



PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)
PROJECT TYPE: Medium-sized Project
THE GEF TRUST FUND

Submission Date: 12 May 2009

PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

GEF PROJECT ID¹: PROJECT DURATION: **60** months
GEF AGENCY PROJECT ID:
COUNTRY(IES): Jordan
PROJECT TITLE: Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Silvo-pastoral and Rangeland Landscapes in the pockets of poverty of Jordan
GEF AGENCY(IES): IFAD
OTHER EXECUTING PARTNER(S): Ministry of Environment (MOENV), Ministry of Agriculture (MOA)
GEF FOCAL AREA (S)²: Biodiversity
GEF-4 STRATEGIC PROGRAM(S): BD-SP1-PA Financing; BD-SP4-Policy; BD-SP5-Markets
NAME OF PARENT PROGRAM/UMBRELLA PROJECT (if applicable):

INDICATIVE CALENDAR*	
Milestones	Expected Dates
Work Program (for FSP)	June 2009
CEO Endorsement/Approval	June 2010
Agency Approval Date	July 2010
Implementation Start	January 2011
Mid-term Evaluation (if planned)	June 2013
Project Closing Date	December 2015

* See guidelines for definition of milestones.

A. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: To mainstream biodiversity conservation in silvo-pastoral and rangelands in the pockets of poverty of Jordan through the promotion of an enabling environment (policies, capacity, knowledge, and market incentives) that will be beneficial to local livelihoods and yield global environmental benefits. The project seeks also to promote innovative pilots for PES and investment support to biodiversity conservation.								
Project Components	Inv,T A, or STA ^b	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Indicative GEF Financing ^a		Indicative Co-Financing ^a		Total (\$) c = a + b
				(\$) ^a	%	(\$) ^b	%	
1. Create an enabling environment for mainstreaming biodiversity in silvo-pastoral and rangeland landscapes	I, TA	1. Sustainable conservation strategies formulated for silvo-pastoral and rangeland management 2. National institutional capacity for biodiversity mainstreaming implementation improved 3. Tools for mainstreaming biodiversity in silvo-pastoral/rangelands established 4. Knowledge management systems and information-sharing promoted	(a) 1 strategy paper for sustainable financing of PA's produced (b) 2 thematic studies & 2 policy reviews to improve biodiversity mainstreaming in production landscapes (c) 1 toolkit for biodiversity mainstreaming produced (d) 4 international study tours for innovative mainstreaming approaches (incl. markets/PES) (e) 8 training sessions in biodiversity mainstreaming and market incentives (f) Best practices for biodiversity mainstreaming promoted through publications (g) 4 Knowledge fairs/workshops on biodiversity mainstreaming organized	0,300	27.3	0,800	72.7	1,100
2. Community-based conservation and	I	1. Local capacity for natural resource management and	(a) Co-management plans promoted for 2 protected area buffer zones	0,600	23.1	2,000	76.9	2,600

¹ Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC.

² Select only those focal areas from which GEF financing is requested.

support to protected areas in pockets of poverty of Jordan	planning improved in protected area buffer zones 2. Incentives for biodiversity conservation through the valuation of silvo-pastoral and rangeland goods (incl. medicinal plants) & services improved 3. Ecotourism infrastructure promoted in selected protected areas 4. Support and equipment provided for conservation law enforcement	(b) 2 pilot PES schemes in place (1 silvo-pastoral & 1 grasslands) (c) Support to ecotourism infrastructure in 2 PA's (d) 20% reduction in conservation infractions					
3. Project management			0,100	25.0	0,300	75.0	0,400
Total project costs			1,000		3,100		4,100

^a List the \$ by project components. The percentage is the share of GEF and Co-financing respectively of the total amount for the component.

^b TA = Technical Assistance; STA = Scientific & Technical Analysis.

