigation of Future Pandemics"[7], it is recognised that the project outcomes and design lends very well to aligning with a build back better strategy and to green recovery and resilience. Alignment with the examples given in the guidance on green recovery and resilience elements for GEF?s focal areas as well as more generally is outlined in the following table:

Recommendation and/or example from GEF guidance note	**Project Alignment**
Strategies to address land degradation	Throughout all components. See also Objective Indicator 1.
Sustainable land-based solutions especially related to agroecology, climate smart agriculture, SLM, and landscape restoration, both generating multiple GEB as well as livelihood benefits and green jobs	Throughout component 2 and 3. See also Objective Indicator 2 and Objective Indicator 3.
Introducing NRM practices that generate GEBs and resilience to climate change with livelihood benefits	Throughout component 2 and 3.
Secure supply chains, using circular economy approaches and water, food, energy and ecosystems nexus thinking	Throughout component 2 and 3.
Strategies and actions that enhance the sustainability of outcomes and the resilience of the project context, such as integrated planning and institutional coordination	Throughout component 1 and 4. See also section 7 of this document.
Actions that produce ancillary benefits for people with special focus on marginal and underprivileged communities such as indigenous peoples and local communities, climate vulnerable communities, and women and girls	The project includes a gender mainstreaming strategy (see section 3 of this document). In addition, focus will be given to disadvantaged and underrepresented groups, such as tribal peoples (see section 5 on ?social inclusion? within the Prodoc) and smallholder farmers.
Cross-cutting elements that build capacity in countries for remote project preparation and supervision and access to data and information; as well as increase capacities for remote work and stakeholder interactions; these action also will contribute to government and project staff safety and decrease the need for travel thus further decreasing carbon footprints of investments.	Component 4 includes the set-up of real-time systems to collect and analyse data digitally

[1] Raising Agricultural Productivity and Making Farming Remunerative for Farmers. 2015. NITI Aayog, Government of India

[2]V,Dhawan. 2017. Water and Agriculture in India. https://www.oav.de/fileadmin/user_upload/5_Publikationen/5_Studien/170118_Study_Water_Agriculture_India

[3] Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of Selected Districts of India. 2018. Space Applications Centre

[4] P Guhathakurtha et.al. Extreme Rainfall Analysis in AP using a probability distribution model. MAUSAM, 56,4, (October 2005) 785-794

[5] Geological Survey of India 2016. https://www.gsi.gov.in

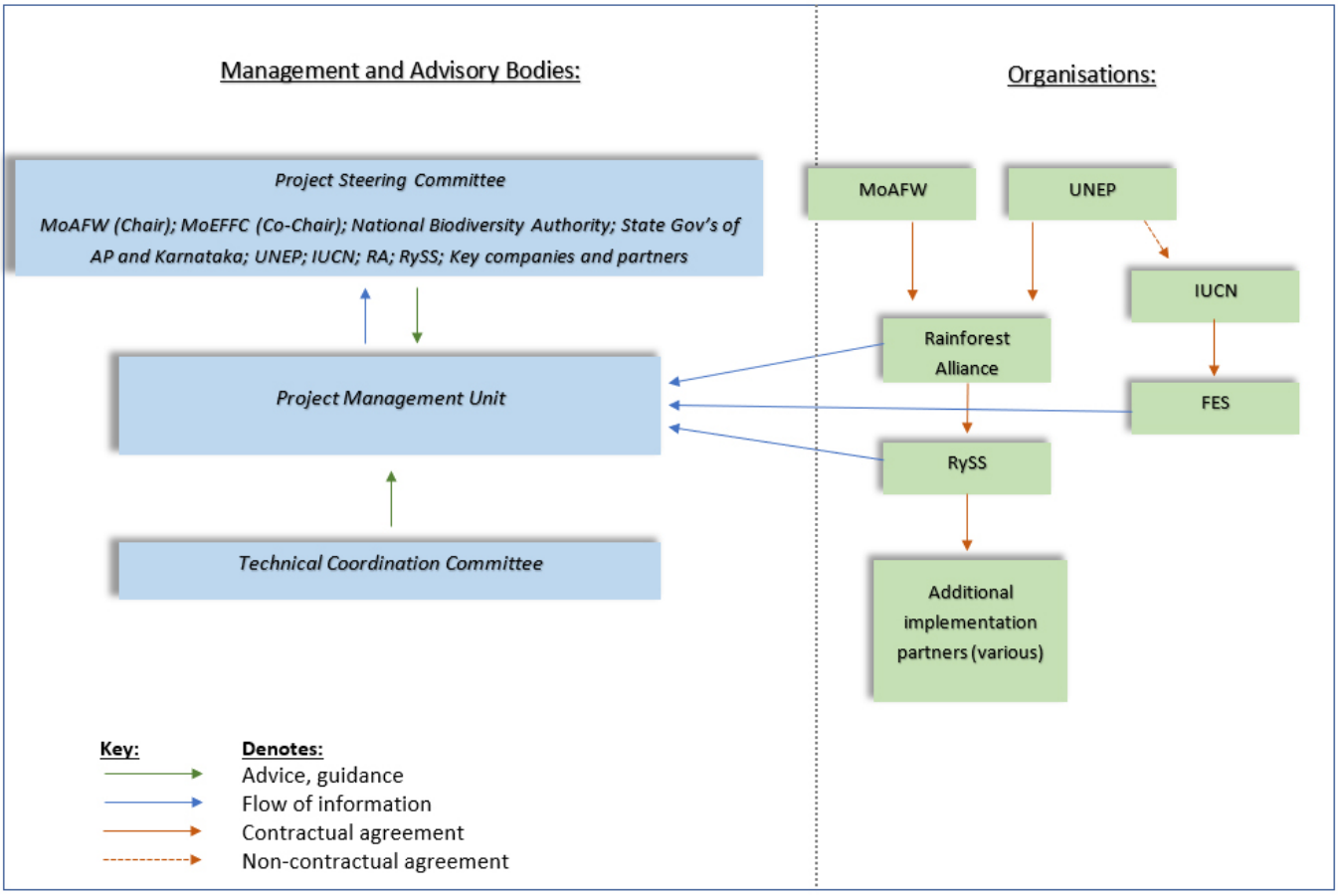
[6] As reported in the Declan Herald, 29th September 2018

[7] www.thegef.org/documents/project-design-and-review-considerations-response-covid-19-crisis-and-mitigation-future

6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

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

The project?s institutional arrangements are described below, and further summarized in the following organizational chart:



UN Environment Programme will be the lead GEF IA for the project, in collaboration with IUCN as GEF Co-Implementing Agency. UNEP will implement the project though its Ecosystems Division, with delegated authority for supervision by a Task Manager based at the Asia and the Pacific Office in Bangkok. A Funds Management Officer will support the Task Manager. UNEP will bring to bear its extensive experience of implementing projects related to biodiversity conservation and SLM funded by GEF.

IUCN, which has been a GEF Project Agency since 2014, will co-implement the project through its GEF Coordination unit, based in Gland, Switzerland. IUCN is a leading international conservation union and a membership organization, with 1,300 members, comprising both governments and CSOs. The government of India has been a member since 1969, so that IUCN is strongly positioned to align the project to government policy and leverage the skills and knowledge of its members.

As lead IA, UNEP will be responsible for overall project supervision to ensure consistency with GEF policies and procedures and will provide guidance on linkages with related UNEP and GEF-funded activities. Project supervision missions by the Task Manager will constitute part of the project supervision plan. UNEP will also monitor implementation of the activities undertaken during the execution of the project and will report on the progress against the agreed milestones. It will also engage in promoting the project, with a view to mobilizing resources and partnerships.

Following formal consultation and agreement with MoEFCC as GEF focal agency, MoAFW has agreed to appoint RA as Executing Agency once the project is endorsed by GEFSEC and the Project Steering Committee, which MoAFW will chair, is formed (see Prodoc Appendix 12). This will enable Rainforest Alliance to go into a Project Cooperation Agreement (contract) with UNEP and receive GEF funds directly from UNEP. Once RA are formally appointed as Executing Agency, MoAFW will continue on the project as national focal agency for sustainable agriculture.

