



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

February 02, 2016

Dear LDCF/SCCF Council Member,

I am writing to notify you that we have today posted on the GEF's website at www.TheGEF.org, a Project Identification Form (PIF) for a full-sized project proposal from UNDP entitled ***Benin: Strengthening the Resilience of Rural Livelihoods and Sub-national Government System to Climate Risks and Variability in Benin (GEF ID : 5904)***, for funding under the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF). This PIF has been posted for Council approval by mail. Council Members are invited to review the PIF and to submit their comments (in Word file) to the GEF Secretariat's program coordination registry at gcoordination@TheGEF.org by March 01, 2016.

Following the streamlined procedures for processing LDCF proposals, Council members are invited to approve the following decision:

*The LDCF/SCCF Council reviewed the PIF entitled **Benin: Strengthening the Resilience of Rural Livelihoods and Sub-national Government System to Climate Risks and Variability in Benin (GEF I : 5904)** (LDCF Project Grant \$4,450,000) (Agency Fee \$422,750), posted on February 02, 2016 and approves it on a no objection basis subject to the comments submitted to the Secretariat by March 01, 2016.*

The Council finds that the PIF (i) is, or would be, consistent with the Instrument and GEF policies and procedures, and (ii) maybe endorsed by the CEO for final approval by the GEF Agency, provided that the final project document fully incorporates and addresses the Council's and the STAP reviewer's comments on the PIF, and that the CEO confirms that the project continues to be consistent with the Instrument and GEF/LDCF/SCCF policies and procedures.

The final project document will be posted on the GEF website for information after CEO endorsement. If the GEF CEO determines that there has been a major change to the present scope and approach since PIF approval, the final project document shall be posted on the web for Council review for four weeks prior to CEO endorsement.

In accordance with this decision, if the Secretariat has not heard from you in writing by March 01, 2016 we will assume that you approve the PIF.

Sincerely,

Naoko Ishii
Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson

Copy to: Country Operational Focal Point, Alternates, GEF Agencies, STAP, Trustee



PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF) ¹

PROJECT TYPE:

TYPE OF TRUST FUND:

PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Title:	Strengthening the resilience of rural livelihoods and sub-national government system to climate risks and variability in Benin		
Country(ies):	Benin	GEF Project ID: ²	
GEF Agency(ies):	UNDP	GEF Agency Project ID:	5433
Other Executing Partner(s):		Submission Date:	15 June 2014
GEF Focal Area (s):	Climate change	Project Duration (Months)	60
Name of parent program (if applicable): ➤ For SFM/REDD+ <input type="checkbox"/>	N.A.	Agency Fee (\$):	570,000

A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK³:

Focal Area Objectives	Expected FA Outcomes	Expected FA Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative grant amount (\$)	Indicative co-financing (\$)
CCA-1	1.1 Mainstreamed adaptation in broader development frameworks at country level and in targeted vulnerable areas	1.1.1 Adaptation measures and necessary budget allocations included in relevant frameworks	LDCF	1,510,000	6,548,297
CCA-1	1.2 Reduced vulnerability to climate change in development sectors	1.2.1 Vulnerable physical, natural and social assets strengthened in response to climate change impacts, including variability	LDCF	2,000,000	23,497,466
CCA-1	1.3 Diversified and strengthened livelihoods and sources of income for vulnerable people in targeted areas	1.3.1 Targeted individual and community livelihood strategies strengthened in relation to climate change impacts, including variability	LDCF	2,200,000	26,050,510
Sub-total				5,710,000	55,586,273
Project management cost				290,000	510,000
Total project cost				6,000,000	56,096,273

¹ It is very important to consult the PIF preparation guidelines when completing this template.

² Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC.

³ Refer to the reference attached on the [Focal Area Results Framework](#) when filling up the table in item A.