B. INDICATIVE CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE and by NAME (in parenthesis) if available, (\$)

Sources of Co-financing	Type of Co-financing	Project
Project Government Contribution	In-kind & cash	500,000
GEF Agency(ies)	Loan	1,800,000
Bilateral Aid Agency(ies)	In-kind/cash TBC	450,000
NGO	In-kind TBC	250,000
Others	In-kind	100,000
Total Co-financing		3,100,000

C. INDICATIVE FINANCING PLAN SUMMARY FOR THE PROJECT (\$)

	Previous Project Preparation Amount (a) ³	Project (b)	Total c = a + b	Agency Fee
GEF financing	0	1,000,000	1,000,000	100,000
Co-financing	0	3,100,000	3,100,000	
Total	0	4,100,000	4,100,000	100,000

D. GEF RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY (IES), FOCAL AREA(S) AND COUNTRY(IES)¹

GEF Agency	Focal Area	Country Name/ Global	(in \$)		
			Project (a)	Agency Fee (b) ²	Total c=a+b
IFAD	Biodiversity	Jordan	1,000,000	100,000	1,100,000 ⁴
Total GEF Resources			1,000,000	100,000	1,100,000

³ Include project preparation funds that were previously approved but exclude PPGs that are awaiting for approval.

⁴ This sum excludes PPG

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. STATE THE ISSUE, HOW THE PROJECT SEEKS TO ADDRESS IT, AND THE EXPECTED GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS TO BE DELIVERED:

A1. Environmental Overview

Jordan is a highly biodiverse country, despite arid and semi-arid land occupying over 80% of the country's surface area and being almost completely land-locked. Four distinct phyto-geographic regions intersect in Jordan – the Mediterranean, Irano-Turanian, Saharo-Arabian and the Sudanian, each of which brings its own unique assemblages of floral species, including medicinal and herbal plants which contribute to reducing soil and water degradation, and play an important role in rural livelihoods. Nestled in-between Africa, Europe and Asia, Jordan is also a globally-critical land bridge for migratory bird species. The Jordan Rift Valley, and the vast wetland, desert and steppe habitats across the country are critical areas for these migratory birds. Indeed, a total of 27 Important Bird Areas (IBAs) have been identified in Jordan. Moreover, these habitats are host to significant populations of large, charismatic mammal species which have been extirpated from much of the Middle East region. The country's northern forests and woodlands, despite comprising less than 1% of the country's area, host a number of noteworthy and important endemic species of plants and provide important habitats for migratory birds. Jordan has over 2100 plant species, 71 mammal species, and 117 (resident) species of breeding birds. Despite this wealth, Jordan's biodiversity is under serious, persistent threat, as reflected by the national and global threatened status of many species and their habitats. Direct causes of biodiversity loss include uncontrolled urban expansion in the form of deforestation, and the transformation of forests into agricultural or urbanized land; overgrazing and over-harvesting of medicinal plants in forests, silvo-pastoral lands and rangelands; and intensive agricultural practices. Illegal hunting is one of the main factors threatening faunal diversity in Jordan, which persists due to weak enforcement of laws, and is exacerbated by the lack of by-laws and other legal deficiencies.

The Government of Jordan is well aware of the significance and magnitude of threats to biodiversity, and has made significant efforts and progress towards the conservation of biodiversity. Past milestones include: (a) ratification of the CBD in 1993, (b) the National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP), emphasizing the need for a national biodiversity inventory, (c) the National Biodiversity Country Study, which prepared the ground for the Jordanian National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2003) and various National Reports (2001, 2006), (d) the National Strategy for Agricultural Development (2000-2010), which stressed sustainable agriculture and protection of natural and biological resources, and (e) the National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) for Global Environmental Management (2007), which identified and assessed capacity constraints in implementing global environmental conventions - the CBD, UNCCD and UNFCCC. Jordan also contains a suite of legislation for the environment, including 18 acts and 8 regulations pertaining to environmental protection. Most recently, the Law for the Protection of the Environment (2003) provides a framework and mechanism under which detailed legislative articles can be prepared. The Government of Jordan has also made significant progress in the conservation of biodiversity through the establishment of protected areas across the country, which now covers 10.9% of total land area. These include seven terrestrial nature reserves (managed by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature- RSCN) and 23 grazing reserves.