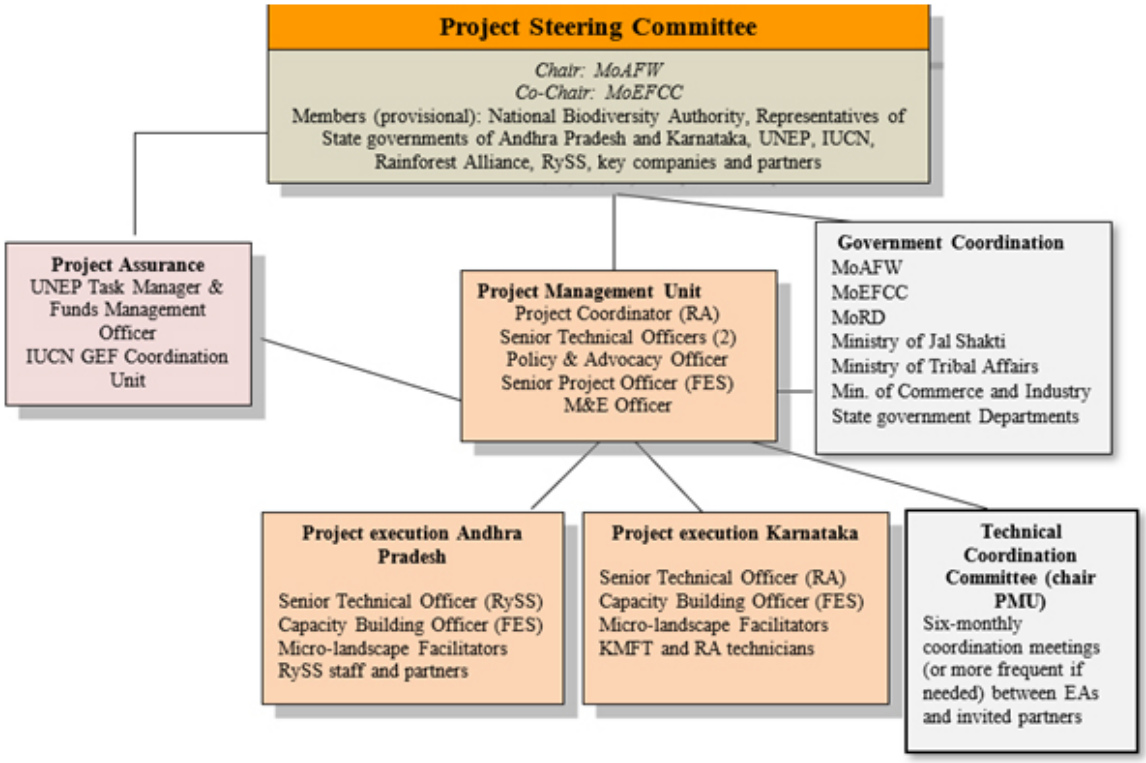
UNEP will approve the technical and financial reports, review audit reports, and ensure fluid disbursement of funds within its rules and procedures. UNEP will inform the GEF Secretariat whenever there is a potentially substantive co-financing change (i.e. one affecting the project objectives, the underlying concept, scale, scope, strategic priority, conformity with GEF criteria, likelihood of project success, or outcome of the project). It will rate, on an annual basis, progress by the lead Project Coordinating Agency in meeting project objectives, project implementation progress, risk, and quality of project monitoring and evaluation, and report to the GEF Secretariat through the Project Implementation Review (PIR) report prepared by the lead Project Coordination Agency. It will ensure that the Evaluation Office of UNEP arranges for an independent mid-term and terminal evaluation and submits its report to the GEF Evaluation Office.

As Co- Implementing Agency, IUCN will be responsible for drafting a PCA with the Foundation for Ecological Security for the outcomes and outputs for which it is responsible, as detailed in Section 3.3 of the Prodoc. IUCN will approve their technical and financial reports, review audit reports, and ensure fluid disbursement of funds to them within its rules and procedures.

A national **Project Management Unit (PMU)** of the project will be created to manage the project execution. The PMU will be led by a full-time Project Coordinator, hired by Rainforest Alliance and reporting to Rainforest Alliance?s India Country Director, with a co-reporting line to MoAFW. Other key staff of the PMU consist of an Associate Finance & Administration staff, a M&E Officer, two Senior Technical Officers (one based in each state), two Policy and Advocacy Officers (FES staff), and a Senior Project Officer (FES) (see Figure 13). The MoAFW will be invited to host the Project Coordinator and, if

agreeable, other Delhi-based PMU staff members at its offices in Delhi, to ensure a strong programming and coordination link of the project to the National Nodal Agency. FES, RySS and Rainforest Alliance will sign an MoU to ensure full integration of activities through the project?s PMU and avoid disconnection between work undertaken in the two landscapes.

Project Management Organogram



Coordination with GEF Projects and related initiatives

GEF has supported capacity building and strengthening of Indian government institutions through the various GEF cycles. Support has included implementation of India?s commitments to international treaties e.g. a GEF-4 grant ?Strengthening the Implementation of the Biological Diversity Act and Rules with Focus on its Access and Benefit Sharing Provisions?, sustainable development of biological resources, such as medicinal plants, and conservation of ecosystem services, such as pollination.

Several recent projects funded in India under the GEF-5, GEF-6 and GEF 7 project cycles deal with issues of finding solutions to land degradation and biodiversity loss though empowering local communities for decision-making over land use, valuing the natural ecosystem and securing livelihoods. Although two have recently reached their technical closing date, their final project evaluations are not concluded. Together, these projects offer a body of knowledge that is highly relevant for the project. Those final evaluations will be read and any follow-up with the implementing agency or executing partners suggested by the evaluations will be undertaken, as part of the ongoing building of knowledge beyond the submission of the Prodoc. A summary of those projects is given in the below table.

Summary of other relevant GEF interventions

Project Title	**Investment**	**Period**	**Agency**	**Project Objectives and Activities**
Green Agriculture: Transforming Indian agricultural for global environmental benefits and the conservation of critical biodiversity and forest landscapes	US$ 33,558,716	2016 - 2021	GEF-FAO	The project aims to catalyse transformative change for India?s agricultural sector to support achievement of national and global environmental benefits and conserve critical biodiversity and forest landscapes. The project is in five States (Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha and Uttarakhand). Its five components reinforce SLM practices and landscape-scale land management as integral parts of India?s vision for a sustainable future. The components are: 1) Intersectoral central and state government mechanisms to mainstream environmental resilience in the agriculture sector; 2) Agricultural programmes (missions) strengthened with results based environmental indicators integrated in their policy and planning frameworks; 3) At least 10 community led initiatives to support conservation of globally important species such as the tigers, elephants and the Great Indian Bustard.4) 10 percent reduction in the threat index from baseline (as measured through Green Landscape monitoring programme) at key sites of high biodiversity importance at five target Green Landscapes; 5) At least 104,070 ha of farms under SLM and water management (including organic farming and agrobiodiversity conservation) through improved agroecosystems management, including climate resilience issues.

Mainstreaming Agrobiodiversity Conservation and Utilization in Agricultural Sector to Ensure Ecosystem Services and Reduce Vulnerability	US$ 3,196,347	2015 - 2020	GEF-UNEP	The project aims to conserve India?s crop diversity as an essential resource to deal with the challenges of adapting to climate change, with continuing rise in temperature, changes in rainfall quantities and patterns and an increasing frequency of extreme events. It envisages developing local community-based approaches, together with the necessary national framework that will enable the conservation and use of crop diversity to be mainstreamed into India?s agricultural production and environmental management strategies. The project?s three components address: 1) Adaptive management of crop diversity for resilient agriculture and improved livelihoods; 2) Strategies and policies for sustainable conservation and use of crop diversity, including access and benefit sharing, and 3) Improved agricultural support systems, institutional frameworks and partnerships that support crop diversity on farm. The project is undertaken in four internationally recognized agro-ecoregions: Western Himalayas including the cold arid tract; North-eastern region and the Eastern Himalayas; Western arid/semi-arid region, and Central tribal region.
India Ecosystems Service Improvement Project	US$ 24,640,000	2017 - 2022	GEF-World Bank	The project is executed by MoEFCC in the States of Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh through the Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education, under the National Mission for Green India. Its objectives are to: 1) Strengthen the institutional capacity of the Departments of Forestry and Community Organizations; and 2) Enhance forest ecosystem services and improve the livelihoods of forest dependent communities in Central Indian Highlands. It has three programmatic components: 1) Strengthen capacity and skills of government institutions to deliver forestry and land management programmes; 2) Improve forest quality and productivity by enhancing and restoring carbon stocks in forests and managing invasive alien species; and 3) Scale up sustainable land and ecosystem management (SLEM) approaches for reducing land degradation and desertification.

Developing an Effective Multiple Use Management Framework for Conserving Biodiversity in the Mountain Landscape of the High Ranges, Western Ghats	US$ 6,363,600	2014 - 2019	GEF-UNDP	Although this project has formally closed, its geographical and technical focus is very pertinent to the project; for that reason, the final evaluation should be read by the project team and UNDP engaged on potential applicable learning. The project?s approach was to build an effective collaborative governance framework for multiple use management to protect biodiversity of the southern Western Ghats. This coincides closely with the aim of this project
Integrated SLEM Approaches for Reducing Land Degradation and Desertification	US$ 4,900,000	2014 - 2019	GEF-World Bank	Like the above, the project has now closed but has a very compatible thematic area that justifies reviewing the learning in the final evaluation. It targeted reduced land degradation and desertification through SLEM approaches for improving agro-ecosystem productivity and enhancing institutional capacity for monitoring outcomes Its four components were: 1) Scale up adoption of SLEM practices in selected semi-arid areas; 2) Streamline reporting on national indicators on land use/land use change; 3) At least five States use the online database/MIS built through project; 4) Establish a national knowledge exchange platform (community of practice) with at least 10 SLEM best practices disseminated through it.
Biodiversity Conservation and Rural Livelihoods Improvement	US$ 8,470,000	2011-2018	GEF-World Bank	The Biodiversity Conservation and Rural Livelihoods Improvement project for India closed in 2018 but remains interesting because its approach was to develop and promote new models for biodiversity conservation outcomes at the landscape scale through enhanced capacity and institution building. Its four components were: 1) Develop tools, techniques, knowledge and skills towards improved conservation and rural livelihoods outcomes in two pilot sites in Gujarat and Uttarakhand; 2) Strengthen knowledge management and national capacity for learning from the pilot sites and other initiatives; 3) Scale up and replication successful models in two additional high biodiversity landscape sites: and 4) Support coordination for landscape conservation at MoEFCC.

