



# GEF-6 REQUEST FOR PROJECT ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Project

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF Trust Fund

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## PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Enabling implementation of the Regional SAP for the rational and equitable management of the Nubian Sandstone Aquifer System (NSAS)			
Country(ies):	Chad, Egypt, Libya and Sudan	GEF Project ID: <sup>1</sup>	9165
GEF Agency(ies):	UNDP (select) (select)	GEF Agency Project ID:	4736
Other Executing Partner(s):	UNESCO-IHP	Submission Date:	14 Dec. 2017
		Resubmission Date:	18 April 2018
GEF Focal Area (s):	International Waters	Project Duration (Months)	48 months
Integrated Approach Pilot	IAP-Cities <input type="checkbox"/> IAP-Commodities <input type="checkbox"/> IAP-Food Security <input type="checkbox"/>	Corporate Program: SGP <input type="checkbox"/>	
Name of Parent Program	[if applicable]	Agency Fee (\$)	379,050

### A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK AND OTHER PROGRAM STRATEGIES<sup>2</sup>

Focal Area Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
			GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
IW-1 Program 1 (select) (select)	Catalyze Sustainable Management of Transboundary Water Systems	GEFTF	1,095,000	4,800,000
IW-2 Program 3 (select) (select)	Balance Competing Water-uses in the Management of Surface & Groundwater	GEFTF	2,895,000	12,930,000
(select) (select) (select)		(select)		
(select) (select) (select)		(select)		
(select) (select) (select)		(select)		
(select) (select) (select)		(select)		
(select) (select) (select)		(select)		
(select) (select) (select)		(select)		
<b>Total project costs</b>			<b>3,990,000</b>	<b>17,730,000</b>

### B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

<b>Project Objective: Initiate regional SAP implementation through legal, policy and institutional reforms and addressing gaps identified in the SAP, supporting rational and equitable integrated management, socio-economic development and the protection of the ecosystem and resources of the NSAS in the Nubian Countries</b>						
Project Components/ Programs	Financing Type <sup>3</sup>	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
					GEF Project Financing	Confirmed Co-financing
Component 1: Collaborative actions to further validate the functioning of the NSAS and its resources.	TA	Strengthened common understanding of the functioning of the NSAS, taking account of potential climate change and variability threats, based on the agreed methodology and data as basis of	Reducing uncertainties to achieve a common understanding of the NSAS functioning from joint studies;  Joint Regional monitoring network implemented and	GEFTF	600,000	2,650,000

<sup>1</sup> Project ID number remains the same as the assigned PIF number.

<sup>2</sup> When completing Table A, refer to the excerpts on [GEF 6 Results Frameworks for GETF, LDCF and SCCF](#) and [CBIT programming directions](#).

<sup>3</sup> Financing type can be either investment or technical assistance.

		regional and national land and water resources management decision making.	operational; NSAS operational hydrological model at national and regional level  Assessment of oases ecosystems and vulnerability (including climate change impacts)			
Component 2: Strengthening capacity of national organisations and the Joint Authority, in-line with SAP, to manage the NSAS resources in a rational and equitable manner	TA	Operationally strengthened National and Regional Authorities with sufficient technical and managerial capacities to jointly manage the NSAS towards its rational and equitable utilization that maximizes socioeconomic benefits while protecting critical ecosystems dependent upon NSAS.  Trained stakeholders ensure environmentally and socially optimal development and protection of NSAS water and land resources and linked ecosystems	Completion of training on model use and maintenance;  Training and assistance to undertake updates to national/regional policies and institutions;  Proposal for the establishment of a joint modeling centre within JA;  Updated information management system within the JA;  Data & Information Protocols related to transboundary reporting of NSAS developed with countries and JA for adoption.	GEFTF	1,000,000	4,500,000
Component 3: Enabling SAP implementation through legal, policy and institutional reforms at both national and regional levels	TA	Improved regional and national legal, policy and institutional frameworks for the integrated management of joint NSAS resources	Four NAPs developed and submitted to National Authorities;  Proposals for national and regional legal, policy and institutional reforms to reflect agreed SAP priorities;  Joint Authority operational with strengthened role/capacity and with regular and sustainable financial contributions by year 4;  Gender-sensitive review	GEFTF	800,000	3,550,000

			of existing institutional settings and policies at national level in the four countries, and at regional level (JA)			
Component 4: Implementing targeted pilot projects to validate environmentally and socio-economically rational and equitable management approaches within the NSAS	TA	National governments and the Joint Authority obtain practical experiences and up-'scaling potential' validation on appropriate ecosystem and water resource protection measures that support socio-economic development	Completion of four national/regional pilot demonstration that provide proof of concept for up-scaling/replication under the planned SAP activities;  Strategies developed for replication and financial/institutional sustainability of pilot demonstration activities at additional locations;	GEFTF	1,000,000	4,400,000
Component 5: Pre-feasibility studies to identify NSAS investment opportunities	TA	Assessment of stress reduction and livelihood strengthening activities identified in the SAP leads to a broad investment programme to further catalyse SAP implementation	Reassessment of potential investments based on the SAP recommendations;  Pre-feasibility reports on potential investments with outline budgets, scope of work and timescales;  Convening a donor conference (year 4) to further stimulate SAP implementation through presentation of success stories etc.	GEFTF	400,000	1,800,000
Subtotal					3,800,000	16,900,000
Project Management Cost (PMC) <sup>4</sup>				GEFTF	190,000	830,000
<b>Total project costs</b>					<b>3,990,000</b>	<b>17,730,000</b>

### C. CONFIRMED SOURCES OF CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY NAME AND BY TYPE

Please include evidence for co-financing for the project with this form.

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Cofinancing	Amount (\$)
Recipient government	Government of Chad	In-kind	2,000,000
Recipient government	Government of Egypt	In-kind	5,000,000
Recipient government	Government of Libya	In-kind	2,000,000
Recipient government	Government of Sudan	In-kind	2,000,000
GEF Agency	UNDP	In-kind	300,000

<sup>4</sup> For GEF Project Financing up to \$2 million, PMC could be up to 10% of the subtotal; above \$2 million, PMC could be up to 5% of the subtotal. PMC should be charged proportionately to focal areas based on focal area project financing amount in Table D below.