The fourth national report of Jordan to the CBD (March 2009) indicates that the main threats to biodiversity are rooted in urban and agricultural expansion into natural ecosystems and habitats as well as the lack of a concrete implementation of land planning strategies. Under this BAU scenario biodiversity will continue to be exposed to increasing livestock pressure in shrinking rangeland resources and limited opportunities for livelihoods in rural areas. Increasing stocking rates on rangelands is leading to higher competition between domestic and wild herbivores. Fauna (especially birds) is similarly under increasing risk of extinction due to uncontrolled hunting and lack of capacity in enforcing law. According to RSCN, up to date, 78 species of mammals have been recorded in Jordan (Amr. Z. 2000), belonging to 7 orders and 26 families. Exemplars of main species of global importance are Striped Hyena, Wolf, Golden Jackal, and the different species of foxes and wildcats. Others are herbivores, such as the Nubian Ibex, Arabian Oryx, and the different gazelle species. The largest groups of mammals are the rodents (common in rangeland ecosystems) and the bats which make up almost two-thirds of the mammals in Jordan.

Jordan also hosts breeding populations for some globally threatened bird species including Lesser Kestrel (*Falco naumanni*) and Syrian Serin (*Serinus syriacus*). According to the RSCN, there are several globally threatened species that are recorded in Jordan at different times of the year. This includes Imperial Eagle, Palled Harried, Lesser Spotted Eagle and Sociable Lapwing. Fifteen bird species are threatened, while 21 are on the CITES appendices.

According to the same source (RCSN) Jordan's flora is rich and highly diverse. Around 2,500 species of vascular plants have been identified representing 152 families and about 1% of the total flora of the globe. One hundred species are endemic, corresponding to about 2.5% of the total flora of Jordan. Several species are considered rare or threatened, but the status of many plants is yet unknown, notably concerning the globally threatened ones. 349 plant species recorded in Jordan are considered to be rare, 76 threatened species, in addition to 18 species listed on the IUCN lists. Many of these species are subject to degradation under the increasing impact of climate change and grazing pressure in range lands and silvo-pastoral ecosystems.

By focusing on rangelands and silvo-pastoral ecosystems the project will significantly contribute to the conservation of some of these endangered species through better linkages between development and conservation in pockets of rural poverty in spots where biodiversity is endangered. The project will contribute to global environmental benefits by conserving key species and habitats. Further details on species and habitats will be provided as project design evolves and as further PPG assessments are undertaken.

A2. Key Issues

The Government of Jordan and associated public institutions and NGO's (e.g. RSCN) continue to experience severe constraints to effectively conserve and mainstream biodiversity both within protected areas and in production landscapes, due to: (i) the principal financing source for biodiversity initiatives over the last decade has been the GEF, however available financial support is significantly reduced under the Resource Allocation Framework. Also, existing national policies and strategies for biodiversity conservation lack resource mobilizations plans, and there is no sustainable financing strategy for protected areas in place; (ii) there is low national institutional capacity for mainstreaming conservation in protected area buffer zones and biodiversity-rich areas without formal protection. National policies have largely failed to facilitate co-management of protected areas and their buffer zones. Also, there exists a lack of institutional capacity in the use of innovative market incentives for mainstreaming biodiversity in silvo-pastoral and rangeland landscapes. Whilst Jordan has gained significant experience in community-driven ecotourism and value-chains for agrobiodiversity, national capacity-building and pilot investments in other PES incentive mechanisms for biodiversity have been largely overlooked; (iv) a comprehensive and multi-stakeholder knowledge management system for monitoring and reporting on biodiversity in order to meet obligations under the CBD does not exist, despite this constraint being identified in both the National Environmental Action Plan (1996) and NBSAP (2003). The knowledge management capacity for biodiversity conservation is currently fragmented between various sectors and institutions, and there exists weak linkages between public biodiversity research and policy-making institutions; and (v) whilst Jordan's silvo-pastoral and rangelands are both considered high conservation priorities, participatory co-management of reserves in these ecosystems is limited. The National Strategy for Agricultural Development (2002-2010) calls for "the establishment of rangeland reserves on public lands to be managed by cooperative societies of livestock breeders, living in the reserve areas". However, to date few reserves involve the local communities though co-management plans for the sustainable use of natural resources. The lack of buy-in from local communities around protected areas is exacerbating over-grazing, illegal wood-cutting, plant collection and illegal hunting, which is threatening biodiversity and degrading ecosystem functioning and services.