Non-GEF Initiatives

The Economics of Ecosystems and biodiversity: promoting a sustainable agriculture and food sector	?8,500,000	2019-2022	EU (Foreign Policy Investment)	The project purpose is to stimulate biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services flows in agricultural landscapes by demonstrating total costs and benefits, including the less visible and tangible ones. The project is taking place in seven counties, including India. TEEB has developed an Evaluation Framework that provides a comprehensive and universal approach to capture the positive and negative impacts and externalities across the entire agri-food value chain. The project will assess existing or proposed interventions in the seven countries that target positive livelihood and biodiversity benefits and assess whether they produce any hidden or unaccounted for outcomes on natural, human, social and human-made capitals. It has a strong focus on supporting countries to implement their sustainability and trade policies. TEEB has identified CNF as a central (but not exclusive) focus of its project, and mainly its potential roll-out in Karnataka, although it will also cooperate in two areas of Andhra Pradesh. It expects to work through ICAR. The spatial focus will be farms and agricultural supply chains, not landscape. The project team spoke to the TEEB project team to exchange information and ideas for collaboration. It also took part in the inception meeting for the India project. The dialogue will continue. The interest for the project is building an economic case for investment in SLM at farm level. TEEB aims at mainly policy take-up, but its data and analyses will also serve to build the business case for companies of investing in sustainable production systems, in line with TEEB?s value-chain approach.

7. Consistency with National Priorities

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

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

- National Action Plan for Adaptation (NAPA) under LDCF/UNFCCC

- National Action Program (NAP) under UNCCD

- ASGM NAP (Artisanal and Small-scale Gold Mining) under Mercury

- Minamata Initial Assessment (MIA) under Minamata Convention

- National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) under UNCBD

- National Communications (NC) under UNFCCC

- Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) under UNFCCC

- National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) under UNCBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD

- National Implementation Plan (NIP) under POPs

- Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)

- National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE) under GEFSEC

- Biennial Update Report (BUR) under UNFCCC

- Others

India?s National Action Programme to Combat Desertification (NAPCD) was published in 2001. The government announced an updated programme in 2017, but it has not yet been published. The NAPCD identified seven drivers of land degradation and desertification: (1) Unsustainable agricultural practices, especially excessive use of fertilizers and shifting cultivation without allowing an adequate period of recovery; (2) Poor water management: inefficient irrigation practices, and over abstraction of ground water; (3) Conversion of forest into agricultural land and loss of agricultural land to urban development; (4) Deforestation from inappropriate forest management practices, uncontrolled logging, forest fires, as well as forest clearance for agriculture; (5) failure to rehabilitate land after industrial and mining development; (6) Demographic pressures from humans and livestock; and (7) Frequent droughts and failures of the monsoon.[1]

Over the past 20 years since the NAPCD was published, India has put into place a wide array of policies and programmes related to land use, forest conservation, afforestation, water management, climate change

resilience, rural employment and other issues to respond to those drivers. Three key strategic approaches underpin them: economic growth that also conserves natural resources; improved rural livelihoods; and the inclusion of local stakeholders in planning and management resource use. For environmental policy, India seeks to achieve conservation of natural resources and ecosystem services flows by ensuring that people who are dependent on those resources obtain better livelihoods from conserving them than from degrading the resources. In agricultural policies and programmes, the essential guiding principles are higher productivity, improved farmer incomes, soil quality and water conservation.

Although written two decades ago, the NAPCD still reads as a mandate for the design of the project:

?Integrated nutrient management is the key to maintain the productivity of soils on a sustainable basis, using farmyard manure, compost and biofertilizers in supplementing the nutrient requirements of crops and providing stability to yields in rainfed areas. Use of organic manures reduces the use of chemical fertilizer N requirement substantially in addition to supplementing important primary and secondary nutrients. The use of compost and FYM also improve the soils? physical condition and crop yields on a long- term basis. In addition, it also improves the moisture holding capacity of soils.

The government has decided to integrate and co-ordinate all programmes related with land, water conservation and development of degraded lands based on a watershed basis. Since watershed is a geo-hydrologically delineated natural unit that is drained by a water system, its adoption as the basis for soil and water conservation includes biophysical, socio-economic, and sometimes political interventions for the planning, management and execution of schemes for conservation of natural resources at the micro-level. Essentials of Watershed Management are: Integration of land, water and natural resources and development of degraded lands; Community driven projects and schemes.; Local communities, NGOs, Village Associations and development departments/agencies also involved in planning, development, execution of programmes, including awareness raising?.

The project is closely aligned with these guidelines and with the principles behind India?s environmental and agricultural policies that have followed the NAPCD. The project?s farm-scale strategy across the project landscapes of promoting sustainable agriculture practices that specifically include soil management for moisture retention, water conservation and protecting natural ecosystems contributes to halting the land degradation that is occurring on farms. SLM practices that can ensure sustainable productivity of land resources and food, water and livelihood security for present and future generations are a central LDN strategy of the government.[2] Those farms that apply agroforestry systems will additionally bring afforestation into farmland.

In the target areas of participatory management, the project will mobilize communities to take further actions on land that is not under private ownership to conserve water, protect natural ecosystems and plant trees. The precise targets will be set through consultation among the local stakeholders, in line with India?s decentralized tiers of authority, through States, districts, *taluks* and *panchayats.* There are several precedents for natural resource management committees involving local communities, such as the Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs). This key concept of local participation was included in the Delhi Declaration of the UNCCD COP 14, which asserts that *?*diverse multi-stakeholder participation, as appropriate, at local, subnational, national and regional levels and from all sectors of society, including civil society organizations, local government and the private sector, will be crucial to achieving the objectives of the UNCCD?.[3]

In his speech to the UNCCD COP in September 2019, the Prime Minister referred to the country?s three strategies for achieving the country?s restoration target of 26 m ha of degraded land by 2030 as: water resource management, sustainable farm practices and afforestation. He chose examples of government programmes to illustrate India?s approach, citing micro-irrigation, the CAMPA afforestation incentive and the soil health scorecard. He also specifically cited CNF as an example of an agricultural approach to reverse land degradation. He proposed that the four essential components of water resource management are: augmenting water supply, enhancing water recharge, slowing down water run- off and retaining moisture in soil.[4] Achieving those four components requires an integrated land and water strategy, as the way that land is used determines the rate of run-off and moisture retention in the soil. By working at the

farm and wider landscape scales, the project will build the awareness and commitment of all the people using land and water to collaborate in conserving them, while pursuing their livelihoods.

India?s 2008 National Biodiversity Action Plan contains three messages for agriculture. First, it notes that forest is being converted for agriculture, among other uses. It calls for people earning their livelihood on the borders of forests to respect their boundaries. One of the Plan?s objectives is to conserve on-farm biodiversity through the sustainable management of agriculture. Second, the Plan points out the decline in crop varieties on farms and notes that ?an even more important task is to maintain agro-biodiversity on farms and in natural habitats where it can continue to evolve and adapt to changing conditions. As custodians of agricultural biodiversity, farmers are better suited to conserving and developing these genetic resources, ensuring their survival and availability to serve present and future needs?.[5] Third, it asks for support across government to raise the awareness of young people of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.

The project will contribute to the NBAP in each of these respects. Both the RA-SAS and CNF agricultural systems conserve biodiversity by avoiding farm expansion into forested land, protecting wildlife habitat on farms, maintaining and planting trees, and promoting management techniques that conserve soil biodiversity. CNF is pro-actively encouraging revival of landrace varieties of food crops that have been falling into disuse. Through the training and extension system on farms and the community outreach in the landscape governance areas, the project will raise people?s awareness of the value of biodiversity for nutrition and livelihoods.

The project will also contribute towards several NBSAP National Biodiversity Targets (NBTs) that India has set. The NBTs are aligned directly with the global Aichi targets. Some of the applicable targets include the following: measures are adopted for sustainable management of agriculture, forestry and fisheries; strategies for reducing rate of degradation, fragmentation and loss of natural habitats are finalized and actions put in place for environmental amelioration and human well-being; ecosystem service, especially those relating to water, human health, livelihoods and well-being are enumerated and measures to safeguard them are identified, taking into account the needs of women and local communities, particularly the poor and vulnerable sections; and, a significant proportion of the country's population, especially the youth, is aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably

Within the prodoc, Table 30 (section 3.6) presents a more detailed analysis of the project consistency with national policies and programmes.

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[1] Ministry of Environment and Forest. 2001. India Nation Action Programme to Combat Desertification

[2] http://moef.gov.in/division/forest-divisions-2/desertification/indias-engagement-with-unccd/

[3] https://www.unccd.int/news-events/new-delhi-declaration-investing-land-and-unlocking-opportunities

[4] https://timesofindia.com/india/cop14

[5] Ministry of Environment and Forests. 2008. National Biodiversity Action Plan p11

8. Knowledge Management

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

The GEF Knowledge Management strategy will guide the approach of the project, which will include a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation component, based on the project?s theory of change. This is particularly pertinent to this project, as limited knowledge management and ?proof-of-concept? for learning and scaling up of SLM practices through policies and programmes was identified as one of the main barriers to systematically and more extensively addressing the challenges of land degradation, biodiversity loss and rural livelihoods.

To achieve widespread, sustainable change, successes that are achieved in sustainable agriculture and SLM and shown to deliver benefits to farmers, protect and restore ecosystems and reverse the trend of land degradation need to be shared widely with other farmers, companies sourcing agricultural products and government departments investing in programmes. A great deal of information on the value of SLM for farmers and the natural environment is presently available but mechanisms to share such information are very limited and it is not easily accessible. Government departments miss the opportunity to inform policy development or their programme investments with lessons learnt. Farmers wishing to learn from sustainability initiatives elsewhere in India or in other countries have no platform or other mechanism through which to obtain information or indeed share their own experiences.