Donor Agency	UNESCO-IHP	In-kind and in cash	4,000,000
Donor Agency	IAEA	Will consider approving a regional project under the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme for 2020-2021 if approached by the four countries	
Donor Agency	FAO	In-kind	1,750,000
Other	WWAP	In-kind	400,000
Other	IGRAC	In-kind	200,000
Other	AIDA	In-kind	30,000
Other	Scuola Superiore S. Anna (Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies)	In-kind	50,000
<b>Total Co-financing</b>			<b>17,730,000</b>

**D. TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), COUNTRY(IES), FOCAL AREA AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS**

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country Name/Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in \$)		
					GEF Project Financing (a)	Agency Fee <sup>a)</sup> (b) <sup>2</sup>	Total (c)=a+b
UNDP	GEFTF	Regional	International Waters	NA	3,990,000	379,050	4,369,050
<b>Total Grant Resources</b>					<b>3,990,000</b>	<b>379,050</b>	<b>4,369,050</b>

a ) Refer to the Fee Policy for GEF Partner Agencies

## E. PROJECT'S TARGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS<sup>5</sup>

Provide the expected project targets as appropriate.

Corporate Results	Replenishment Targets	Project Targets
1. Maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society	Improved management of landscapes and seascapes covering 300 million hectares	<i>hectares</i>
2. Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)	120 million hectares under sustainable land management	<i>hectares</i>
3. Promotion of collective management of transboundary water systems and implementation of the full range of policy, legal, and institutional reforms and investments contributing to sustainable use and maintenance of ecosystem services	Water-food-ecosystems security and conjunctive management of surface and groundwater in at least 10 freshwater basins;	<i>1 Number of freshwater basins</i>
	20% of globally over-exploited fisheries (by volume) moved to more sustainable levels	<i>Percent of fisheries, by volume</i>
4. Support to transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path	750 million tons of CO <sub>2e</sub> mitigated (include both direct and indirect)	<i>metric tons</i>
5. Increase in phase-out, disposal and reduction of releases of POPs, ODS, mercury and other chemicals of global concern	Disposal of 80,000 tons of POPs (PCB, obsolete pesticides)	<i>metric tons</i>
	Reduction of 1000 tons of Mercury	<i>metric tons</i>
	Phase-out of 303.44 tons of ODP (HCFC)	<i>ODP tons</i>
6. Enhance capacity of countries to implement MEAs (multilateral environmental agreements) and mainstream into national and sub-national policy, planning financial and legal frameworks	Development and sectoral planning frameworks integrate measurable targets drawn from the MEAs in at least 10 countries	<i>Number of Countries:</i>
	Functional environmental information systems are established to support decision-making in at least 10 countries	<i>Number of Countries:</i>

## F. DOES THE PROJECT INCLUDE A “NON-GRANT” INSTRUMENT? **No**

(If non-grant instruments are used, provide an indicative calendar of expected reflows to your Agency and to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/CBIT Trust Fund) in Annex D.

## PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

### A. DESCRIBE ANY CHANGES IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE PROJECT DESIGN WITH THE ORIGINAL PIF<sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Update the applicable indicators provided at PIF stage. Progress in programming against these targets for the projects per the *Corporate Results Framework* in the [GEF-6 Programming Directions](#), will be aggregated and reported during mid-term and at the conclusion of the replenishment period.

<sup>6</sup> For questions A.1 –A.7 in Part II, if there are no changes since PIF, no need to respond, please enter “NA” after the respective question.

A.1. *Project Description*. Elaborate on: 1) the global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed; 2) the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects, 3) the proposed alternative scenario, GEF focal area<sup>7</sup> strategies, with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project, 4) incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, CBIT and co-financing; 5) global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF); and 6) innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

**1) The global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed**

NA

**2) The baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects,**

NA

**3) The proposed alternative scenario,**

An **additional output** has been included within Component 3 to strengthen the gender elements of this project (together with activities included in components 2, 3, 4 and 5. The new output is:

**Output 3.3** Gender-sensitive review of existing institutional settings and policies at national level in the four countries, and at regional level (JA).

This output will consist in analysis of compliance with international laws and treaties concerning gender and women empowerment, and gender analysis of national water policies and institutions. The purpose is making note of the regional and national legal/policy trends regarding gender and groundwater, as well as the key challenges and opportunities presented by the legal framework and institutional structure, and identify needed legal, institutional and policy reforms that could be gender transformative.

Activities will include:

- **Activity 3.3.1:** Review of the extent to which the four countries sharing the Nubian Aquifer have ratified and complied with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and other relevant international legal instruments, such as the Protocol to the African Charter for Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (from the Fourth World Conference on Women) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).
- **Activity 3.3.2:** Analysis of country water policies from a gender perspective.
- **Activity 3.3.3:** Gender analysis of the agreement establishing the Joint Authority.

**4) Incremental/additional cost reasoning**

NA

**5) Global environmental benefits**

NA

**6) Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling-up**

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<sup>7</sup> For biodiversity projects, in addition to explaining the project's consistency with the biodiversity focal area strategy, objectives and programs, please also describe which [Aichi Target\(s\)](#) the project will directly contribute to achieving.

Through the implementation of the endorsed SAP, GEF will support the strengthening of the capacities of countries and JA to develop and implement new policies and procedures (including regulatory/institutional reform, monitoring / modelling of aquifer and ecosystem assessments – resulting in new skills), testing of shared and common approaches to management and the piloting of novel approaches within the region to reduce pressures on the aquifer. Through the GEF resources (and expected national and partner co-financing) the countries (and the JA) will collaboratively implement pilot demonstration activities that will further enhance the knowledge and capacity of all involved stakeholders to utilize the NSAS resources for multiple purposes including protecting the water dependent ecosystems.

The project’s objectives of enhancing regional co-operative governance through the JA, through national legal, policy and institutional reforms, capacity development, through improving the technical understanding of the complex aquifer and its interactions with surface ecosystems, and through the shared undertaking of pilot demonstration projects, will result in improved sustainability of the resources, ecosystem and livelihoods of the NSAS population.

The project’s innovation derives from strengthening of the approaches of the regional and national authorities (governance, management and technical) and the practical experiences and lessons gained from the four pilot actions. In addition, recognizing that the full SAP implementation will take longer than this duration of this project, activities will be pursued through Component 5 to identify longer-term investment opportunities.

A.2. *Child Project?* If this is a child project under a program, describe how the components contribute to the overall program impact.

NA

A.3. *Stakeholders.* Identify key stakeholders and elaborate on how the key stakeholders engagement is incorporated in the preparation and implementation of the project. Do they include civil society organizations (yes  /no )? and indigenous peoples (yes  /no )?<sup>8</sup>

Through the development of the SADA, a detailed stakeholder analysis was performed (Section 3). From this analysis, the countries have identified the following important stakeholder groups that will have an active role in the project throughout the various components. During the Project Inception Phase participants of the Project Steering Committee will be confirmed to ensure there is good involvement from the four countries on the overall management and governance of the project.