A3. Proposed Strategy with GEF Support

The proposed project would address the barriers to mainstreaming biodiversity within silvo-pastoral and rangeland landscapes at both the national level, and at the local level in the pockets of poverty of Jordan. The project will work at two levels: (i) at a national scale to ensure that it contributes to the establishment of an enabling environment for mainstreaming biodiversity in key production landscapes and (ii) at local level, focusing on investment that targets linkages between development efforts and community-based conservation and support to protected areas in pockets of rural poverty in Jordan. The project will mainstream biodiversity in production landscapes through the

promotion of the enabling environments (conservation strategy, institutional building, tools for mainstreaming biodiversity in silvo-pastoral ecosystems and knowledge management) but also through investments that would translate such efforts into in the ground investments. In terms of investments and more specifically, the project would aim at local capacity building for conservation and NRM planning, linking development to conservation through pilot PES schemes in rangelands and silvo-pastoral ecosystems and the promotion of income generating activities that contribute to conservation such as medicinal plants. Further targeted support will be provided to conservation law enforcement. The project will be a five-project covering the same geographical area as the planned IFAD-supported Rural Livelihoods Diversification in the Pockets of Poverty project. The project area covers sites and key ecosystems where biodiversity loss, environmental degradation and rural poverty are coupled in Jordan. The project will be articulated around two main lines of action, in addition to project management:

Component 1: Create an enabling environment for mainstreaming biodiversity in silvo-pastoral and rangeland landscapes

The objective of this component is to create an enabling environment for the mainstreaming of biodiversity (including through the use of market incentives such as PES) into the country's silvo-pastoral and rangeland landscapes by influencing decision-making at the national level – through a review of existing policies; capacity-building; and the creation and facilitation of knowledge-sharing. This component will entail thematic studies and national policy reviews for mainstreaming biodiversity in silvo-pastoral and rangeland landscapes. This will be complemented through the production of a mainstreaming biodiversity toolkit for policymakers, and the training of key stakeholders at all levels in mainstreaming approaches for silvo-pastoral and range-lands. In addition, international study tours will highlight successful and innovative market incentives (PES) for biodiversity mainstreaming from other countries, in order to strengthen capacity and increase knowledge for pro-PES approaches which could have the potential to deliver both global environmental benefits and livelihood needs in Jordan. Complementary to the above activities, a strategy paper will be produced for the sustainable financing of protected areas in silvo-pastoral and rangelands. Finally, this component will strengthen knowledge management on biodiversity-related issues through publications and through knowledge fairs/workshops on biodiversity mainstreaming, which will facilitate knowledge sharing and networking between different institutions and individuals engaged in biodiversity research and conservation.

Component 2: Community-based conservation and support to protected areas in the pockets of poverty of Jordan

Complementary to activities at the national level, this component will drive the investment and focus on mainstreaming biodiversity in silvo-pastoral and rangelands in the pockets of poverty of Jordan, through targeted investments in capacity-building and planning at the community level around protected areas. Local communities will be consulted, and co-management plans for biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource management will be promoted in two protected area buffer zones. Two pilot PES mechanisms (1 in silvo-pastoral landscape and 1 in rangelands) will be designed and established for biodiversity conservation in the two targeted protected areas buffer zones in order to provide financial incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Potential focuses for PES include ecocertification for medicinal and/or other plants that have mature and/or growing eco-motivated markets. The two, complementary activities above will thus reduce pressure on biodiversity within the PAs; and contribute to mainstreaming biodiversity in biodiversity-rich silvo-pastoral and rangelands under no formal protection, including through the use of financial incentives. Support to ecotourism infrastructure within the two protected areas will support their financial sustainability, whilst further promoting alternative income-generating activities. Finally, targeted support to conservation law enforcement agencies will ensure a reduction in conservation infractions.

A4. Global environmental benefits expected.