B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective:						
Project Component	Grant Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Cofinancing (\$)
Climate responsive local and national development planning	TA	1. Climate sensitive planning, budgeting and execution supports the medium term National Adaptation Plans process at the national and sub-national level in at least 7 regions and the agriculture, economy and finance ministries	<p>Output 1.1: Capacity of sub-national councils and in at least 7 regions enhanced for climate sensitive development planning and budgeting</p> <p>Output 1.2: Capacity of provincial councils and technical departments strengthened to carry out a strategic environmental/vulnerability assessment at the provincial level to inform sub-national climate-smart planning and budgeting process in at least 7 regions/ 15 communes</p> <p>Output 1.3: Technical capacity of agricultural extension officers and grass-roots NGOs enhanced for climate-resilient livelihood techniques and sustainable assistance to communities</p> <p>Output 1.4: Technical capacity to execute climate resilient agriculture infrastructure design and construction enhanced for at least 300 government officers and registered private contractors in 7 regions</p> <p>Output 1.5: Finance and Planning Ministry introduce guidelines to direct sector ministries to integrate climate change in their medium and long term planning and budgeting</p>	LDCF	1,210,000	10,456,148

			processes.			
Resilient livelihood investments	INV	2. Gender sensitive resilient livelihoods for the most vulnerable improved against erratic rainfalls, floods and droughts	<p>Output 2.1: Climate-resilient small-scale water infrastructure designed and put in place in at least 15 communes following specifically targeting subsistence farmers</p> <p>Output 2.2: At least 10,000 women engaged in subsistence agriculture trained on alternative livelihoods to farming to better face climate shocks</p> <p>Output 2.3: Business development training in handicrafts and small-scale manufacturing provided to 300 rural entrepreneurs and 50 SMEs to stimulate employment and growth.</p>	LDCF	2,000,000	19,764,855
Enabling environment for greater climate finance for resilient livelihoods	TA	3. Productive agricultural infrastructure and human skills improved for sustainable resilient agriculture	<p>Output 3.1: Micro-water harvesting techniques introduced in 40 communities</p> <p>Output 3.2: Drip irrigation techniques and climate resilient infrastructure installed in 40 communities</p> <p>Output 3.3: At least 120 check dams, contour bunds and other irrigation facilities built to conserve water and enhance groundwater recharge</p>	LDCF	2,500,000	25,878,270
Sub-Total					5,710,000	55,586,273
Project Management Cost ⁴					290,000	510,000
Total Project Costs					6,000,000	56,096,273

C. INDICATIVE CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE AND BY NAME IF AVAILABLE, (\$)

⁴ Same as footnote #3.

Sources of Cofinancing	Name of Cofinancier	Type of Cofinancing	Amount (\$)
Other Multilateral Agency (ies)	Supporting rural economic growth project	Grant	27,872,000
National Government	Promoting agricultural entrepreneurship for socioeconomic transformation in Benin	Grant	13,671,972
Local Government	Agricultural diversification program for the enhancement of valleys	Grant	7,552,301
Local Government	Institutional support for planning and coordination of the agricultural sector	Grant	7,000,000
(select)		(select)	56,096,273
Total Cofinancing			

D. GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY¹

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal Area	Country Name/Global	Grant Amount (a)	Agency Fee (b) ²	Total c=a+b
UNDP	LDCF	Climate Change	Benin	6,000,000	570,000	6,570,000
Total Grant Resources						6,570,000

¹ In case of a single focal area, single country, single GEF Agency project, and single trust fund project, no need to provide information for this table

² Please indicate fees related to this project.

E. PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)⁵

Please check on the appropriate box for PPG as needed for the project according to the GEF Project Grant:

	<u>Amount Requested (\$)</u>	<u>Agency Fee for PPG (\$)⁶</u>
➤ No PPG required.	_____	_____
➤ (Up to) \$50k for projects up to & including \$1 million	_____	_____
➤ (upto)\$100k for projects up to & including \$3 million	_____	_____
➤ (Up to)\$150k for projects up to & including \$6 million	\$150,000	\$14,250
➤ (upto)\$200k for projects up to & including \$10 million	_____	_____
➤ (upto)\$300k for projects above \$10 million	_____	_____

PPG AMOUNT REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), FOCAL AREA(S) AND COUNTRY(IES) FOR MFA AND/OR MTF PROJECT ONLY: N/A

Trust Fund	GEF Agency	Focal Area	Country Name/Global	(in \$)		
				PPG (a)	Agency Fee (b)	Total c = a + b
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
Total PPG Amount				0	0	0

MFA: Multi-focal area projects; MTF: Multi-Trust Fund projects.