Stakeholder Groups	Role in Project
<p><b>Government Ministries,</b> including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministries of Water</li> <li>• Ministries of Environment and Natural Resources</li> <li>• Ministries of Agriculture</li> <li>• Ministries of Energy</li> <li>• Ministries of Industry</li> </ul>	<p>Governments are the primary stakeholders who fully participate and derive benefits in participation in the activities of the management of the NSAS individually and through the JA. They are motivated by the need to protect and preserve the NSAS as a common resource that supports the livelihood of the basin’s population and the dependent ecosystem. The central governments play an important role in defining policies, guide principles and providing funding across all</p>

<sup>8</sup> As per the GEF-6 Corporate Results Framework in the GEF Programming Directions and GEF-6 Gender Core Indicators in the Gender Equality Action Plan, provide information on these specific indicators on stakeholders (including civil society organization and indigenous peoples) and gender.

Stakeholder Groups	Role in Project
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministries of Development</li> <li>• Ministries of Oil</li> </ul>	components in the project.
<b>Joint Authority of the NSAS</b>	As a main stakeholder and beneficiary of this project (and through national governments) the JA will play an active role in the management (through the PSC) and gain capacity (through all components) to fulfil their role of co-ordination and assessment of the NSAS water and water-dependent ecosystem resources.
<b>Local Government/Authorities, including:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governorates /Province</li> <li>• Town/village</li> <li>• </li> </ul>	Local authorities will play a key role in the execution of the four pilot actions <b>and other relevant activities</b> to highlight the advantages in water conservation and protection procedures demonstrated at local/sub-regional levels through component 4.
<b>Private Sector, including:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farmers’ associations (small and medium sized operations)</li> <li>• International growers</li> <li>• Oil industry</li> <li>• Water bottling industry</li> </ul>	Private sector organisations <b>from water users (including irrigators)</b> will be encouraged to participate in all activities of the project (meetings, training sessions, pilot, etc.) to motivate them to be ‘involved’ in the protection of the NSAS resources. Their role in the longer-term implementation of the SAP and the sustainability of the actions of this project through, for example, upscaling of actions to reduce water usage, will be imperative.
<b>Academia/ Research institutes including:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• e.g. Egypt National Water Research Centre including the National Research Institute for Groundwater</li> <li>• Schools</li> <li>• Universities</li> <li>• Sahara and Sahel Observatories</li> </ul>	The universities and schools will be important to providing appropriate education on the NSAS and water/ecosystem issues. Together with water research institutions who will help guide the activities of the project, they will benefit from information delivered by the project and targeted training courses on governance, technical management of NSAS, civil society engagement, etc.
<b>NGOs/CSOs, including:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water boards/associations</li> <li>• Women’s associations /councils</li> <li>• Communities</li> </ul>	Local inhabitants and non-governmental organisations will be encouraged to participate in the project’s meetings and appropriate training sessions. The project will provide awareness raising material (both in written form and given verbally) to ensure that the issues facing the NSAS are understood to those using the resource. Through the pilot actions local communities are expected to have an important role and will be able to see, at first hand, the benefits of the approaches demonstrated to facilitate sustainability and uptake.



*A.4. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.* Elaborate on how gender equality and women's empowerment issues are mainstreamed into the project implementation and monitoring, taking into account the differences, needs, roles and priorities of women and men. In addition, 1) did the project conduct a gender analysis during project preparation (yes  /no)?; 2) did the project incorporate a gender responsive project results framework, including sex-disaggregated indicators (yes  /no)?; and 3) what is the share of women and men direct beneficiaries (women 50%, men 50%)? <sup>9</sup>

Water assessments cannot be realistic without a gender perspective. The WWAP Gender Toolkit for collection of sex-disaggregated data developed by the UN World Water Assessment Programme of UNESCO provides a first step towards a transformative process in the way water is managed in the future. The ground-breaking project for 'Gender Sensitive Water Monitoring Assessment and Reporting' developed a methodology for collection and analysis of key sex-disaggregated water data that is currently being implemented in the UNESCO-IHP Governance of Groundwater Resources in Transboundary Aquifers (GGRETA) project. WWAP can deliver tailored-made training to increase the capacity of government representatives and water managers in collecting sex-disaggregated data in order to facilitate transboundary cooperation in aquifer governance.

The project will endeavour to ensure that women and men are represented equally in the project management, governance and activities. More significant the project will engage in women's groups throughout the region to understand how the work can best assist them with local water management issues in-line with the SAP implementation. In recognition of nomadic lifestyles where men are often travelling for long periods with livestock, awareness raising information will be provided (both in written form and verbally) to strengthen women's understanding of the NSAS water and ecosystem resources and how best women can contribute to crop irrigation and pollution reduction, for example. A gender strategy will be developed for gender mainstreaming within the NSAS during the inception of the project.

The Project Management Unit will be staffed with considerations of gender balance and will also promote the intervention of women within the project and their participation throughout the activities of the project including the training programme.

Through management and technical capacity training sessions the project will encourage a balance of women and men to further encourage the role of women in senior positions in water / ecosystem management and addressing the challenges of SAP implementation across the NSAS.

The contribution of WWAP to the project will aim at mainstreaming gender within the NSAS. Activities targeting and encouraging gender mainstreaming will include sex-disaggregated data assessment within the NSAS and improving the Nubian countries' capacities in the collection and assessment of sex-disaggregated data following the methodology developed by UNESCO WWAP. Training modules based on UNESCO WWAP Gender Toolkit will be designed and prepared, including field testing.

Specific outputs and activities contributing to this gender marker assessment include:

- The development of a gender mainstreaming strategy during the project inception phase, together with a communications/awareness strategy, that will guide the overall project implementation and the involvement of women in the implementation of the SAP;
- Joint regional training modules carried out on gender mainstreaming (Activity 2.2.3 and 2.2.4);
- Output 3.3 (Gender-sensitive review of existing institutional settings and policies at national level in the four countries, and at regional level) and associated activities, have been added during the PPG phase;

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<sup>9</sup> Same as footnote 8 above.

- Discussion of proposed reforms with key stakeholders (including women’s groups), in the appropriate fora - domestically in each of the four countries, and regionally - with a view to achieving broad-based acceptance of the proposed reforms (Activity 3.1.4);
- Components 4 (pilots) and 5 (pre-feasibility assessments for investments) will also address gender issues following guidance from WWAP.