The proposed incremental investment will leverage significant global environmental benefits. Global environmental benefits will be yielded through actions that will: (i) consolidate the mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in the buffer zones of two protected areas in biodiversity-rich silvo-pastoral and range-lands, thereby improving habitat connectivity of these protected areas with the wider landscape, and in particular increasing the potential habitat for birds and large-ranging faunal species, (ii) reduce pressure on biodiversity and natural resources within the protected areas, and (iii) promote the preservation of ecosystem integrity and recovery of its functions and services across silvo-pastoral and rangeland ecosystems. The proposed project will contribute to

conservation efforts across the country, where a number of ecoregions, each of which have distinct floral and faunal species, are found (e.g. Arabian Desert/East Sahero-Arabian xeric shrublands; and the Mesopotamian shrub desert). In particular, the project will contribute to the conservation of habitats in Jordan essential for numerous soaring migratory birds that follow the African-Eurasian “flyway”, one of the most significant corridors for bird migration in the world. The proposed project will also contribute to the conservation of large, important mammals located on silvo-pastoral/rangelands, including Ruppell’s sand fox (*Conis rupelii*) and the Arabian goitered gazelle (*Gazella subgutturosa marica*, VU). Native plants such as *Artemisia*, which has important medicinal properties, and *Aristida pungens*, important for fixing sand and preventing desertification, will also, be conserved.

B. DESCRIBE THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH NATIONAL PRIORITIES/PLANS:

The project will be country-driven and will be further developed in compliance with national policies and priorities. The project is fully consistent with national priorities for development, poverty reduction and sustainable use and conservation of natural resources. Project interventions at both the national and local level are aligned with National Strategy for Agricultural Development (2002-2012), of which a main thrust for improving rural livelihoods is through the optimum use of natural resources. In particular, the project will contribute to objective 4 of the Policies & Strategies for the Development of Rangelands and the Livestock Sub-sector, which calls for the establishment of rangeland reserves with the full involvement of concerned populations. Project interventions that seek to promote biodiversity mainstreaming into national policies and within buffer-zones of protected areas, as well as the development of financial and market incentives to support biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, are among the strategic goals established under the 2003 National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan (NBSAP). Therefore, the project will assist Jordan to meet its local and international commitments under the CBD. This project has also been aligned to address several constraints identified in the recent (2007) National Capacity Self Assessment Report and Action Plan, a GEF initiative which identified priority capacity constraints for implementation of the CBD. The project will be developed in full compliance with the Law for the Protection of the Environment (2003), which lays down the general legal framework for environmental management in Jordan.

C. DESCRIBE THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH [GEF STRATEGIES](#) AND STRATEGIC PROGRAMS:

Under the Biodiversity focal area, the proposed project will support both BD-SO1 “Catalyze sustainability of protected area systems” through SP-1-PA Financing, and BD-SO2 “Mainstream biodiversity in production landscapes and sectors” through SP-4-Policy and SP-5-Markets. Under SP-1-PA Financing, the project will help build Jordan’s capacity required to achieve the financial sustainability of protected areas, through a strategy paper that will identify long-term, sustainable funding sources for silvo-pastoral and rangeland protected areas. Under SP-4 “Strengthening the policy and regulatory frameworks for mainstreaming biodiversity”, the project will establish the policies required to mainstream biodiversity into silvo-pastoral and rangelands at the national level; will develop institutional capacities at all levels for biodiversity mainstreaming; and will contribute to removing critical knowledge barriers through support to knowledge management (KM), and the creation of an enabling environment for KM networking. Under SP-5 “Fostering Markets for Biodiversity Goods and Services”, the project will develop the institutional capacity for financial instruments that promote the conservation of biodiversity goods and services, as well as the design and implementation of two demand-driven pilot PES scheme at the community level.

D. OUTLINE THE COORDINATION WITH OTHER RELATED INITIATIVES:

The project activities will build on IFAD’s successful past experiences and lessons learned, and where appropriate, from mainstreaming initiatives of the Government of Jordan, and bilateral, multi-lateral and international conservation organizations. This project will draw on lessons learned from past GEF, RSCN and the Badia Research and Development Center (BRDC) projects that have established co-management plans and encouraged sustainable natural resource management in protected area buffer-zones, especially through the creation of alternative businesses and sustainable livelihoods. Relevant examples include the GEF/UNDP “Conservation of Dana and Azraq Protected Areas” project, which has been successful in promoting community participation in protected area and buffer-zone management, and the GEF/World Bank “Jordan: Conservation of Medicinal and Herbal Plants” project, which improved the conservation, management and sustainable use of medicinal plants across Jordan. Also, the BRDC, in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture, has developed a promising model for rangeland community-based protected areas. The proposed IFAD/GEF