⁵ On an exceptional basis, PPG amount may differ upon detailed discussion and justification with the GEFSEC.

⁶ PPG fee percentage follows the percentage of the GEF Project Grant amount requested.

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. PROJECT OVERVIEW

A1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE THE PROJECT INCLUDING;

1) THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEM, ROOT CAUSES AND BARRIERS THAT NEED TO BE ADDRESSED

Available evidence suggests that the most certain manifestation of climate change on precipitation is an increase in **variability** while the directions of changes are much more uncertain. These predicted changes in climate, despite uncertainties, are likely to have an impact on farmers who engage in subsistence or rain-fed agriculture, the landless who are usually dependent on on-farm labour opportunities, and women-headed households (Sonnevald et. al, 2012). The *Plan Strategique de Relance du Secteur Agricole* (PSRSA - Benin Agricultural Strategic Plan) reports that the agriculture sector contributes about 30% of GDP, and about 70% of the total population derives their livelihood from this sector. Despite this dependence on agriculture, only 13% of the cultivated area is estimated to be irrigated, and 80% of agricultural production takes place during the wet season. This dependence on good weather for sustaining their livelihoods is very apparent.

Key underlying causes of vulnerability of the agricultural sector in Benin are multiple. Use of irrigation, which would act as the buffer against fluctuations of water availability, is considerably low. In addition, shortages of general production inputs continue to contribute to the underlying vulnerability of farmers. Extension services are generally understaffed and available primarily at the provincial level. Their outreach is limited, farm mechanization, fertilizer use and access to affordable farm credits are all at suboptimal level. Underlying causes of vulnerability to climate change can also be found in historical reasons. Decades of poor governance have severely weakened traditional customs regulating land use. Access to natural resources, including land and water, is determined by wealth, position and power, and the most disadvantaged have been excluded from productive resources.

The multiplicity of these factors is contributing to the stagnant growth in recent years in the agricultural sector. There is a real risk that the Government pays greater attention to fill more immediate gaps without sufficiently taking into account additional risks imposed by increasing variability in the amount and arrival of monsoon rains, increasing intensity of localized floods and droughts, and greater challenges of spatial and inter-temporal distributions of water resources.

The long term solution is to improve resilience of the agriculture and livelihoods sector to climate change and variability, a key requirement is ensuring freshwater availability for agricultural use. This includes both access to wet season irrigation to safeguard farmers from the collapse of the mainstay of their agricultural production as well as access to dry season irrigation to enable diversification of their income sources from shorter crop or cash crop during the currently unviable dry season. Secondly, the new opportunities for productivity enhancement through access to freshwater needs to be supplemented by a strengthened extension support, diffusion of a diverse range of seeds and best agricultural practices and off-farm livelihood opportunities. Thirdly, the identification process of priority beneficiaries and locations needs to be informed by local communities that are most knowledgeable about creeping risks of a changing climate. This is particularly important when the information on simulated climate risks, continues to rely on larger grids of regional simulations, which is too coarse to be used as a local planning tool. Lastly, for sustainability purposes, the

diffusion of climate resilient livelihood support needs to be done in a way that reinforces the existing mechanisms, rather than as piecemeal, ad hoc donor assistance. These mechanisms include the local development planning process that exist at the provincial, district and commune levels, or networks of NGOs/CSOs that have been playing a critical role of filling the gap of public service shortfalls especially in rural Benin in the past.

Barriers that need to be addressed: There are multiple barriers that prevent Benin from achieving the preferred long-term solution.