The lack of scientific, verified evidence of the benefits to Indian farmers and the natural environment of sustainable agriculture and SLM presents a barrier to its widespread adoption that the project will address. CNF?s high political profile (it was referred to, for example, in the Indian Prime Minister?s address to the UNCCD COP 14, held in New Delhi in September 2019), readily attracts critics who are keen to raise questions about it. Some of these critics have been promoting the present system that has increased agricultural production but also increased land degradation. For example, a meeting of the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, also held in September 2019, concluded that ?there is no verifiable data or authenticated results from any experiment for (CNF) to be considered a feasible technological option?[1].

In response to this, component four of the project will focus on knowledge management and outreach to scale-up sustainable value chains and SLM at landscape scale that contribute to LDN, biodiversity conservation and human well-being. The approach taken under this component serves three purposes. First, it will provide the knowledge base for the project to review and adjust its strategy and measure its impact performance and progress as part of project M&E Plan. Second, it will generate data on the economic returns to farmers from adopting sustainable agricultural practices. Third, it will communicate externally to key stakeholders verified information that will support scale-up of sustainable production, supply chains and SLM through government policies, company commitments, farmer adoption and private investment.

The project will ultimately be justified by its ability to catalyse investment in sustainable supply chains and SLM at landscape-scale during and beyond the project?s life. In conversations during the PPG phase, representatives of several government Ministries and Departments welcomed the project concept as a pilot that, if successful, could point the way for their programme investments. In the private sector, companies know that they cannot solve problems in their supply chains, such as deforestation and climate change, by just working with farmers, but they have almost no experience in how to support approaches in the larger landscape, where those problems are generated. Farmers feel the effects acutely of changing weather patterns, increased pests and diseases and water scarcity, but they have little influence outside their farms or voice in land use decision-making. Private investors have access to large amounts of finance but lack instruments to channel it into landscape-scale initiatives and experience of the financial returns from the less tangible values of biodiversity conservation and restoration of degraded land.

All these key actors for achieving transformative change want evidence. Hence the project will invest in building the evidence base across the scales of agricultural production unit and landscape and disseminate the results widely. As part of **Output 4.1.3**, learnings from the project and particularly those relevant for

scalability will be prepared and presented to central and State governments and target financial services organizations and companies and disseminated through selected events and publications.

The project?s quantitative and qualitative data will be supplemented by case studies, selected and undertaken in the second semester of the fourth year. While a decision on the studies will be taken by the project?s Steering Committee, it is expected to undertake studies on success factors and challenges in each of the project?s five main thematic areas- policy change, uptake of SLM, participatory landscape governance, market growth and private investment.

Lessons and experiences will be documented and presented in readable summary publications, including key data, targeted at the three key agents for replication and scale-up: central and State government, financial services organizations and companies. During the third year of the project, meetings will be set up with the relevant government Ministries and Departments to present the findings of the cost-benefit analysis, as well as the project mid-term evaluation. In the last semester of the project, an independent end-of-project review will be organized, and the results of the draft report will be presented and discussed in an end-of-project workshop, to which stakeholders will be invited.

The project will propose to the government to organize a national consultation on sharing best practices on LDN, SLM and CNF to facilitate cross-learning and replication. These will also help in identifying pathways for further scale up of SLM investment in the country.

The systematized lessons learnt will also be presented to financial services organizations, international and domestic companies, farmer organizations and CSO partners. Opportunities will be sought for dissemination through selected local, national, and international events and conferences on SLM and responsible business. The 1000 Landscapes for One Billion People initiative will be engaged to integrate the learning into its digital platform, which documents cases of integrated land management. To share with farmers, use will be made of the digital information systems used in the project. Policy briefs, outreach materials and informative brochures will be developed as opportunities arise.

The timelines and deliverables for Component 4 are outlined in the table below:

Component 4. Knowledge management and outreach to scale-up sustainable value chains and landscape scale SLM			
Components/ Outcomes/ Outputs	**Key Activities**	**Deliverables**	**Benchmarks**

Outcome 4.1 Scale-up of project experience is enabled by key decision makers convinced by the evidence-based Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning (MEL) system of the environmental, technical and socio-economic benefits from application of SLM and landscape approaches and of the strategies to achieve that			
Output 4.1.1 MEL system implemented to track project progress and measure performance against targeted outputs, outcomes, GEF Core Indicators and GEBs.	4.1.1.1 Hold a person-to-person project M&E workshop on methods, data collection, analysis and reporting including for substantive reporting, and knowledge management (KM) and communications (Output 4.3) with M&E staff of implementing partners	MEL system designed and operational, including confirmed results framework and indicators and data collection methodology, at farm and landscape scales	Year 1 Q2
	4.1.1.2 Make agreement with local institution(s) for data collection		Year 1 Q3
	4.1.1.3 Undertake baseline and annual data collection and analysis under supervision of project team and in coordination with partners; prepare reports for UNEP and project Steering Committee at mid-term and end-of-project	Baseline values confirmed for all project indicators Annual workplans and budgets prepared for approval by PSC and UNEP, incorporating adjustments after MTE	Year 2 ongoing
	4.1.1.4 Undertake assessments in selected micro-landscapes for landscape-scale performance indicator selection and undertake baseline and end of project studies		
	4.1.1.5 Organize independent internal mid-term evaluation and external end of project evaluations (via UNEP)		

Output 4.1.2 Evaluations of cost-benefit undertaken on the economic returns to farmers from adoption of sustainable agricultural practices, as well as environmental benefits on- and off-farm, and improvements in human well-being in the project landscapes	4.1.2.1 Conduct in-house and third-party crop cutting experiments, panel studies, and best-practitioner and saturated village studies at regular intervals to assess and analyse productivity, costs, incomes and other benefits from applying CNF	Mid-term and end of project evaluations planned, prepared and undertaken	Year 3 Q2 (MTE); Year 4 Q2 (FTE)
	4.1.2.2 Select partner for external study and co-design study in each project landscape, including statistical design for sampling and data collection methodology		Year 1 Q4 ongoing
	4.1.2.3 Undertake data collection and analysis at project beginning, mid-term and end-term on the two sustainable agricultural systems operating in the project (CNF and RA-SAS).	Field evaluation report prepared for CNF	Year 4 Q4
	4.1.2.4 Write up results for dissemination through the project KM system (Output 4.1.3) and share with key stakeholders	Independent study designed, contracted and implemented on value of applying sustainable agricultural practices for social and natural capital	Year 5 Q1

Output 4.1.3 Learnings from project and conditions for scalability prepared and presented to central and State governments and target financial services organizations and companies and disseminated through selected events and publications.	4.1.3.1 Select and undertake case studies 4.1.3.2 Prepare communications materials on lessons learnt and key success factors, tailored to target audiences: farmers, central and State governments, companies in international and domestic markets, financial services organizations and wider stakeholder groups. 4.1.3.3 Disseminate key information to farmers through digital information system 4.1.3.4 Write one article for publication in peer-reviewed journal 4.1.3.5 Organize participation in selected events in India and internationally to present project results widely 4.1.3.6 Coordinate with UNEP and IUCN for communications within their network	and farmer wellbeing Study findings prepared in reader-friendly format for dissemination Two case studies designed, contracted and implemented Communications package prepared Communications strategy defined and implemented Article on learning from project written and presented to journal	Year 5 Q1 Year 5 Q2 Year 5 Q2 Year 5 Q4

[1] Reported in the Indian Express, 10 September 2019

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Describe the budgeted M and E plan

The project will follow UNEP standard monitoring, reporting and evaluation processes and procedures. Substantive and financial project reporting requirements are summarized in Appendix 8 of the Prodoc. Project monitoring and reporting requirements, and templates are an integral part of the UNEP legal

instrument, to be signed by the EA and UNEP, ensuring it is consistent with the GEF Monitoring and Evaluation policy.

As lead Project Coordinating Agency, Rainforest Alliance is responsible for the project M&E Plan, also referred to in this document as the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) System. Rainforest Alliance will lead in completing the design of the project?s M&E Plan ? especially regarding the suggested adoption/modification of LandScale or similar landscape performance measurement system, also referred to in this document as the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) System (for more details please see Section 3.3 related to Component 4 on KM & M&E). The Project Results Framework presented in Appendix 4 includes SMART indicators for the project?s objective and expected outcomes, mid-term and end-of-project targets and Means of Verification for each indicator, including specifically related to gender, as well as the GEF Core Indicators. Key assumptions and risks are specified for each Outcome. These, impact performance monitoring systems plus the key deliverables and benchmarks summarised in Appendix 6 are the main metrics and tools for assessing project implementation progress, and whether project objectives and expected outcomes are being achieved. Costs associated with implementing the M&E Plan are summarized in Appendix 7 and are integrated in the overall project budget.

The draft M&E Plan will be discussed and revised as necessary in a M&E workshop that will take place straight after the project inception workshop. The M&E workshop will also ensure that project partners and staff understand and agree with their roles and responsibilities vis-?-vis project monitoring and evaluation.

Day-to-day implementation of the M&E Plan will be coordinated by the project M&E Officer, with a direct reporting line to the Project Coordinator, who will be ultimately responsible for the correct design and implementation of the Plan. The M&E specialists in RySS and Rainforest Alliance will provide technical support. All the project execution partners will have clear responsibilities to collect and report specific information to track workplan implementation progress, report implementation challenges/risks and actions taken to address them, and field data gathering required to generate indicator values on project outcomes. The Project Coordinator will also inform UNEP of any risks, delays and challenges faced during implementation so that the appropriate support or corrective measures can be adopted in a timely fashion.