A.5 Risk. 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):

The PPG analysis acknowledges comments from the STAP review of the PIF (see annex 2) on the risks to the project and have adapted some risk elements accordingly. The main risks and mitigation strategies can be summarised as:

Risk	Rating (H/M/L)	Mitigation Strategy
Political instability	H	International support for this regional project will provide some additional assistance to maintaining political stability within the region but it is clearly recognized that ongoing political uncertainty and poor security may limit project implementation progress, particularly in Libya. The location of the pilot projects will be selected to minimise security risks and transport issues associated with remote locations.
National Financial commitment (to the project and SAP implementation)	M	Economic recession concerns in a number of countries could impact the long-term sustainability of the project. Component 5 is specifically designed to identify a pipeline of actions that could be supported to aid full implementation of the SAP. The project team will also work closely with all governments to highlight any pending issues associated with government support for the project and work to find mitigation measure when/if needed.
National support for the Joint Authority	M	<p>It is clear that although the JA has been in existence for a number of years there has been limited financial support from the countries to facilitate routine operation. The project will assist with strengthening the legal basis for the JA and by providing capacity development for both the JA and corresponding national authorities. <b>The countries are all supportive of the JA and engaged in meetings. The financial needs of the JA for planned future activities will be assessed by the project.</b></p> <p>Although there has been limited data exchange through the NSAS Regional Information System (NARIS) the development of the SADA and the SAP has shown willingness of the countries to co-operate and share data. The project will continue to support the collaborative approach adopted in the previous GEF MSP to encourage</p>

Risk	Rating (H/M/L)	Mitigation Strategy
		data sharing
Lack of qualified staff in the JA, regional offices and national institutions	M	The project's capacity strengthening activities and direct engagement in the project should assist with training staff linked to involvement of academic institutions (for all ages) to encourage women and men to become involved in water management.
Willingness to share information between countries	L -M	Although there has been limited data exchange through the NSAS Regional Information System (NARIS) the development of the SADA and the SAP has shown willingness of the countries to co-operate and share data. The project will continue to support the collaborative approach adopted in the previous GEF MSP to encourage data sharing.
Lack of NSAS monitoring infrastructure	M	Means of communication, means of transport to collect the data and feed NARIS especially in Sudan and Chad. The Project will need to encourage all countries to extend their monitoring networks
Lack of national funds	H	Most countries of the NSAS have insufficient funds for water management. Through Component 5 the project will work with the countries and international organisations (potential donors, partners, etc.) to identify resources that could be used, post-project, to further effectively utilise the NSAS resources and protect the livelihoods of the population and the NSAS dependant ecosystems.
Engagement of national private sector stakeholders	M	The project has identified a number of national (and international) private sector groups. The project will provide training and awareness raising on effective use and management of the NSAS resource, and engage these stakeholders in pilot projects. The awareness raising will emphasise the benefits to these groups from improved use of groundwaters and protection of oasis. The project will work closely with local authorities to identify effective means to engage and maintain the interests for the private sector
Climate Change	M	If rainfall decreases further there will be even greater reliance on the NSAS resources as rainfall harvesting and river flows will be diminished (where available). The project will work closely with the countries on potential climate change scenarios and will work to help countries best adapt to reduced rainfall by utilising limited resources more effectively (e.g. introducing improved irrigation methods)

*A.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 **Implementing Partner** for this project is **UNESCO-IHP**. The Implementing Partner is responsible and accountable for managing all this project, including the monitoring and evaluation of project interventions, providing technical assistance on groundwater resources management and governance, national and JA legal and institutional reforms, enhancing the Joint Authority's efficiency and communication, develop training schemes and pilot studies coordination. UNESCO-IHP will supervise activities with the aim of achieving project outcomes and for the effective use of UNDP resources. The UNESCO Water Family entities based in the region will contribute actively to the project. This includes UNESCO's water-related Category 2 Centres in the four countries (UNESCO Regional Centre for Training and Water Studies of Arid and Semi-Arid Zones (RCTWS), Centre Central Laboratory for Environmental Quality Monitoring at El-Qanatar (CLEQM), Regional Centre for Shared Aquifer Resources Management (RCSARM), Regional Centre on Capacity Development and Research in Water Harvesting (RCWH)), UNESCO Chairs in the four countries (Chair on Water in Desert and Arid Zones, Chair in Water Resources, and Chair for Women in Sciences and Technology), the World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP), the IHP National Committees of the countries, and UNESCO's Offices in Cairo, Khartoum, and Yaoundé.

The **IAEA** support is to be determined, subject to availability of funds and approval by the IAEA Board of Governors to the project through sharing of experiences from parallel actions within the NSAS and Sahel regions. When approved, the IAEA will support technical capacity development on isotope methods for this NSAS project.

Other co-financing institutional partners include the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP), the International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC), the International Association for Water Law (AIDA), and the Institute of Life Sciences of Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna (Pisa, Italy).

The project will collaborate with other on-going GEF initiatives involving groundwater in the region (including the MENARID programme) and support to water commissions/authorities. In particular the project will actively participate within the GEF IW:LEARN groundwater experience sharing activities and will proactively collaborate and participate in twinning events with other GEF IW projects. At least 1 percent of the GEF project budget will be dedicated to portfolio learning linked with GEF IW:LEARN activities.

The on-going GEF initiatives in the region (GEF projects with the Lake Chad Basin Commission through AfDB and UNDP) will contribute to the increase in IW awareness within the region and the sharing of experiences within the NSAS and adjacent projects. The project will also work with regional World Bank supported groundwater initiatives in Southern Africa<sup>10</sup> and the recent GEF Sahel Groundwater project, that are supported with the results from the GEF Global Groundwater Governance project that will also assist this project in Activity 2.2.3.

UNESCO-IHP is leading the ISARM (International Shared Aquifer Resources Management) programme, a multi-agency effort aimed at improving the understanding of scientific, socio-economic, legal, institutional and environmental issues related to the management of transboundary aquifers. UNESCO-IHP and UNESCO's groundwater centre IGRAC have been constantly active in the region, through the implementation of the GEF TWAP groundwater component.

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<sup>10</sup> <http://projects.worldbank.org/p070547/groundwater-drought-management-sadc-project?lang=en>  
<http://projects.worldbank.org/P127086/sustainable-groundwater-management-sadc-member-states?lang=en>

Close co-operation is expected with the broader IAEA programme to replicate the SADA/SAP and modeling approaches from the previous GEF NSAS project to five Sahel Aquifers<sup>11</sup> through sharing of results obtained and experiences and exchange activities between the Joint Authority of the NSAS management bodies in these other systems.

The PMU is planned to be located within one of the four Joint Authority national offices. To identify the most suitable expert to work as Project Manager at the PMU location the position will be advertised. The head of the PMU should be from another NSAS country and not from the PMU host country.

Additional Information not well elaborated at PIF Stage:

*A.7 Benefits.* Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels. How do these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)?