Insufficient integration of climate risks into sub-national development planning (Capacity and institutional barrier). Achieving climate resilient livelihoods in Benin requires, among other things, a mechanism through which local communities can provide locally-specific knowledge of climate risks, how they have (based on historical information) or are likely (based on understanding of future projections) to manifest in their locality. A mechanism is necessary to also convey their needs for infrastructural, technical and material assistance to address and manage emerging risks. Sub national administration do not have the technical capacities to identify climate risks and adaptation options as the development planning dialogues take place, and there is no formal mechanism to integrate climate vulnerability information into specific development plans and targets of sub-national development plans. As a result, development priorities identified through the current dialogue process is exclusively based on a business-as-usual scenario without taking into considerations additional risks imposed by climate risks. **Low levels of extension advice for agriculture and livelihood diversification (Institutional barrier).** Efficient irrigation infrastructure and water management systems and access to agricultural inputs, especially improved seed, appropriate fertilizer/pesticide usage and other best practices is crucial in raising the productivity of small holder agriculture. The extent to which people receive accurate agricultural advice of extension workers will affect the extent to which new techniques and adaptation practices are understood and made available for adoption. The limited capacity of national and sub-national institutions culminate in the inability to use their development planning process, and the resultant development of investment plans, as a guiding tool for identifying adaptation needs within their constituencies. The inability to set vulnerability reduction targets on the basis of needs and available (and reliable) funding, identify adaptive investment actions, source technical expertise and financial means to implement the plan, and revise the development/investment plans for the next cycle based on the assessments of the previous investments. **Technical capacity constraints for climate-resilient water infrastructure design and livelihood support (Human resources barrier).** At the national and sub-national level, there are significant shortages of institutional or human resource capacity to deliver services that aim at increasing climate resilience for rural livelihoods. Canal distribution systems in Benin almost always consist of earth canals without linings and spillways due to shortages of funds. In other words, the design standards employed by Agricultural Department Authorities officials and local contractors/engineers responsible for designing and construction of rural irrigations work currently do not take into considerations increasing volume of rainfall and additional run-off, extreme events such as floods and cyclones, or the increasing needs to manage the flow of water under a changing regime of the monsoonal system. Agricultural extension officers and NGOs that are providing agricultural assistance are not only limited in number, but also lack experience and skills in providing climate resilient farming techniques. **Limited availability and use of information on climate risks and adaptation options (Coordination and Information Barrier).** Risk management requires information with respect to the primary risks involved. In the case of climate change and crop-related risk management or alternative livelihoods, more reliable seasonal and short-term early warning information is required, by policy makers, planners, farmers and micro-finance insurance institutions,

to assess risk and potential returns from their investments and integrate climate change in planning. With respect to potential climate vulnerability reducing responses, there are limited examples of environmental risk reducing interventions (such as improved agricultural husbandry or micro-irrigation) to provide demonstrable evidence of the benefits of these initiatives for improving climate resilience and limited information about alternative livelihood options, rights and entitlements, new agricultural methods, and credit programs.

2) THE BASELINE SCENARIO AND ANY ASSOCIATED BASELINE PROJECTS

LDCF funding represents an opportunity to increase the climate change resilience of the rural development objectives pursued through the PSRSA in the provinces of Atacora, Donga, Alibori, Couffo, Zou, Collines and Atlantique. Without the LDCF funding, the baseline intervention could turn out to be a “business-as-usual” development, and not tackle the roots of the most important constraints facing rural development in Benin where natural capital still accounts for the largest part of communities' revenues. Several projects on the ground form the baseline for this project to build on. These projects are, the project implemented by FAO and IFAD called PACER, supporting rural economic growth, and the projects implemented by UNDP on strengthening institutions for agricultural growth. The IFAD project “Supporting Rural Growth” aims to support rural entrepreneurship in 5 value chains identified by the vulnerability assessment. The Belgium funded project on strengthening institutional capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture, will also be one of the baseline projects that this LDCF initiative will build on. A Government initiative to improve agricultural diversification and value addition to identified Valleys will contribute the overall improvement in agriculture but does take climate change risks and opportunities into account. Finally the last baseline project called the “Projet Songhai” aims at providing technical expertise to farmers in the field of sustainable agriculture and livestock rearing but without the climate change angle. This LDCF initiative will ensure that climate change becomes a central issue in the planning, budgeting and execution of Government intervention and support to its rural population.