The Project Coordinator and State-level Landscape Managers/Co-Project Coordinators will make periodic reports on progress to the interested central government Ministries and State government departments and discuss project strategies with them. Based on feedback, the PMU will make recommendations concerning the need to revise any aspects of the Results Framework or the M&E Plan to the Steering Committee. Any such changes will be advised ? in advance, by the Project Coordinator to UNEP?s Task Manager and the GEF Coordination Unit in IUCN, which have joint responsibility to ensure that the project meets UNEP and GEF policies and procedures. The Co-Implementing Agencies will also review the quality of draft project outputs, provide feedback to the project partners, and establish peer review procedures to ensure adequate quality of technical outputs and publications.[1]

At the time of project approval, baselines for Objective and Outcome indicators referring to landscape scale management status (GEF Core Indicators 4.1 and 4.4, Outcome 2.2), will be zeros, because they refer to participatory management at that scale, yet to be implemented by the project. Assessing the physical environment status of such areas will first require the project to clearly delineate to-be-managed landscape areas with polygons at project inception. Based on Google Earth and other images of landscape status (e.g. vegetation cover) within each polygon-delineated landscape, sub-areas in need of restoration off-farm and HCVF to conserve will be defined, for validation by the participatory MSLMBs.

Baseline values to assess the scale of farmers? adoption of sustainable agricultural practices (RA-SAS and CNF) (GEF Core Indicator 4.3, Outcome 2.1) are taken from internal records of the two Project Cooperation Agencies at 31st December 2019. The baseline can be updated once the project is approved. A baseline value on farm profitability will be undertaken on a representative sample of farmers once they agree to participate in the project and before they begin training.

Baseline values on companies buying sustainable products (Outcome 3.1) are also available in the internal records of the two lead Project Coordinating Agencies, and those on farmer financing and off-farm

investments (Outcome 3.2) will be obtained at project inception. All baseline data gaps will be addressed during the first year of project implementation.

Project supervision will take an adaptive management approach. The Task Manager will develop a project supervision plan at the inception of the project which will be communicated to the project partners during the inception workshop. The emphasis of the Task Manager?s supervision will be on outcome monitoring, without neglecting project financial management, progress in the planned activities, and assessment of the quality of deliverables for selected items key to the project. Progress vis-?-vis delivering the agreed project global environmental benefits will be assessed with the Steering Committee at agreed intervals. Project risks and assumptions will be regularly monitored by the PMU, project partners and UNEP. Risk assessment and rating is an integral part of the PIR. The quality of project monitoring and evaluation will also be reviewed and rated as part of the PIR. Key financial parameters will be monitored quarterly to ensure cost-effective use of financial resources.

In line with UNEP Evaluation Policy and the GEF?s Monitoring and Evaluation Policy the project will be subject to a Terminal Evaluation (TE) and, additionally, a Mid-Term Review (MTR) will be commissioned and launched by the Project Manager before the project reaches its mid-point. The possibility of a Mid-Term Evaluation will be discussed with the Evaluation Office.

The mid-term review will take place on the first half of year 3, led by UNEP. The review will include all parameters included in the standards for MTR and TE evaluation by UNEP (and based on guidelines by the GEF Evaluation Office), and be carried out using a participatory approach, in which partners participating in the project will be fully involved. The terms of reference for the review will be agreed with IUCN and lead EAs (Rainforest Alliance and RySS). The project Steering Committee will develop a management response to the review recommendations, along with an implementation plan and monitor whether the agreed recommendations are being carried out. Additionally, the PMU will undertake logistical arrangements for and accompany a UNEP supervisory mission, if it chooses to undertake one at any time during the project implementation.

In-line with UNEP?s and IUCN?s Evaluation Policies and the GEF?s Monitoring and Evaluation Policy, the project will be subject to a Terminal Evaluation (TE). The Terminal Evaluation will be managed jointly by UNEP and IUCN Evaluation Offices. The UNEP Evaluation Office will, however, lead the Terminal Evaluation (TE) and will liaise with the IUCN Evaluation Office throughout the process. Key decision points in the evaluation process will be made jointly by the Evaluation Offices in a collaborative manner [finalisation of Evaluation ToRs, selection of evaluation consultants, review of draft report and acceptance of final report].

The Terminal Evaluation will provide an independent assessment of project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency), and determine the likelihood of impact and sustainability. It will have two primary purposes: (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and (ii) to promote learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UNEP, IUCN and GEF, executing partners and other stakeholders. The direct costs of the evaluation will be charged against the project evaluation budget. The UNEP Task Manager will inform the UNEP Evaluation Office of the approaching Terminal Evaluation one year before the operational completion of the project.

The Terminal Evaluation report will be sent to project stakeholders for comment. Formal comments on the report will be shared by the Evaluation Offices in an open and transparent manner. The project

performance will be assessed against standard evaluation criteria using a six-point rating scheme. The final determination of project ratings will be made by the Evaluation Offices of UNEP and IUCN when the report is finalised. The evaluation report will be publicly disclosed and will be followed by a recommendation compliance process.

As part of the TE, an end-of-project impact survey will be conducted and reported on to both UNEP, IUCN and the PSC, be used as an integral part of the TE. Results of the draft report will be presented and discussed in an end-of-project workshop, to which stakeholders will be invited. The workshop will also consider how successes of the project can be taken forward, and as such make an important contribution to the sustainability of the project. Following the workshop, the final impact survey and project?s Terminal Report will be finalized by the PMU for presentation to UNEP.

Additional to the project?s formal MEL system, the continuous liaison between the project team and central and State government officials enables prompt integration of project learning into the government?s discussions on policies and programmes. The project will maintain an effective regular cycle of implementation- learning- information- communication.

The costed M&E plan is included in the table below:

Type of M&E Activity	Responsible parties	GEF M&E Costs (US$)	Time Frame
Project inception workshop	Project Coordinator, MEL Officer	10,971	Within 4 months of project start-up
M&E Inception Workshop: Training of project staff and partners on the project?s MEL system, (small group, following project inception workshop, 2 days)	M&E Officer, supported by RA?s Project Monitoring, Evaluation and Quality Assurance Specialist (RA-MEQA)	8,750	Within 4 months of project start-up
Monitoring and reporting of project progress against annual workplan	Project coordinating agencies (RA, RySS) supported by M&E Officer and RA-MEQA	0	Progress/performance Indicators: quarterly
Semi-annual Progress Reports to UN Environment Programme	Project Coordinator, supported by RA-MEQA, M&E Officer and RySS	0	Within 1 month of the end of reporting period
PIR	Project Coordinator, supported by RA-MEQA, M&E Officer and RySS	0	Annual. Within 1 month of the end of reporting period

Co-financing reports	Project Coordinator, supported by F&A Officer and RySS	0	Annual. Within 1 month of the PIR reporting period
Farmer survey design	MEL Officer, supported by RySS, Project Coordinator and project technical staff	7,500	Baseline, mid-term and end of project
Farmer attitudinal surveys (baseline and mid-term)	MEL Officer, supported by RySS, Project Coordinator and project technical staff	25,000	Baseline and mid term
Mid-term and End of project M&E survey	MEL Officer, supported by RySS, Project Coordinator and project technical staff	30,000	
MEL officer	RA	114,146	
Micro-landscape M&E	RySS MEL team	100,439	Baseline and end of project
Surveys and Assessments for landscape selection	Project Cooordinator, M&E Officer, supported by partners	80,357	Baseline, mid-term and project end
Survey and mapping to support activity planning	MEL Officer, supported by Project Coordinator	60,358	Years 1,2 and 5
Workshop ? assessments for landscape change measurements	Project Cooordinator, M&E Officer, supported by partners	16,300	
Mid-Term Evaluation (external)	External consultant, contracted and supervised by UN Environment Programme (Task Manager)	32,250	At mid-point of project implementation
Two case studies carried out (one per landscape) and writing up of journal article for publication	External consultant, coordinated by MEL Officer	0	Last semester before project completion date

Project Final Report	Project Coordinator, supported by M&E Officer, FES and RySS	0	Within 2 months of the project completion date
External Terminal Evaluation	External consultant, contracted and supervised by UN Environment (Task Manager)	45,000	Within 6 months of the project completion date
Total M&E Plan Budget (US$)	Total M&E costs	**531, 072**	

[1] Given the co-implementation arrangement, Rainforest Alliance will also report on all project progress and implementation aspects (including those handled by IUCN and its contracted EA) to the PSC.

10. Benefits

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

The integrated project approach recognizes that achieving global environmental and adaptation benefits that will be sustained in the long-term requires local populations ?farmers and residents in the micro-landscapes? to realise socioeconomic benefits, especially in the short and medium term.

At farm scale, these benefits come through three project interventions. First, the implementation of practices that increase soil nutrients and enhance the soil?s water retention capacity will lead to improved productivity. It is recognized that these benefits will take time to come through. Shorter-term economic benefits from the farm can be derived from crop diversification, which is a feature of both sustainable agricultural systems promoted by the project. The process of sharing technical knowledge and building farmers? capacity to apply natural solutions to the issues they face on farm is an important benefit in a context of the majority of farmers managing small plots of land, without access to extension services and opportunities to learn the results from alternative approaches to farm management (Output 2.1.1). The project will also harness new technologies that can save time and money for farmers (Output 2.1.2). Farm workers will benefit from a healthier farm environment, and those that work on certified farms will have the additional protection that the Farm Requirements? Social Chapter of the 2020 Sustainable Agriculture Standard provides through its criteria on employment terms and conditions. Those criteria align with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, relevant ILO conventions, and other multi-stakeholder concepts such as living wage, which has been developed in coordination with the Global Living Wage Coalition[1].