The project will strengthen the governance and management of water resources at the local, national and regional (NSAS) levels, through enhanced stakeholder capacity to monitor, plan and managed water resources and associated ecosystems whilst encouraging sustainable livelihood development.

The project specifically will strengthen the capacity of the Joint Authority and national organisations to enable the implementation of the SAP. The endorsement of the SAP, by ministers from the four countries, demonstrates the countries' commitment to the long-term environmental and socio-economic objectives within the SAP. Implementing regional and national policies and institutional reforms agreed under the SAP and strengthening the knowledge base on the NSAS will facilitate the governance of the basin. Through the implementation of the project (and the SAP) the JA will become more effective as a regional institution to address the increasing pressures that will be placed on the resources of the NSAS from increasing population and potential climate changes.

Close co-operation with the partners' on-going activities addressing groundwater issues in the region and more widely, will enable the project to gain additional knowledge on good practices to manage use demand of the NSAS. Through twinning exercises promoted by the GEF IW:LEARN project there will be opportunities to visit other transboundary water management organisations, etc. The foundational work undertaken by the UNDP, GEF, IAEA and UNESCO to develop the SADA and SAP has resulted in a significant baseline of knowledge on the threats and possible solutions impacting the NSAS. UNESCO-IHP and partners will be central to assisting the countries address some remaining uncertainties and to guide the initial SAP implementation stages.

The project's efficiency is enhanced by capitalising on the pre-existing Joint Authority that will be central to this project.

All actions are important to varying degrees and are complementary to each other. However, the following are considered to be particularly effective and useful at the national level:

- Capacity building for monitoring and modelling
- Devising regional policy and guidelines for water allocation, water use and priorities
- Devising regional policy to establish cooperation and to include ecosystem and biodiversity conservation in the integrated management of the NSAS
- Enhancing legal and institutional structure of the JA

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<sup>11</sup> Illumedden Aquifer System, Liptak-Gourma-Upper Volta System, Senegalo-Mauritanian Basin, Chad Basin and Taoudeni Basin

*A.8 Knowledge Management.* Elaborate on the knowledge management approach for the project, including, if any, plans for the project to learn from other relevant projects and initiatives (e.g. participate in trainings, conferences, stakeholder exchanges, virtual networks, project twinning) and plans for the project to assess and document in a user-friendly form (e.g. lessons learned briefs, engaging websites, guidebooks based on experience) and share these experiences and expertise (e.g. participate in community of practices, organize seminars, trainings and conferences) with relevant stakeholders.

A detailed series of project guidance documents will be developed in the project inception phase for approval at the first PSC meeting to be held with the Inception Meeting. These will include communication strategy (including the development of a project website in accordance with GEF IW:LEARN recommendations), gender strategy (detailing the project's expected plans to ensure gender specific actions are included and recommendation with respect to collecting and reporting sex disaggregated data on meetings and workshops) and a knowledge management (KM) strategy. The KM will detail the sharing of data and information generated through the project's actions with national and regional stakeholders (linked with the communications strategy) and will identify links with specific GEF IW events (e.g. the biannual GEF IW Conference) and GEF IW:LEARN. The project will participate in IW:LEARN twinning and exchange activities as appropriate and is expected to have an active role in groundwater CoPs. The project will also benefit and share information with UNESCO groundwater related actions regionally and globally.

The SAP acknowledged 'that the Nubian countries vary considerably in their capacities for field, laboratory monitoring, and groundwater modelling activities. The co-operative mechanisms developed through the Joint Authority need to be exploited to equalize capacity among the countries'. Component 2 of the project will focus on addressing these issues that will also assist with long-term sustainability by strengthening the capacities of the Joint Authority to undertake the day-to-day technical management of the NSAS.

Capacity-building activities within this project will address fundamental needs within the NSAS through the delivery of trainings (training workshops, formal training, ad hoc trainings such as webinars, exchange study tour with other transboundary water management institution) targeting a range of stakeholder (national technical and managerial staff, JA, NSAS users such as e.g. farmers, women's groups, NGOs) and making use of existing and new databases and tools. All training activities will aim at achieving gender balanced participation.

The IW: LEARN Groundwater COP will also be an appropriate platform to share lessons from the implementation of this project and learn from the other GEF and non-GEF groundwater projects. Results and lessons learnt from Component 2, together with lessons learnt from other components in particular component 4 (pilot demonstrations) will also contribute to component 5 and the development of a NSAS investment programme for further SAP implementation. They will also be widely disseminated and contribute to the communication and outreach strategy of the project.

**B. Description of the consistency of the project with:**

**B.1 Consistency with National Priorities.** Describe the consistency of the project with national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions such as NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc.:

The overarching regional strategy has been adopted by the four countries is the NSAS SAP which is aimed at protecting the water resources and the dependent ecosystems that will also enhance the livelihoods of the regional population. In the preparation of the regional SAP all four countries initiated the development of National Action Plans (NAPs) (that will be further developed and implementation started under this project) to ensure that the objectives of the SAP are closely aligned to national expectations. The four countries have demonstrated their commitment to co-operation, protecting the NSAS resources, and implementing the SAP through the formal endorsement of the SAP by the Ministers from all countries. The project, through the SAP implementation will help the countries address levels of poverty and food security by improving knowledge and understanding of the NSAS water resources across all levels of society. The project is in-line with SDGs, PRSPs and NAPAs. In Sudan and Chad, the NAPAs are clearly directed towards agriculture/food resources, water management and land resources Throughout much of the countries, water resources

are limited, soil fertility is low, and drought is common. These underlying conditions are exacerbated by range of human pressures, creating a situation in which the region is highly vulnerable to current climatic shocks - and apart from taking adaptive measures - will become even more vulnerable in the face of future climate change.

The project will contribute to the integrated management of water resources at all levels including through cross-border cooperation. For example, the project is aligned with the strategic axes of the National Development Plan horizon (2017-2021) relating to the management of water resources and the environment in Chad. The project will provide a practical opportunity to achieve SDG Goal 6 and will contribute towards SDGs relating to reducing hunger, poverty, gender and life on land. This will further encourage national government orientation in policy, planning, and budget allocations to comprehensive perspective for different dimensions of hunger and poverty by involvement and consultation of all stakeholders.

Through National Action Plans (NAPs) the SAP will provide additional pressure to enhance capacity of government staff at central and local levels and to encourage education institutions to mainstream water and ecosystem management in to syllabuses, further sustaining the work of the project to assist in addressing poverty, food security and ecosystem preservation.

Through an acknowledged recognition by all countries to improve the involvement of women and girls in water management and ensure that the products of the project will enhance all parts of society, the project will further the cause of equality between women and men.