3) THE PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE SCENARIO, WITH A BRIEF DESCRIPTION EXPECTED OF THE OUTCOMES AND COMPONENTS OF THE PROJECT

Strengthening the resilience of communities in Benin to climate change will require a step change in current practices. To begin with, a greater level of awareness and a more robust technical knowledge base of climate change impacts (risks and opportunities) are required at the Government level. This initiative will improve the capacity of policy makers and planners to fully incorporate climate risks, particularly in the District Development Plans and Community Development Plans level. Restoring the depleted natural resource base and managing it in a more sustainable manner is a fundamental component of building resilience. This project will support this by moving beyond subsistence agriculture to food and income security, along with a shift toward more diverse and less vulnerable livelihoods. Finally, large-scale investments in climate resilient agricultural infrastructure such as storage reservoirs and more efficient irrigation systems are going to be part of this project and will improve the resilience of rainfed subsistence agriculture.

The project will have 3 outcomes:

Outcome 1: Climate sensitive planning, budgeting and execution at the national and sub-national level strengthened in at least 7 regions. When this result is achieved national and sub-national Ministries of Agriculture, Economic Development and Analysis and Environment will have the capacity to integrate climate change risks and opportunities in their annual/medium/long-term development plans and budgets.

Outcome 2: Resilience of livelihoods for the most vulnerable improved against erratic rainfalls, floods and droughts. When this result is achieved, communities in Atacora, Donga, Alibori, Couffo, Zou, Collines and

Atlantique will have improved resilience to climate shocks from the diversified income generating activities that they will engaged in.

Outcome 3: *Productive agricultural infrastructure and human skills improved for sustainable resilient agriculture.* This outcome, when realized, will expand the use of irrigation channels, drainage systems for flood prevention, check dams and water harvesting systems for ground water recharge and drought resilience.

4) INCREMENTAL/ADDITIONAL COST REASONING, AND EXPECTED CONTRIBUTION FROM THE BASELINE AND CO-FINANCING

Consistent with priority adaptation strategies identified by the Benin NAPA, the proposed project will aim at:

- Strengthening capacity of national and sub-national administrations for climate sensitive planning, budgeting and execution
- Promoting diversification of livelihoods and entrepreneurship for the most vulnerable to face climate shocks
- Improved agricultural infrastructure for better resilience to increasing variability in rainfall and climate.

As most of adaptation actions need to be designed, planned and executed at the sub-national levels, it is critical to ensure that resilience to changing climate conditions is mainstreamed into national and sub-national planning and finance processes. The sub-national administrations need to have the adequate capacity to identify climate risks and solutions for them. The proposed project components, implemented within a single project framework, aims at building capacities and increasing the preparedness of national and sub-national authorities to effectively identify, sequence and combine available resources for climate change adaptation while addressing most urgent priority actions identified in Benin NAPA.

A number of donors have assisted in the implementation of the agricultural reform in Benin. The UNDP-assisted Institutional Support to the Ministry of Agriculture for Improved Planning and Budgeting project, with financial support from Belgium, has strengthened the capacity of national and sub-national authorities in formulating local development plans in a participatory manner. This support structure continues with the decentralization efforts implemented by the Government. As a result of continued assistance from these initiatives, councils, especially at the commune level, are gaining confidence in various administrative and financial aspects of local development processes. Although these improvements are a critical element for strengthening the public financial management, reducing the possibility of fund mismanagement, institutionalizing the culture of better service delivery and accountability, in practice, they are hardly used for a planning purpose. Five-year Commune Development Plans and annual Investment Programmes currently produced at the commune-level (and subsequently consolidated at the district-level) are practically a wish list and fall short of being a practical tool that guides commune councils in prioritizing, budgeting and executing development action plans. Additional technical knowledge and vulnerability assessment tools need to be used for determining the level and nature of adaptation investments are required in each commune.