Second, the project?s contribution to farmer organization (Output 2.1.3) and insistence on social inclusion will create the conditions for developing improved access to services and markets. An effort (small because of available resources) will be made to upgrade business management skills. Third, the strong focus in the project on market development (Output 3.1.1) will generate preferences and favourable terms in company supply chains to source from the project landscapes.

At landscape scale, the benefits would also be social and economic. Community members will be given a voice and an operational structure through which to contribute to the land management plans. The target areas may be forested areas that are under threat and have value for the communities, including, in Karnataka for example, Sacred groves, and watersheds of the Kaveri river and its tributaries. Economically, communities in the micro-landscapes will benefit from innovative sustainable use of natural resources that conserve the resources and also offer employment and income opportunities.

It is this process of mobilization of people?s skills, knowledge and interest and channelling them to sustainable land management that achieves the benefits for both the people living in the project landscape and the natural environment on which they depend for their livelihoods. In this way, the project activities will generate GEBs and contribute to climate change mitigation. It will sequester carbon in soils, improve soil organic content through composting, mulching, and cover crops, as well strengthen farm resilience to extreme drought. Sustainable agriculture will reduce pollution due to agrochemicals, including in downstream water bodies, making them more secure for human need.

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[1] https://www.livingwage.org.uk/living-wage-commission

11. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

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

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification*

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
	Low		

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

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

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
SRIF	**CEO Endorsement ESS**	

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

Project Objective, Components, Outcomes and Outputs	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term targets	End of project target	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks

Project Objective, Components, Outcomes and Outputs	**Indicators**	**Baseline**	**Mid-term targets**	**End of project target**	**Means of Verification**	**Assumptions & Risks**
Objective: *To reduce land degradation and conserve biodiversity in agricultural landscapes in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, by promoting sustainable agricultural production, supply chains and public-private finance*	O1. Area of landscapes under improved management aimed at achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and biodiversity conservation (qualitative assessment, non-certified) (GEF , 4.1) (excludes value of GEF 4.4)	TBD	40,000 ha	135,000 ha	What: for the 100,000 ha within the governance areas, this will be measured through Changes in indicator values of Landscape performance measurement tool, supplemented by high-resolution satellite images to detect changes in vegetation indexes and changes in abundance of BD indicator tree species. For the 70,000 ha outside the landscape governance area, this will be measured through secondary data and stakeholder reports. When: At baseline, mid-term and end of project By whom: PMU, supported by consultants.	

Project Objective, Components, Outcomes and Outputs	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term targets	End of project target	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks
	O2. Area of landscapes certified under RA SAS 2020 standard, including new requirements for farm planning and climate risk assessments (GEF 4.2) (excludes value of GEF 4.3)	0	55,000 ha	75,000 ha	What: Farm and farmer group certificates When: Annual By whom: PMU	
	O3. Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems, not yet certified (GEF 3.1 + 4.3)	TBD	475,000 ha	1,015,000	What: Survey of farmers? practices and farm records of participating farmers, verified by third party When: At baseline, mid-term and end of project. By whom: PMU, supported by project consultant.	

Project Objective, Components, Outcomes and Outputs	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term targets	End of project target	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks
	O4. Area of High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) loss avoided (GEF 4.4)	0	0	25,000 ha	What: Record of project activities undertaken as part of SLMPs to protect identified HCVF in project landscapes, supplemented by use of high-resolution satellite images to detect changes in vegetation indexes and changes in abundance of HCVF indicator tree species. When: At project mid-point and project end. By whom: PMU, supported by project team and consultant	
Component 1. Enabling LDN and biodiversity conservation in priority landscapes through national fiscal and agriculture policies and multi-stakeholder landscape management						

Project Objective, Components, Outcomes and Outputs	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term targets	End of project target	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks
Outcome 1.1 SLM and biodiversity conservation in production landscapes are successfully integrated into fiscal and agricultural policy instruments and planning processes implemented by key central and State level government agencies and ministries. .	1.1.1 Number of adjustments made to implementation of policies relating to agricultural subsidies, commodity production and ecosystem conservation that increase integration of SLM into agriculture production landscapes.	0	0	3	What: Government document describing adjustments made to implementation and coordination of policies relating to agricultural subsidies, commodity production and ecosystem conservation that increase integration of SLM into agriculture production landscapes. When: At end of project By whom: Key landscape stakeholders, supported by PMU and partners	The CNF approach to farming will continue to receive political support from the Andhra Pradesh State government and central government. Government officials are open to receive recommendations from project execution partners regarding policy gaps and planning and operational processes.

Project Objective, Components, Outcomes and Outputs	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term targets	End of project target	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks
	1.1.2 Number of policies, procedures and measurement mechanisms in place to implement and monitor the government?s restoration commitments to UNCCD	0	1	2	What: Government document describing adjustments made to policies, procedures and measurement mechanisms in place to implement and monitor the government?s restoration commitments to UNCCD When: At end of project By whom: PMU and partners	
	1.1.3 A formal coordination mechanism between key Central and State government institutions is established	0	0	Yes	What: Government document confirming and agreeing the coordination mechanism When: By end of project By whom: PMU and partners	
Output 1.1.1 Proposals developed and advocated to lead Government agencies and key landscape stakeholders to improve policy coordination and better integrate SLM and biodiversity conservation in project landscapes.						

Project Objective, Components, Outcomes and Outputs	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term targets	End of project target	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks
Outcome 1.2 Integrated development of productive agriculture and SLM enabled in two States, through multi-stakeholder participatory landscape planning	1.2.1 Number of agreements in place with local governments to establish MSLMBs in micro-landscapes	0	8	10	What: Signed documents describing each landscape, its delineation When: At project mid-term and end of project By whom: Landscape Manager in each landscape.	State governments and local authorities support establishing multi-stakeholder bodies to plan, implement and monitor SLM. Target participatory local bodies agree to expand their mandate and develop SLMPs. Community members are willing to dedicate time to participate in MSLMBs.
	1.2.2 Number of MSLMBs established and formally recognized with a mandate to plan and implement SLM and biodiversity conservation at micro-landscape scale	0	8	10	What: Signed Micro-landscape documents, describing MSLMBs? comprising elected representatives of local stakeholder, reflecting all demographic groups When: At project mid-term and end of project By whom: Landscape management body in each landscape.	
Output 1.2.1 Micro-landscapes agreed in consultation with representatives from *Gram Panchayats* and representatives of all key stakeholders, and structures established to enable multi-stakeholder planning and management of SLM at landscape scale.						
Component 2. Scaling up of sustainable agriculture and SLM to restore degraded land, conserve biodiversity and improve human wellbeing in priority landscapes						

Project Objective, Components, Outcomes and Outputs	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term targets	End of project target	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks
Outcome 2.1 Land degradation reduced, biodiversity conserved, and increased farmer satisfaction achieved on farms through adoption of sustainable agricultural practices based on CNF and RA-SAS in the project landscapes.	2.1.1 Number of farmers and farm workers applying sustainable agriculture practices, service providers and beneficiaries in micro-landscapes (Gender- and youth-disaggregated.)	0	375,000	765,000	What: Survey of farmers? practices and farm records of participating farmers verified by partners? M&E systems When: At baseline, mid-term and end of project. By whom: PMU supported by project consultant.	The effects of climate change, with their potential for contributing to natural disasters and increases in crop pests and diseases, will not lead to large-scale abandonment of agriculture as a source of livelihoods. Farmers perceive it as in their interests to apply proposed practices. Farmers can sustain application of practices over enough time to enable positive results. Farmers keep accurate records of costs and income
	2.1.2 Percentage of project-supported farmers experiencing increased satisfaction[1] in project landscapes from application of sustainable agricultural practices (Gender- and youth-disaggregated.)	0	0	80 percent (equally for young, female and male farmers)	What: Survey of farmers on representative sample of certified farms that are applying RA-SAS and CNF in the project landscapes When: at end of project By whom: third party	

Project Objective, Components, Outcomes and Outputs	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term targets	End of project target	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks
	2.1.3 Number of hectares of farmland in project landscapes applying new practices to conserve BD[2] and reverse land degradation[3] .	TBD	25,000	135,000	What: Survey of farmers? practices and farm records of participating farmers, verified by partners. When: At baseline mid-term and end of project. By whom: PMU supported by project consultant.	
	2.1.4 Number of hectares in project landscapes (certified and non-certified) under sustainable production systems	0	350,000	1,015,000	What: Project progress reports When: At baseline, mid-term and end of project By whom: PMU-supported by project consultant.	

Project Objective, Components, Outcomes and Outputs	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term targets	End of project target	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks
	2.1.5 Number of project-supported farmers applying new agri-tech to reduce dependence on labour, water and agro-chemicals. (Gender- and youth-disaggregated.)	TBD	500 (of which at least 30 percent women and 20 percent youth)	1,000 (of which at least 30 percent women and 20 percent youth)	What: Survey of farmers practices and farm records of participating farmers verified by third party When: At baseline, mid-term and end of project By whom: PMU-supported by project consultant.	
	2.1.6 Number of FPOs with strengthened business management, including a digital information system	0	4	10	What: Project records When: Annually By whom: PMU, supported by project consultant	
Output 2.1.1 Capacity building and technology transfer delivered towards successful adoption of CNF and RA-SAS practices by 765,000 farmers and farm workers Output 2.1.2 Innovations in agri-tech[4] and digital information systems tested for scaling up adoption of sustainable agriculture and directly benefitting 1000 farmers. Output 2.1.3 Farmer organizations? capacities strengthened in business management and product development to drive adoption of sustainable agriculture by 3,000 farmers on 10,000 ha of farmland.						