### **C. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M & E PLAN:**

The project results as outlined in the project results framework will be monitored annually and evaluated periodically during project implementation to ensure the project effectively achieves these results. In addition to these mandatory UNDP and GEF M&E requirements, other M&E activities deemed necessary to support project-level adaptive management will be agreed during the Project Inception Workshop and will be detailed in the Inception Report.

#### **M&E Oversight and monitoring responsibilities:**

Project Manager: The Project Manager is responsible for day-to-day project management and regular monitoring of project results and risks, including social and environmental risks. The Project Manager will ensure that all project staff maintain a high level of transparency, responsibility and accountability in M&E and reporting of project results. The Project Manager will inform the Project Steering Committee and the UNDP-GEF RTA of any delays or difficulties as they arise during implementation so that appropriate support and corrective measures can be adopted.

The Project Manager will develop annual work plans based on the multi-year work plan, including annual output targets to support the efficient implementation of the project. The Project Manager will ensure that the standard UNDP and GEF M&E requirements are fulfilled to the highest quality. This includes, but is not limited to, ensuring the results framework indicators are monitored annually in time for evidence-based reporting in the GEF PIR, and that the monitoring of risks and the various plans/strategies developed to support project implementation (e.g. gender strategy, knowledge management strategy etc..) occur on a regular basis.

Project Steering Committee (PSC): The PSC will take corrective action as needed to ensure the project achieves the desired results. The PSC will hold project reviews to assess the performance of the project and appraise the Annual Work Plan for the following year. In the project's final year, the PSC will hold an end-of-project review to capture lessons learned and discuss opportunities for scaling up and to highlight project results and lessons learned with relevant audiences. This final review meeting will also discuss the findings outlined in the project terminal evaluation report and the management response. The PSC is likely to comprise countries representatives, the JA, UNDP, and UNESCO-IHP.

IAEA representative can be invited to participate at the PSC meetings subject to their contribution to specific items of the PSC agenda and when invited by the countries. The details of the membership of the PSC and roles/responsibilities on members and observers, will be defined during the inception phase.

Project Implementing Partner (UNESCO-IHP): The Implementing Partner is responsible for providing any and all required information and data necessary for timely, comprehensive and evidence-based project reporting, including results and financial data, as necessary and appropriate. The Implementing Partner will strive to ensure project-level M&E is undertaken by national institutes, and is aligned with national systems so that the data used by and generated by the project supports national systems.

UNDP-GEF Unit: Additional M&E and implementation quality assurance and troubleshooting support will be provided by the UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Advisor and the UNDP-GEF Directorate as needed.

Inception Workshop and Report: A project inception workshop will be held within two months after the project document has been signed by all relevant parties to, amongst others:

- a) Re-orient project stakeholders to the project strategy and discuss any changes in the overall context that influence project strategy and implementation;
- b) Discuss the roles and responsibilities of the project team, including reporting and communication lines and conflict resolution mechanisms;
- c) Review the results framework and finalize the indicators, means of verification and monitoring plan;
- d) Discuss reporting, monitoring and evaluation roles and responsibilities and finalize the M&E budget; identify national/regional institutes to be involved in project-level M&E; discuss the role of the GEF OFP in M&E;
- e) Update and review responsibilities for monitoring the various project plans and strategies, including the risk log; Environmental and Social Management Plan and other safeguard requirements; the gender strategy; the knowledge management strategy, and other relevant strategies;
- f) Review financial reporting procedures and mandatory requirements, and agree on the arrangements for the annual audit; and
- g) Plan and schedule Project Board meetings and finalize the first-year annual work plan.

The Project Manager will prepare the inception report no later than one month after the inception workshop. The inception report will be cleared by the Implementing Partner, the UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Advisor, and will be approved by the PSC.

GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR): The Project Manager, Implementing Partner and the UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Advisor will provide objective input to the annual GEF PIR covering the reporting period July (previous year) to June (current year) for each year of project implementation. The Project Manager will ensure that the indicators included in the project results framework are monitored annually in advance of the PIR submission deadline so that progress can be reported in the PIR. Any environmental and social risks and related management plans will be monitored regularly, and progress will be reported in the PIR.

Lessons learned and knowledge generation: Results from the project will be disseminated within and beyond the project intervention area through existing information sharing networks and forums. The project will identify and participate, as relevant and appropriate, in scientific, policy-based and/or any other networks, which may be of benefit to the project. The project will identify, analyse and share lessons learned that might be beneficial to the design and implementation of similar projects and disseminate these lessons widely. There will be continuous information exchange between this project and other projects of similar focus in the same country, region and globally.

GEF Focal Area Tracking Tools: The baseline/CEO Endorsement GEF Focal Area Tracking Tool will be updated by the Project Manager/Team and shared with the mid-term review consultants and terminal evaluation consultants before



the required review/evaluation missions take place. The updated GEF Tracking Tool will be submitted to the GEF along with the completed Mid-term Review report and Terminal Evaluation report.

**Independent Mid-term Review (MTR):** An independent mid-term review process will begin after the second PIR has been submitted to the GEF, and the MTR report will be submitted to the GEF in the same year as the 3<sup>rd</sup> PIR. The MTR findings and responses outlined in the management response will be incorporated as recommendations for enhanced implementation during the final half of the project’s duration. The final MTR report will be available in English and will be cleared by UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Adviser, and approved by the PSC.

**Terminal Evaluation (TE):** An independent terminal evaluation (TE) will take place upon completion of all major project outputs and activities. The terminal evaluation process will begin three months before operational closure of the project allowing the evaluation mission to proceed while the project team is still in place, yet ensuring the project is close enough to completion for the evaluation team to reach conclusions on key aspects such as project sustainability. The Project Manager will remain on contract until the TE report and management response have been finalized. The final TE report will be cleared by the UNDP-GEF Regional Technical Adviser and will be approved by the PSC. The TE report will be publicly available in English on the UNDP ERC. Once uploaded to the ERC, the UNDP IEO will undertake a quality assessment and validate the findings and ratings in the TE report, and rate the quality of the TE report. The UNDP IEO assessment report will be sent to the GEF IEO along with the project terminal evaluation report.

**Final Report:** The project’s terminal PIR along with the terminal evaluation (TE) report and corresponding management response will serve as the final project report package. The final project report package shall be discussed with the PSC during an end-of-project review meeting to discuss lessons learned and opportunities for scaling up.