Contributing to the Benin strategies to reduce the vulnerability of rural citizens and integrating the baseline contribution, the LDCF intervention aims to reduce the overall climate vulnerability of beneficiaries in the target areas by increasing community resilience and climate adaptability. The intervention aims at addressing beneficiaries and their families as productive units. Due to the particular social and cultural conditions of the target beneficiaries, the project will tackle the entire "productive family" capitalizing on a gender oriented approach that will increase the productivity and climate resilience of the family rather than its individuals. The LDCF initiative, will complement other baseline programmes by introducing the

development of early adaptive management plans aimed at strengthening resilience, reducing vulnerability, increasing productivity and conserving or restoring the natural resource base and knowledge. This will be followed by the implementation of investment plans in rural agricultural infrastructure for adaptation and vulnerability reduction, based on the priority measures identified by the communities through the planning exercise. The design and implementation of the plans will be coupled with enhanced preparedness to climate risk, thanks to the capacity building and development effort and the linking to the early warning system for extreme weather events, which will be made available to the rural actors in the project area. The intervention will support local user associations / cooperatives / groups adopting natural resource management to restore and enhance local ecosystems, such as water bodies and to introduce adequate technologies to improve production and reduce post-harvest losses. Through tailored and participative investments, associated with professional training and involving local youth and women, the project will (i) support soil conservation activities (i.e. retaining wall, afforestation), (ii) introduce water conservation and management practices for farmers and herders (i.e. irrigation schemes, wells and solar pumps), (iii) enhance local extension services (i.e. adaptive farming assistance), (iv) introduce tailored post-harvest technologies (i.e. solar heating of barns / storage /rooms, / transformation infrastructures); (v) provide certified professional training to women and youth in order to create agricultural spin-off and local employment of youth and women and (vi) ensure community to community technology and knowledge transfer to capitalize and maximize projects' best practices and lesson learned. This LDCF contribution will enhance smallholders' adaptation by ensuring market oriented early response to environmental stresses and by climate proofing the agricultural value chain. Adaptive natural resource management, business oriented diversification and adequate adaptive technologies will be the core of the contribution. This innovative approach will involve the stimulation of income-generating activities as well as the creation of green jobs and business development opportunities for the whole community contributing to increased resilience.

The LDCF funds will cover the incremental cost related to the production of the adaptive and participatory plans, the capacity building/development work needed for their development and implementation, the field investments for adaptation and vulnerability reduction, and the enhanced preparedness to climate risk, both at field level (linking with early warning systems) and through national plans and policy dialogue at the provincial and regional level. Furthermore, the LDCF contribution will ensure that all the PSRSA baseline investments in the field of postharvest ensure that proper climate adaptive technologies are adopted to guarantee the complete climate proofing of the value chain and ensure an optimized and sustainable cycle of the rural agricultural chain where the entire cycle is climate secured and improves market opportunities.

5) ADAPTATION BENEFITS

LDCF resources in Component 2 will target at least 150,000 (direct and indirect) farmers who currently do not have secure access to irrigation, land-poor farmers, women-headed households, and the landless so that their livelihoods are made more resilient to an increasing variability in rainfall patterns under a changing climate. Investments in small-scale rural infrastructure, especially on-farm water management infrastructure for agricultural purposes, are thought to deliver high economic return given their low level of current irrigation coverage. At least 300 Government officers and registered contractors will be trained in resilient agricultural infrastructure design and construction. Government officers in the 7 regions will receive technical training on the economics of adaptation, climate resilient planning and will be supported to integrate this knowledge in their medium and long term development plans. By strengthening the national and sub-national institutional capacities with LDCF resources as a platform to bring together existing development partners, identify existing support and adaptation gaps, and providing a package of adaptive livelihood support – a combination of irrigation, SRI, integrated farming, soil management, seed