Project Objective, Components, Outcomes and Outputs	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term targets	End of project target	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks
Outcome 2.2 Multi-stakeholder landscape management bodies plan and implement off-farm SLM activities that restore degraded land and conserve biodiversity and HCVF.	2.2.1 Number of hectares of land incorporated into SLMPs that integrate land use in the micro-landscapes for restoration and biodiversity conservation.	0	30,000	100,000	What: Maps of delineated areas in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka project landscapes managed under the corresponding MSLMBs. When: Annually By whom: PMU	Stakeholders with economic interests in the landscapes are willing to engage with multi-stakeholder processes and do not view them as threatening. HCVF is identified through a recognized methodology and endorsed by government
	2.2.2 Number of people in micro-landscapes benefitting from MSLMBs from participatory decision-making on land use	0	1,000	5,000	What: M&E system record of villages in micro-landscapes When: At project mid-term and project end. By whom: Project team	
	2.2.3 Number of Business Plans for sustainable growth in micro-landscapes through public-private finance, endorsed by local government and presented for blended finance	0	1 drafted	2 endorsed by local government and presented for blended finance	What: Micro-landscape business plan, oriented towards investors, signed and adopted by local government authorities When: By end of project By whom: MSLMB	

Project Objective, Components, Outcomes and Outputs	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term targets	End of project target	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks
	2.2.4 Number of MSLMBs with a designed and implemented landscape performance monitoring system (LandScale) to record changes and baseline assessment undertaken.	0	5	10	What: A customized set of indicators approved by each MSLMB, implemented at mid-term and end-of project. When: At project mid-term and end of project By whom: Landscape management body in each landscape	
Output 2.2.1 Technical support provided to the MSLMBs to develop a Sustainable Landscape Management Plan in each micro-landscape. Output 2.2.2 Landscape management bodies guided and mentored to implement their SLMPs at landscape scale to conserve 25,000 ha of HCVF. Output 2.2.3 Technical support provided to micro-landscapes with potential for scale to develop comprehensive business plans for their effective and sustainable operation and implementation of their SLMPs.						
Component 3. Market mechanisms and increased investment from public-private finance for scaled-up and sustained adoption of sustainable agriculture and landscape-scale SLM						
Outcome 3.1 Companies increase their buying of commodities sourced from sustainably managed landscapes.	3.1.1 Number of buying companies implementing commitments to responsible sourcing from farmers in project landscapes[5]	15	25	35	What: Transaction certificates of RA-SAS; reports from Markets teams; project records of CNF. When: Project mid-term and project end By whom: Project team	Quality and reliability of production meets standards required by buyers. Companies are willing to invest in sustainable production through mechanisms such as paying

Project Objective, Components, Outcomes and Outputs	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term targets	End of project target	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks
	3.1.2 Percentage increase in sales of products from farmers participating in project[6]	0	10%	20%	What: Report from markets team, based on producer estimates When: Annual By whom: Markets Manager	sustainability premiums and providing technical and financial services to motivate farmers to apply sustainable management practices.
Output 3.1.1 Private sector engaged and incentivized through improved producer organization and increased sustainability of supply to strengthen its commitment to responsible sourcing.						
Outcome 3.2 Private and public institutions make investments to incentivize scaled-up adoption of sustainable agricultural practices and landscape-scale SLM, contributing to LDN,	3.2.1 Value (US$) invested through private and blended financing mechanisms in- and off- farm SLM (disaggregated by source of finance and targeted land use benefit)	0	1,000,000	5,000,000	What: Report describing sources, amounts (in US$) and destination of private and blended financing funds invested in SLM When: Annual By whom: Project team.	Financial institutions see value in developing financial products that enable smallholder farmers who are applying SLM to access credit or loans.

Project Objective, Components, Outcomes and Outputs	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term targets	End of project target	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks
biodiversity conservation and human well-being.	3.2.2 Number of new farmers accessing commercial loans to invest in sustainable agricultural practices (Gender- and youth-disaggregated)	0	2,000 (of which 30 percent women and 10 percent youth)	5,000 (of which 30 percent women and 10 percent youth)	What: Report describing sources, amounts (in US$) and recipients of public and private finance invested in sustainable agricultural production and supply chains in project landscapes. When: Annual By whom: Project team.	Smallholder farmers will increase their membership of groups, so that they can reach a minimum scale of production to make investment viable.
Output 3.2.1 Portfolio of feasible impact investments and financial instruments developed and negotiated with financial services providers, combining investment in SLM at farm and landscape scales.						
Component 4. Knowledge management and outreach to scale-up sustainable value chains and landscape-scale SLM that contribute to LDN, biodiversity conservation and human well-being.						
Outcome 4.1 Scale-up of project experience is enabled by key decision makers convinced by the evidence-based Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning (MEL) system	4.1.1 High quality of field data enables project to operate effective MEL system to enable adaptive management and measurement of project achievements	N/A	Yes	Yes	What: Data quality assessment reports and management meeting minutes When: Annual By whom: Project team	MEL methodology is sufficiently robust to make credible analysis and conclusions. Central and State governments show commitment to apply learning through scaling and replication.

Project Objective, Components, Outcomes and Outputs	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term targets	End of project target	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks
of the environmental, technical and socio-economic benefits from application of SLM and landscape approaches and of the strategies to achieve that	4.1.2 Percentage of farmers with proven positive cost-benefit records from application of sustainable agricultural practices	TBD	50 percent	80 percent	What: Survey of farmers practices and farm records of participating farmers verified by third party When: At baseline, mid-term and end of project. By whom: PMU-supported by project consultant.	
	4.1.3 Project interventions have led to improved restoration and conservation in project landscapes	N/A	Data collection underway for Landscape performance monitoring system	Project impact report incorporates data from micro-landscapes	What: Project reports verified by LandScale When: project mid-term and project end. By whom: PMU (Landscape Managers)-supported by project consultant.	

Project Objective, Components, Outcomes and Outputs	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term targets	End of project target	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks
	4.1.4 Project results and learning about project approach success factors convincingly showcased to provoke replication through new programme investment by government and financial service organisations.	N/A	10 media products and events	At least 20 media products, publications and event	What: Project reports describing diffusion events and participants? reactions. When: Project end. By whom: PMU-supported by project consultant.	
Output 4.1.1 MEL system implemented to track project progress and measure performance against targeted outputs, outcomes, GEF Core Indicators and GEBs. Output 4.1.2 Evaluations of cost-benefit undertaken on the economic returns to farmers from adoption of sustainable agricultural practices, as well as environmental benefits on- and off-farm, and improvements in human well-being in the project landscapes Output 4.1.3 Learnings from project and conditions for scalability prepared and presented to central and State governments and target financial services organizations and companies and disseminated through selected events and publications.						

[1] E.g. due to higher net household incomes and health benefits.

[2] E.g. protection of riparian areas, increased shade cover, erecting bio-fences to protect animal movement

[3] E.g. increased vegetative cover, water conservation

[4] Agri-tech is the use of technology that is developed to improve farm yield, efficiency and profitability. It can be products, services or applications derived from agriculture that improve various input/output processes.

[5] Commitments could be e.g. purchasing at premium prices, making long-term buying commitments, investing in capacity building of producers.

[6] Volumes of purchases of bulk commodities are impossible to trace to project landscapes and companies will not disclose them; volumes of baseline and additional sales are more likely to be

disclosed by producers but will be due to various factors and data cannot be verified. Indicators 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 have been selected according to what is possible to measure.

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

The following STAP and GEF council review comments were received at POF stage (see table below).

In addition, the Prodoc was submitted to UNEP in March 2020, August 2020 and November 2020, with comments taken on board to guide revision and further development.

Comment	UNEP response	Project Document Reference
GEF Secretariat Review (received on 6 May 2019) None of the GEFSEC review comments required follow up within the Prodoc. The Prodoc was submitted to UNEP in March 2020, August 2020 and November 2020, with comments taken on board to guide revision and further development.		
GEF Council Members Comments:		

Comment	UNEP response	Project Document Reference
Germany welcomes this proposal, which aims to generate ambitious cross-sectoral environmental benefits in India. Especially efforts to closely integrate the private sector into project activities is highly appreciated. Suggestions for improvements: Germany recommends to more closely consult with relevant stakeholders in the field of sustainable land management (SLM) land degradation neutrality (LDN), especially the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers? Welfare (MoA&FW): ? Germany invites UNEP to seek additional consultation with its regional offices in India to avoid duplication and generate synergies with existing efforts of German development cooperation. Technical assistance activities in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra are likely to be extendable to Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. This includes landscape approaches on Sustainable Soil Management, strengthening of national extension system and circular economy approach involving nutrient and carbon value-chains. ? Germany further recommends UNEP to consider the lessons learned from the following completed projects in this area in further project design, and invites it to establish contact with German development cooperation agencies in India: o ?Sustainable Supply Chain for Perishables into Cities in India? in Karnataka o ?Green Innovation Centres for the Agricultural and Food Sector? (Special Initiative ?One World - No Hunger?) in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra o ?Umbrella Programme on Natural Resource Management (UPNRM)? (component of the ?Indo-German Environment Programme in Rural Areas of India?), country-wide o ?Environmental Benefits through the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)? in Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh o ?Himachal Pradesh Forest Ecosystem Services (HP-FES)? (component of the project ?Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity?) o ?Private Business Action for Biodiversity friendly Production (PBAB)?	This has been done extensively during PPG stage. During the PPG stage it was also recommended that MoAFW becomes the national nodal agency, which has now happened. GIZ were consulted with several times during the PPG phase, and all of the projects referenced by Germany in the column to the left were discussed to understand lessons learnt. GIZ were also a participant at the inception workshop. The project will continue to engage with GIZ on an ongoing basis.	Section 2.5; section 2.7; Appendix 19 See section 2.5, table 15 for a summary of discussions.