project will also establish synergies and co-ordinate as appropriate with on-going biodiversity and natural resource management initiatives in the country, such as: (i) the EU Commission/Hans Seidel Foundation “Pilot Program for Sustainable Resource Management in Ajloun Forest Region”, (ii) the GEF/World Bank “Integrated Ecosystem Management in the Jordan Rift Valley” project, and (iii) the GEF/UNDP regional “Mainstreaming Conservation of Migratory Soaring Birds into Key Productive Sectors along the Rift Valley/Red Sea Flyway” project. The scope and incidence (if any) of the above projects in the pockets of poverty of Jordan will be taken into account, in order to avoid duplication and refine management plans and methodologies. Regarding support to knowledge management systems the proposed project will co-ordinate as appropriate with the on-going development of Jordan’s National Biosafety Clearing House Mechanism, which is expected to establish a strong and effective management infrastructure that could be utilized for new KM systems. The project will also ensure close coordination with the MENARID programmatic framework and its sub-projects. Coordination will occur at two levels: (i) direct exchange with projects that have same objectives, focus and approach across the MENARID portfolio (i.e. in Morocco, Tunisia etc) and (ii) at the learning and knowledge management level by contributing to and benefiting from the MENARID MSP on M&E and KM.

E. DISCUSS THE VALUE-ADDED OF GEF INVOLVEMENT IN THE PROJECT DEMONSTRATED THROUGH INCREMENTAL REASONING :

Baseline scenario without GEF Scenario

The Ministry of Agriculture’s priorities are to support and develop the rural areas in the highlands, Jordan Badia and Ghor, through sustainable agricultural development; achieving food security and reducing poverty through the optimum use of natural resources such as soil and water; and by making rural financial and marketing services available to farming households. IFAD’s strategy in Jordan, outlined in the Country Strategic Opportunities Paper (COSOP), is fully aligned with these MOA priorities. The GEF component will be linked to IFAD’s proposed Rural Livelihoods Diversification in the Pockets of Poverty project. The IFAD project is the main baseline for the proposed GEF component, and the GEF project area coincides with the target area of the IFAD project. The IFAD baseline project places considerable emphasis on local livelihoods and the provision of opportunities for on-and-off farm incomes. It seeks to (i) enhance natural resource management based on integrated land and water conservation, (ii) establish a solid foundation for investments in small and micro off-farm business ventures based on sound business plans, and (iii) provide capacity-building, institutional strengthening and enabling conditions to foster opportunities for increased income and employment in the farm and off-farm segments of the rural economy. Whilst the project focuses on improving natural resource management with a focus on re-vegetation, and soil and water conservation, it places little emphasis on the conservation of biodiversity, especially in and around protected areas. Biodiversity conservation is not reflected as a priority for baseline interventions, despite its importance for both local livelihoods and national/global conservation needs. Without GEF involvement in this development scenario, biodiversity may continue to be neglected facing further threats and pressure on habitats and species. According to the fourth national report of Jordan to the CBD (March 2009), the main threats to biodiversity are rooted in urban and agricultural expansion into natural ecosystems and habitats as well as the lack of a concrete implementation of land planning strategies. Under this BAU scenario biodiversity will continue to be exposed to increasing livestock pressure in shrinking rangeland resources and limited opportunities for livelihoods in rural areas. Increasing stocking rates on rangelands is leading to higher competition between domestic and wild herbivores. Fauna (especially birds) is similarly under increasing risk of extinction due to uncontrolled hunting and lack of capacity in enforcing law. The demand for fuel in rural areas is further exacerbating the pressure on the remaining vegetation cover and key habitats. This increasing pressure on natural resources and rangeland/silvo-pastoral ecosystems will lead to further pressure on species of global importance of both fauna and flora.