purification techniques and climate resilient post-harvest techniques – the productivity of agriculture is likely to be enhanced. Potential economic benefits to the landless are expected to be high as the project will promote diversification of their livelihoods, for at least 10,000 women and youth by introducing alternative skills for employment. Effectiveness of targeting the most vulnerable populations in rural areas will be enhanced through the use of objective tools that will be embedded in the vulnerability assessments (VRA), mapping of access to irrigation and use of resilient agricultural techniques. This will be further enhanced by the improved performance-based incentive mechanism that will reward those extension services that comply with certain pre-agreed conditions such as targeting of beneficiaries and climate resilient building standards, with greater volume of adaptation grants the following year. These measures are often overlooked but critical as rural Benin is fraught with power struggles, and the voices of the most vulnerable are least heard.

6) INNOVATIVENESS, SUSTAINABILITY AND POTENTIAL FOR UPSCALING

The creation of Users Groups including women, herders, and farmers and the development and implementation of integrated landscape management plans for adaptation and vulnerability reduction is a highly innovative action in Benin, where the deployment of available natural capital is boosting urban migration with unprecedented proportions. Another innovative measure of the LDCF intervention is the empowerment of rural communities to better deal with extreme climate events and hazards, thanks to the link up of a user-friendly early warning system (EWS) and business oriented diversification. Communities and local entrepreneurs will contribute to the project investing not only their time and facilities but providing as well their knowledge and labour. The participative approach and the empowerment of grassroots beneficiaries aside with state authorities and Benin's research institutes and universities is also a guarantee for the long-term sustainability of the intervention. The adoption of new plans, no regret interventions and policies at the State level, together with the increased attention of the Benin authorities to the agriculture/rural sector since 2003, are all elements in favour of the sustainability of the proposed initiative.

A2. Stakeholders. Identify key stakeholders and describe how they will be involved in the Project preparation

The geographic target of this LDCF intervention will be Atacora, Donga, Alibori, Couffo, Zou, Collines and Atlantique which have been identified as priority areas of intervention by the Government of Benin and the UNDP. The target groups within these areas will include: (i) small crop producers and subsistence farmers; (ii) pastoralists and small agro-pastoralists including beekeepers; (iii) rural women, particularly in female-headed households, (iv) local cooperatives and association; and (v) youth.

The main project partners and stakeholders on this project will be the ministry for Economic Development and Analysis, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fishing, The Center of Expertise for Partnerships and Sustainable Development, the Institute for Agricultural Research Benin, Ministry of Water and Energy, Communities and regions.

The project will support an active partnership between University of Cotonou and international Universities and research centres working on Climate Change Adaptation.

A3. Risks. Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during project design.

Risks	Categories	Risk Mitigation Measures
Unavailability of requisite	Organizational	The issue of the unavailability of requisite human resources

human resources and data	P=2 I=4	will be mitigated by recruitment of international consultants who will work closely with in-country counterparts (MAEP) and by targeted capacity building activities. Training activities of local personnel will also be part of all aspects of the work and the relevant institutions will be encouraged to expand the staff base if it is weak in particular areas.
Work progresses in a compartmentalized fashion and there is little integration, e.g., government departments refuse to share data and information	Organizational P=2 I=4	This risk is always present in a project such as this. By ensuring that capacity is built across a range of departments and implementing 'quick win' measures early, these issues can be mitigated. National Steering Committee – Project Board involved at preparatory and implementation phase, regular updating of OFP, M&E and Lessons Learned, Donor coordination – Local Consultative Group, UNCT, CCA, UNDAF
Extreme climate events such as floods and droughts could disrupt project activities and/or damage ecosystems and infrastructure.	Environmental P=3 I=3	Coordination will be undertaken with partners for disaster response in order to ensure that disaster relief interventions are also directed towards demonstration sites impacted by extreme climatic events. Appropriate species will be used for project interventions in order to minimize the potential impacts in the medium and long-term. Where damage occurs before ecosystem management adaptation approaches can reduce the impacts of extreme events, supplementary infrastructural approaches and planting will be undertaken.
Limited capacity within relevant ministries/insufficient qualified human capacity.	Organizational P=2 I=4	A major part of the project aims to strengthen institutional and technical capacity for planning, designing and implementing local level adaptation actions. Technical and capacity building expertise will be contracted in, to work with and train local technical staff. A dedicated Project Manager will be assisted with short term national and international specialist support to ensure smooth and timely delivery of project outputs.
Poor provincial responses to the leadership role from MAEP	Organizational P=2 I=4	Provincial authorities have been individually consulted during preparatory phase, and have endorsed the LDCF project. The PSC will engage with relevant provincial authorities throughout the duration of the project.