Comment	UNEP response	Project Document Reference
STAP Screening of PIF:		

Comment	UNEP response	Project Document Reference
Overall Assessment: STAP recommends that the project team consider the checklist for Land Degradation Neutrality Transformative Projects and Programmes devised to help country?level project developers and their technical and financial partners design effective Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Transformative Projects and Programmes (TPP).	The checklist for Land Degradation Neutrality Transformative Projects and Programmes was utilised during the project design phase and was very useful. The six defining features of LDN Transformative Projects have been considered and included in the project approach (e.g. fundamental features such as utilising a landscape approach large enough to involve multiple land units of a variety of land types; features that deliver multiple benefits; features that promote responsible and inclusive governance, etc.) A Theory of Change diagram has been included. The RAPTA framework	See section 2.5, particularly the section *Analysis for Landscape Selection* (Page 106); and section 3.3 (project components)
STAP welcomes the clear identification of drivers and barriers to project implementation, and strongly encourages the project team to prepare a detailed Theory of Change.		
In addition, it would be useful to validate the assumptions underlying the outcomes on environmental certification and sustainable financing to contribute to the evidence base. The realization of transformational change will require barriers to scaling to be assessed and addressed. These barriers include addressing differences in stakeholders? perspectives. STAP encourages the project team to consider applying the Resilience, Adaptation Pathway and Transformation Assessment (RAPTA) framework to assess climate change resilience, farm resilience, and to identify opportunities for transformational change through stakeholder engagement.		Figure 11, page 171
STAP also recommends acknowledging the socio?environmental impacts of deforestation when developing the country projects, because agricultural expansion for commodities may lead to complex impacts on land rights, and land tenure. Applying a framework that assesses trade?offs between benefits is highly encouraged. STAP recommends building on two approaches: the RAPTA framework, and UNCCD?s Scientific Conceptual Framework for Land Degradation Neutrality. Lastly, given the large number of co?financing actors from public and private sector, STAP recommends the establishment of a Project Steering Committee, which ideally should be involved in the development and/or refinement of the project?s Theory of Change to ensure all the necessary preconditions for success are identified.		See the Theory of Change (page 171) and the project components and outputs (section 3.3). Figure 12, page 196

Comment	UNEP response	Project Document Reference
3) the proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project An illustration, or narrative about, the theory of change does not appear to be included in the PIF. Thus, STAP recommends including the theory of change (narrative and illustration) in the project document. STAP also recommends acknowledging the socio?environmental impacts of deforestation when developing the country projects. This is because agricultural expansion for commodities may lead to complex social impacts that need to be reflected in the supply chains. Applying a framework that assesses trade?off between benefits and manages leakage of deforestation is highly encouraged. STAP recommends two approaches: Resilience, adaptation Pathway and Transformation Assessment (RAPTA) framework and UNCCD?s Scientific Conceptual Framework for Land Degradation Neutrality	This has been included The socio-economic impacts of deforestation, agricultural expansion and supply chains have been considered, and were raised by some stakeholders during the PPG phase. As outlined in the boxes above the RAPTA framework and the Conceptual Framework for LDN were both considered during PPG phase.	Figure 11, page 171 See section 2.5, *Analysis for Landscape Selection* (Page 106); section 3.3 (project components); and Figure 11, page 171

Comment	UNEP response	Project Document Reference
6) global environmental benefits (GEF trust fund) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF) During project design, it would be valuable to **identify the methods for measuring and monitoring the indicators, and to describe them in the project document**. The project will benefit from adopting the core indicators of the LDN and additional local indicators adapted the objectives and related activities the project proposes; it is important that a baseline be established at the beginning of the project so that realistic estimations can be done on whether the expected targets have been met at the end of the project. The Conceptual framework for LDN has a module describing how to estimate the three core indictors of LDN. Furthermore, the good practice guidance for indicator 15.3.1 summarises a suite of alternatives that countries can use at national and sub?national level to estimate land degradation and advances towards LDN.	The methods for measuring and monitoring the indicators have been described in the project document. Core indicators have been adopted.	Section 6 (page 210); Appendix 7; Appendix 8.

Comment	UNEP response	Project Document Reference
7) innovative, sustainability and potential for scaling?up The project focuses on financial innovation to encourage greater adoption of sustainable agriculture and biodiversity conservation. STAP recommends drawing from the evidence on environmental certification (Rainfall Alliance Certification) and sustainable finance (?Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) to develop the project. In this regard, STAP encourages the project developers to cite papers supporting this evidence. Additionally, it would be valuable to identify formative questions, based on the assumptions underlying the outcomes on environmental certification and sustainable financing, to contribute to their evidence base. Putting meaning behind the concept of transformational change will require for barriers to scaling to be assessed and addressed. These barriers include addressing differences in stakeholders? perspectives, which often characterize cross sectoral and polycentric governance systems, such as this project. STAP recommends applying the Resilience, Adaptation Pathway and Transformation Assessment (RAPTA) framework to assess for resilience and identify opportunities for transformational change through stakeholder engagement and governance principles. STAP also recommends strengthening the evidence base of the effectiveness of certification programs (component 3) in generating global, national, regional and local environmental benefits. STAP?s advice on design environmental certification components can be found in its paper ?Environmental Certification and the Global Environment Facility?: http://stapgef.org/sites/default/files/publications/Environmental?Certification?and?the?GEF.pdf	Evidence from implementing both systems over a number of years has been drawn on to inform the project design. Whilst some papers and evidence have been cited (e.g. page 16), the PPG phase also identified: *Several independent studies have been undertaken to measure the results of RA-SAS but none to date has been in India. CNF is still a new concept. RySS has made financial projections that show a positive economic return, and it has begun to gather data from independent studies that will provide stronger evidence.* ***Robust data sets and independently verified analysis are not yet available.***	Specifically, see page 15; test also take from page 45

Comment	UNEP response	Project Document Reference
2. Stakeholders. STAP suggests for the project developers to describe the stakeholder plan the project will apply. Governance plans also should identified for the project. See comments under innovation. Additionally, project developers may wish to consider conditions that improve policies, and that modify behaviour of supply chain actors through different forms and levels of information ? as well as other aspects that influence governance arrangements in the supply chain system. This effort entails mapping how information in the supply chain is used to: 1) navigate systems thinking and complexity (e.g. what are the dominant trade flows and patterns of ownership and governance behind them); 2) manage risks (e.g. what are the greatest risks to GEBs); 3) improve conditions (e.g. what incentives are needed to improve conditions) and 4) assess progress (e.g. is change occurring at the right pace and scale?). The following paper discusses these issues further, which will be useful to consider in the project design: Gardner, T.A. ?Transparency and sustainability in global commodity supply chains?. (2018). https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0305750X18301736	This has been included This has been considered and is apparent in the systems approach that has been taken (which can also be seen through the Theory of Change)	See section 4 (institutional framework and implementation arrangements); and Section 5 (Stakeholder Participation)
3. Gender Equality and Women?s Empowerment. STAP is pleased the project will conduct a gender analysis during the project design. In addition to this analysis, STAP recommends integrating gender elements into the theory of change. The gender analysis should guide the development of gender?responsive activities, as gender analysis per se is insufficient to empower women.	Specific gender targets have been included within the Results Framework. A Gender Mainstreaming Action Plan has also been developed.	Appendix 4; Appendix 18

Comment	UNEP response	Project Document Reference
5. Risks. The risks have been identified initially. STAP recommends for the risks to be described further ? including identifying how climate change will affect the outcomes. It also would be valuable to describe the climate projections (temperature and precipitation) for the target sites (if possible), or the targeted region. If the project develops a good theory of change these risks can be accounted as external factors that may impede delivery of the outputs, and through revisiting of the theory of change adequate alternative management practices or interventions could be identified.	The Risk Analysis has been expanded on considerably. This includes climate specific risks. In addition, UNEP?s Safeguard Risk Identification Form (SRIF) has been completed	Section 3.5; Appendix 15

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

PPG Grant Approved at PIF:			
Project Preparation Activities Implemented	***GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount ($)***		
	Budgeted Amount	***Amount Spent (as of 31 July 2020)***	***Amount Committed***
Consultants	72,450	67,884	6,554*
Travel	31,050	24,018	0
Stakeholder Workshops	26,500	7,200	0
Total	**130,000**	**99,102**	**6,554**

***Whilst this is the amount has been committed as part of signed, contracted work, Rainforest Alliance does expect to spend out the PPG grant (US $ 120,000) in full by the end of December 2020.**

If at CEO Endorsement, the PPG activities have not been completed and there is a balance of unspent fund, Agencies can continue to undertake exclusively preparation activities up to one year of CEO

Endorsement/approval date. No later than one year from CEO endorsement/approval date. Agencies should report closing of PPG to Trustee in its Quarterly Report.

ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

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

See section 1b above for coordinates and maps.

ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

UNEP Template version

ANNEX F: (For NGI only) Termsheet

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

ANNEX G: (For NGI only) Reflows

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

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

Instructions. The GEF Agency submitting the CEO endorsement request is required to respond to any questions raised as part of the PIF review process that required clarifications on the Agency Capacity to manage reflows. This Annex seeks to demonstrate Agencies? capacity and eligibility to administer NGI resources as

established in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy, GEF/C.52/Inf.06/Rev.01, June 9, 2017 (Annex 5).