**Mandatory GEF M&E Requirements and M&E Budget:**

GEF M&E requirements	Primary responsibility	Indicative costs to be charged to the Project Budget <sup>12</sup> (US\$)		Time frame
		GEF grant	Co-financing	
<b>Inception Workshop</b>	Project Manager Implementing Partner	30,000	20,000	Within two months of project document signature
<b>Inception Report</b>	Project Manager Implementing Partner	None	None	Within two weeks of inception workshop
<b>Standard UNDP monitoring and reporting</b>	PMU Implementing Partner UNDP RTA	None	None	Quarterly, annually
<b>Monitoring of indicators in project results framework</b>	PMU	None	20,000	Annually


<sup>12</sup> Excluding project team staff time and UNDP staff time and travel expenses.

GEF M&E requirements	Primary responsibility	Indicative costs to be charged to the Project Budget <sup>12</sup> (US\$)		Time frame
		GEF grant	Co-financing	
	Implementing Partner			
<b>GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR)</b>	Project Manager Implementing Partner UNDP-GEF team	None	None	Annually
<b>Lessons learned and knowledge generation</b>	Project Manager	<i>None</i>	<i>10,000</i>	Annually
<b>Project Steering Committee meetings</b>	Project Board Project Manager Implementing Partner	60,000	<i>30,000</i>	At minimum, annually
<b>Mid-term GEF Tracking Tool</b>	Project Manager	5,000	<i>20,000</i>	Before mid-term review mission takes place.
<b>Independent Mid-term Review (MTR) and management response</b>	Implementing Partner, PMU and UNDP-GEF team	25,000	<i>10,000</i>	Between 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> PIR.
<b>Terminal GEF Tracking Tool</b>	Project Manager	5,000	<i>20,000</i>	Before terminal evaluation mission takes place
<b>Independent Terminal Evaluation (TE)</b>	<i>Implementing Partner, PMU and UNDP-GEF team</i>	35,000	<i>10,000</i>	At least three months before operational closure
<b>TOTAL indicative COST</b> Excluding project team staff time, and UNDP staff and travel expenses		USD 160,000	<i>140,000</i>	

**PART III: CERTIFICATION BY GEF PARTNER AGENCY(IES)**

**A. GEF Agency(ies) certification**

**This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies<sup>13</sup> and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for CEO endorsement under GEF-6.**

<b>Agency Coordinator, Agency Name</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date (MM/dd/yy yy)</b>	<b>Project Contact Person</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
Ms. Adriana Dinu, Executive Coordinator UNDP-GEF		14 Dec. 2017	Vladimir Mamaev, Regional Technical Advisor	NA	vladimir.mamaev@undp.org

<sup>13</sup> GEF policies encompass all managed trust funds, namely: GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF and CBIT  
GEF6 CEO Endorsement /Approval Template-August2016

**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).

The Project Results Framework can be found in section 5 of the UNDP Project Document.

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

**GEF Secretariat Comments**

Question	GEFSec Comment	UNDP Response
<p>2. Is the project consistent with the recipient country's national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions?</p>	<p>Yes, the project is consistent with national policies and plans. During project preparation/design please expand on the alignment with NAPAs</p>	<p>The project is in-line with SDGs, PRSPs and NAPAs. In Sudan and Chad the NAPAs are clearly directed towards agriculture/food resources, water management and land resources. Throughout much of the countries, water resources are limited, soil fertility is low, and drought is common. These underlying conditions are exacerbated by range of human pressures, creating a situation in which the region is highly vulnerable to current climatic shocks - and apart from taking adaptive measures - will become even more vulnerable in the face of future climate change. (See country Ownership, Section 2.2)</p>
<p>5. Are the components in Table B sound and sufficiently clear and appropriate to achieve project objectives and the GEBs?</p>	<p>During project design, please:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- expand on the CSO and private sector/agriculture sector inclusion (PIF mentions that a strategy will be developed during project design) and mainstream such interaction throughout the component designs.</li> </ul>	<p>Partnerships will be sought with the private sector stakeholders (indicated in section 4) to assist with the SAP implementation and through co-operation with national NGOs and CSOs further partnerships will be forged to sustain the project's support to initiating the SAP. Private sector, CSO, local inhabitants will be encouraged to participate in all appropriate activities of the project (meetings, training sessions, pilot demonstrations, etc.). The project will provide awareness raising material (both in written form and given verbally) to ensure that the issues facing the NSAS are understood to those using the resource. Through the pilot actions local communities are expected to have an important role and will be able to see, at first hand, the benefits of the approaches demonstrated to facilitate sustainability and uptake. The role of the private sector in the longer-term implementation of the SAP and the sustainability of the actions of this project through, for example, upscaling of actions to reduce water usage, will be imperative and sought (in particular in Components 4 and 5).</p>

	<p>- During project design, please specify the targeted national policy reforms and other SAP targets listed under component 3 which are to be achieved by the project and how and when these will be achieved.</p>	<p>Component 3 foresees the review of the domestic policy environment in the four countries, its assessment for consistency with the goals and requirements of NSAS, and the formulation of proposals for a reformed policy environment. The points of departure for this activity will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Chad, the National Water and Sanitation Master Plan</li> <li>• In Egypt, the Groundwater National Plan, updated from the latest (2012) edition</li> <li>• In Libya, the National Water Strategy (2000 – 2025)</li> <li>• In Sudan, the available relevant policy documents/statements, including the National Action Plan targeted at poverty reduction</li> </ul> <p>Same will be done with the domestic regulatory environment for groundwater and related matters in each of the four countries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• in Chad, this activity will focus on implementing Regulations required to roll out the Water Code and the Environment Code, both in effect</li> <li>• in Egypt, this activity will focus on the review and adjustment of the water resources abstraction &amp; use legislation for the proper implementation of the groundwater policy reflected in the Groundwater National Plan. The activity will be aligned with the new Water Resources Law in preparation</li> <li>• in Libya, a review of the existing legislation will be conducted with a special attention to the introduction of appropriate clauses on water abstraction, water use and protection to deal with new projects (especially agricultural) that require substantial abstraction for prolonged periods of time and/or have potential for water quality deterioration</li> <li>• in Sudan, the activity will focus on the assessment of the Nile Pumps Control Regulations 1951, Irrigation and Drainage Act 1990 and Water Resources Act of 1995,</li> </ul>
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		<p>and three new regulations approved in 2016: Regulation for Groundwater control, Regulation for Irrigation and Drainage, Regulation for surface water control. The activity will be informed by the emerging concerns for environmental change and its effect on the ecosystem as to desertification and water scarcity, and by the attendant concern for the conflict potential between nomadic pastoralists and farmers regarding the fair distribution of the few available natural resources</p> <p>Finally, the government-level groundwater administration structure will be reviewed:  In Chad, the Ministry of Water &amp; Sanitation – formerly Ministry of Rural Hydraulics, re-named in 2014 Ministry of Livestock and Hydraulics, Ministry of Irrigation, Production and Agricultural Equipment  In Egypt, the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, NWRC, RIGW, and the interministerial Supreme Committee for Groundwater Licensing  In Libya, the General Water Authority  In Sudan, the Ministry of Water Resources Irrigation and Electricity  (See Component 3)  These activities will be implemented between Q1 of Year 1 and Q4 of Year 3 (see Annex B: Multi-year Workplan).</p>
	<p>- Include under criteria for selection of pilots (component 4) the clear link of expected impacts of the selected pilots to the sustainable use and/or protection of NSAS resources.</p>	<p>A wide range of criteria, including the link of expected impacts of the selected pilots to the sustainable use and/or protection of NSAS resources, were used to prioritise the potential pilot demonstration projects. All shortlisted projects targeted the sustainable use /protection of NSAS resources. Such criteria from the Pilot selection template included, among others the following criteria:  -The pilot that has most relevance to WR/EQO 1: to improve the management of the shared aquifer involving joint regional planning, etc.  -The pilot that has most relevance to WR/EQO 2: to mainstream environmental issues into the overall integrated management of the NSAS  -The pilot that has most relevance to WR/EQO 3: to utilise the aquifer resources in an equitable socio-economic basis  -The pilot that will provide the highest number</p>