A4. Coordination. Outline the coordination with other relevant GEF financed and other initiatives

Partnerships with regional donors including the World Bank, the African Development Bank and EU Funds are being nurtured and will benefit from UNDP's framework for cooperation with donors for project financing. The project will coordinate with the EU and other bilateral donors active in the sector and areas of intervention ensuring collection as well as distribution of the collected data through the appropriate research institute. The LDCF initiative will complement other relevant GEF-financed initiatives in Benin, namely the project "Integrated adaptation programme to combat the adverse effects of climate change on agriculture production and food security in Benin" implemented by UNDP, the project "Strengthening of CI/EWS for resilient development" implemented by UNDP, and the project "Support to Rural Economic Growth" implemented by FAO and IFAD.

B. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:

B1. National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under different conventions, if applicable

i.e. NAPAs, NAPs, NBSAPs, national communications, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, biennial update report...etc

This project directly addresses the first priority of the NAPA, i.e “mobilization from surfaces waters in order to adapt to climate change in the most vulnerable villages from the Center and the North”. The proposed intervention builds on the findings, and is closely aligned with recommendations of the first and Second National Communications to the UNFCCC (2010). It integrates key recommendations for adaptation activities in agriculture and water resource management and is fully relevant with the priority projects identified by the national strategies and the NAPA. The project has the full support of the Government of Benin and the proposed interventions are based on priorities and recommendations of the "Plan Strategique de Relance du Secteur Agricole (PSRSA)", the “Strategie de Croissance pour la Reduction de la Pauvrete (SCRP)”, and the "Programme National d’Investissements Agricole (PNIA)" and will see the direct involvement of the Benin relevant Authorities, State Universities and research institutions.

B2. GEF focal areas and/or fund strategies, eligible criteria and priorities.

This project is fully in line with LDCF focal area objective 1 to “reduce vulnerability to the adverse impacts of climate change, including variability, at local, national, regional and global level”.

B3. The GEF agency’s comparative advantage to implement this project:


The proposed project is aligned with UNDP’s strategic plan (2014-2017) and more specifically, outcome 1, output 1.4.2. UNDP in Benin has a comparative advantage, as articulated in the GEF matrix, in the area of capacity building, providing technical and policy support as well as expertise in project design and implementation. Additionally UNDP has close links with governments, as well as a high level of experience managing other LDCF projects in the region, in particular those with an early warning component and livelihood strengthening. UNDP is therefore already working on adaptive agriculture and diversification of livelihoods in many countries and many sectors, strengthening its capability to coordinate and providing the flexibility to handle changing needs between countries. The country offices are supported by Regional Technical Advisors at UNDP offices in Addis Ababa, as well as by policy, adaptation, economics and climate modeling experts in New York, Cape Town and Bangkok. UNDP is already conducting two LDCF funded project on agricultural production and food security which incorporates elements of a EWS within the agriculture sector. The Benin country office is therefore already connected to important government agencies that will be instrumental in implementing this proposed project e.g. the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Economic Development.

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

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S): (Please attach the [Operational Focal Point endorsement letter\(s\)](#) with this template. For SGP, use this [OFP endorsement letter](#)).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)
Delphin Aidji	GEF Focal Point	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT	12 MARCH 2014

B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF policies and procedures and meets the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF criteria for project identification and preparation.					
Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Adriana Dinu, Executive Coordinator, and Director a.i., UNDP/GEF		June 26, 2014	Benjamin Larouquette		Benjamin.larouquette @undp.org