Alternative scenario

The GEF alternative will support activities that complement the existing baseline project by providing support for the incremental costs associated with interventions addressing biodiversity loss, in conjunction with baseline efforts to rehabilitate degraded rangelands. The alternative will build on, and strengthen the baseline. In particular, the IFAD project, through the foreseen GEF measures to create an enabling environment for biodiversity mainstreaming, would move forward substantially in an innovative manner that would not otherwise be achieved. The policy component on mainstreaming biodiversity in silvo-pastoral and rangelands will focus on providing an enabling environment for co-management of biodiversity by local communities, which to date has been insufficiently considered under the baseline

scenario. Also, empowering the management capacities of local communities and organisations, and national institutions to manage biodiversity resources sustainably will ensure that such approaches are sustainable, and can be replicated and up-scaled. Building the capacity of national institutions in innovative market-based incentive approaches other than ecotourism, as well as establishing on-the-ground pilot PES mechanisms, would mark evidence on the relationship between sustainable natural resource management and the successful provision of biodiversity services. The GEF investment will bring a significant contribution to conservation efforts in Jordan, by targeting non-sustainable land use practices in the buffer zones around two protected areas - which would otherwise receive insufficient attention under the baseline scenario. In addition, the financial sustainability of protected areas will be improved, through the production of a strategy paper, and through targeted investment support to ecotourism infrastructure in two protected areas. Without GEF funding, the BAU scenario is likely to pursue a development agenda that focuses on immediate needs of the rural poor in the pockets of poverty with little focus on the linkages between poverty and biodiversity degradation per se. GEF funding will cover this incremental dimension and will drive the development agenda in a way that could generate co-benefits for rural poverty reduction and conservation of species and habitats of global importance in Jordan while also contributing to the establishment of an overall enabling environment for conservation that would not be covered through the baseline interventions. Finally, support to biodiversity knowledge management systems and information sharing, which would otherwise be insufficiently considered, is another important element that this GEF increment is adding.

F. INDICATE RISKS, INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS, THAT MIGHT PREVENT THE PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S) FROM BEING ACHIEVED, AND IF POSSIBLE INCLUDING RISK MITIGATION MEASURES THAT WILL BE TAKEN:

RISK	MITIGATION
Capacity: Low capacity of national institutions to efficiently contribute to project objectives and drive its implementation process. The Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) has limited analytical, research, and planning capabilities. Also, the top-down attitude of staff members is not always aligned with local community demands. The Ministry of Environment (MOENV) has limited operating resources, and limited enforcement capacity.	Institutional strengthening is recognized as a priority, and so is the need to build up a sustainable system. Capacity building will be targeted in order to ensure cost-effectiveness. At the local level, participatory approaches and empowerment of local communities will ensure the project is demand-driven. The limited enforcement capacity of MOENV will be improved through direct investment.
Inter-ministries coordination: There is a risk that interagency coordination and integration fails. MOA’s Projects Directorate has difficulties in coordinating its activities with other institutions outside MOA.	The project will pay careful attention to institutional setup and improved coordination between all stakeholders. A clear institutional setup will be established and clear roles and responsibilities defined and monitored.
Risk associated with climate change: According to the IPCC 4AR, climate change will increase the occurrence of droughts in an already extremely water-scarce country. Drought years sharply reduce yields of smallholder farmers, and leave them food-insecure. Low land productivity will increase pressure on resources in terms of horizontal expansion and unsustainable resource extraction into protected areas. This situation could further be aggravated through desertification.	The project will help prevent climate risks and mitigate their consequences through the climate proofing of projects that will include participatory assessment and mapping of risks during project design.
PES/Compensation mechanisms: Compensation mechanisms for environmental services that are difficult to implement could constitute a risk as a result of ineffective instruments to channel payments to users to generate positive externalities.	Simple and cost-effective delivery mechanisms for PES will be explored during project design. Relevant experiences from IFAD and other GEF agencies in the delivery of PES will be taken into account.
Timeframe: Promoting an enabling environment for the mainstreaming of biodiversity into production landscapes may take far longer than a typical 5-year GEF project, and may result in a loss of momentum and failure to meet stakeholder expectations.	The timeframe for promoting an enabling environment for mainstreaming will be adequately planned and realistically assessed. Adaptive management could be another effective mitigation measure of this risk.

G. DESCRIBE, IF POSSIBLE, THE EXPECTED COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROJECT:

The project is mainly investment-oriented with a view to maximizing the impact per GEF dollar. The GEF project will be fully blended with the IFAD- Rural Livelihoods Diversification in the Pockets of Poverty project and will operate in the same target area, hence reducing transaction costs. Thus, project management and monitoring & evaluation costs will be maintained at the lowest possible level through (i) shared management structure, shared resources and efforts, (ii) common operative and supervision procedures. In addition, reduced costs in relation to local community organisation and engagement will further reduce the share of “soft activities”, leading to stronger investment and higher return. GEF investments will support targeted capacity-building and training for mainstreaming biodiversity and natural resource management at both the national and local levels. This two-pronged approach is cost-effective, given that behavioral changes beneficial to biodiversity at the local level will need to be complemented by actions at the policy (national) level that secure an enabling environment that drives such change. Furthermore, the use of market-based mechanisms (PES) will provide incentives for, and facilitate the adoption of mainstreaming practices. Careful design of profitable/sustainable PES schemes will be given priority. At the same time, the PES schemes will consider learnings from other schemes (facilitated through the international study tours) in order to avoid current constraints currently being faced by these compensation mechanisms. Demand-driven support to investments in ecotourism infrastructure in protected areas will generate increased financial sustainability for such areas. Cost-effectiveness will be further assessed during project design.

H. JUSTIFY THE COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE OF GEF AGENCY:

IFAD’s comparative advantage in the biodiversity focal area: The management of natural resources and biodiversity has been one of IFAD’s priorities since the 1990’s, as reflected in the new Strategic Framework 2007-2010. IFAD has shown comparative advantage to work on biodiversity GEF projects, and has proven experience of mainstreaming biodiversity in production landscapes - including in protected area buffer zones. Biodiversity mainstreaming and conservation are included in several IFAD operations. Examples include the Biodiversity Conservation and Participatory Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Inner Niger (Mopti region, Mali); the Mount Kenya East Pilot Project for Natural Resource Management (Kenya); the SIP-Integrated Ecological Planning and Sustainable Land Management in Coastal Ecosystems (Comoros); and the Support to Sustainable Land Management in Siliana (Tunisia), which are directly dealing with biodiversity conservation in an integrated manner. Biodiversity conservation is delivered through various activities that promote local best practices and traditional know-how, support agro-biodiversity conservation, and agro-forestry. IFAD has also gained considerable experience in market-based mechanisms for biodiversity conservation, including ecotourism and other forms of PES. In terms of developing ecotourism potential for the rural poor, IFAD projects include the Second Environment Program Support Project (Madagascar) and the Sustainable Development Project for Rural and Indigenous Communities of the Semi-Arid North West (Mexico). IFAD has also gained experience in the development of sustainable production and marketing of medicinal plants, for example through support to a Regional Medicinal Plants Development Network in South America. Finally, through its grants portfolio IFAD is building capacity and generating lessons learned on innovative PES through two on-going initiatives: RUPES (Rewarding the Upland Poor in Asia for Environmental Services) and PRESA (Pro-poor Rewards for Environmental Services in Africa).

IFAD in Jordan: Since 1981, IFAD has committed \$71.4 million in loans in Jordan to support agricultural development and reduce poverty, and has been a leading part in participatory development in Jordan. IFAD-supported projects have emphasized better use of soil and water resources, introducing improved management practices and focusing particularly on environmental conservation. Most recently, IFAD has gained significant experience of working with rural communities in Jordan’s rangelands through the National Programme for Rangeland Rehabilitation and Development – Phase I (1998-2003).

PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) AND GEF AGENCY(IES)

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S):

(Please attach the country endorsement letter(s) or regional endorsement letter(s) with this template).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE
Saleh Al-Kharabsheh	Director, Projects Department	Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation	1 APRIL 2009

B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for project identification and preparation.

Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	Date	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Dr Rodney Cooke Acting Coordinator Global Environment & Climate Change (GECC) Unit Programme Management Department (PMD) IFAD		11/04/09	Mr Naoufel Telahigue Programme Manager GECC Unit PMD, IFAD	+390654592572	n.telahigue@ifad.org
<i>Please do not forget to copy the IFAD/GECC Registry on official communications, GECCRegistry@ifad.org</i>					