		<p>of lessons to guide overall management and governance of the NSAS</p> <p>WR/EQO 1, 2 and 3 are the three long-term water resources and ecosystem quality objectives designed in the SAP to address the shared concerns identified in the SADA and achieve the vision for the NSAS.</p> <p>The list of 18 criteria developed for the selection of the four pilot demonstration projects can be found in Annex H: Pilot selection template with criteria</p>
<p>6. Are socio-economic aspects, including relevant gender elements, indigenous people, and CSOs considered?</p>	<p>Gender aspects are outlined in the specific section and the use of the WWAP gender indicators is appreciated. Please more clearly mainstream gender aspects in the relevant components during project design.</p>	<p>The Project has been designed to ensure all activities throughout all components consider gender issues. The project will endeavour to ensure that women and men are represented equally in the project management, governance and activities and will engage in women’s groups throughout the region.</p> <p>Through management and technical capacity training sessions the project will encourage a balance of women and men to further encourage the role of women in senior positions in water / ecosystem management and addressing the challenges of SAP implementation across the NSAS. Specific training packages are envisaged in Component 2.</p> <p>An additional output has also been included within Component 3 to strengthen further the gender elements of the project. The new output is <b>Output 3.3</b> on a Gender-sensitive review of existing institutional settings and policies at national level in the four countries, and at regional level (JA). This output will consist in an analysis of compliance with international laws and treaties concerning gender and women empowerment, and gender analysis of national water policies and institutions. The purpose is making note of the regional and national legal/policy trends regarding gender and groundwater, as well as the key challenges and opportunities presented by the legal framework and institutional structure, and identify needed legal, institutional and policy reforms that could be gender transformative.</p> <p>The Project Management Unit will be staffed with considerations of gender balance and will also promote the intervention of women within the project and their participation throughout the activities of the project including the training programme.</p> <p>The contribution of WWAP to the project will aim at mainstreaming gender within the NSAS.</p>



		<p>Activities targeting and encouraging gender mainstreaming will include sex-disaggregated data assessment within the NSAS and improving the Nubian countries' capacities in the collection and assessment of sex-disaggregated data following the methodology developed by UNESCO WWAP. Training modules based on UNESCO WWAP Gender Toolkit will be designed and prepared, including field testing.</p> <p>All meetings and workshops will collect gender disaggregated information on participants.</p>
	<p>Agency clarified that PPG phase will see the development of a draft communication / outreach strategy and plan to actively engage all relevant stakeholder groups (including CSOs, NGOs, farmers associations, nomadic representatives, institutes, government representatives, etc.).</p>	<p>An outline communication strategy has been prepared for elaboration during the project inception. The detailed strategy that will guide the overall project implementation and the involvement of all relevant stakeholder groups in the implementation of the SAP will be presented to the Inception Meeting /1st PSC for approval. The full communication/outreach strategy will be developed under Component 2. All components of the projects foresee the inclusion of various target groups including CSOs, NGOs, private sector, famers associations, nomadic representatives, institutes, government representatives in relevant project activities (meetings, training sessions, pilot demonstrations, study tour, etc.). Through the pilot actions local communities are expected to have an important role. The role of the private sector in the longer-term implementation of the SAP and the sustainability of the actions of this project will be sought. The PSC will include national governments and JA representatives.</p>

### STAP Comments

STAP Comment	UNDP Response
<p>3. STAP has major concerns related to high risk of implementation failure. STAP assesses that the risk matrix included in the PIF underestimates all listed risks (in our opinion, all identified risks should be rated as "High") and mitigation strategies proposed are inadequate to the scale of the identified challenges. Because of the civil strife, the political situation in Libya remains challenging to support cooperation with neighboring countries. Furthermore, the unstable political situation in Western Sudan (in which the NSA is located) is also not conducive for implementing pilot</p>	<p>The risk matrix has been reassessed (see Section 4.3). The project proponents and the countries fully appreciate the security risks and the benefits for co-operation that can be delivered by this project.</p> <p>Taking into consideration the regional situation, a key criteria in the selection of each of the four pilot demonstration projects has been security and accessibility of the sites. Libya also anticipates to have 2 Project Focal Points, one appointed by the GEF OFP, one appointed by</p>

STAP Comment	UNDP Response
<p>projects. It could of course be argued that this type of regional project can support transition to stability but considering the current major political uncertainty it is unrealistic to believe that the engagement of local stakeholders in the project design and implementation could be assured and successful (which is key factor for the long term project sustainability).</p>	<p>the General Water Authority.</p> <p>The project team will work closely with all governments to find mitigation measures when/if needed. National governments and JA representatives will be closely involved and sitting on the PSC.</p>
<p>4. The PIF lacks a governance baseline assessment including an institutional assessment which makes it very difficult to assess the quality of the institutions that are listed for execution and if they have adequate capacity to manage the project. Both, the Joint Authority for the Study and Development of the Nubian Sandstone Aquifer System and CEDARE (Centre for Environment &amp; Development for the Arab Region and Europe) were established in the early 1990s but there is no description of how these institutions function today.</p>	<p>The Project Document has updated the material that was available in the SAP on the governance structures based on national updates. A key purpose of the project is to strengthen the Joint Authority. It is planned that the three dedicated outputs and respective activities of review, assessment, and reform proposals developed under Component 3 on 'Enabling SAP implementation through legal, policy and institutional reforms at both national and regional levels' (namely Output 3.1: Four NAPs developed and submitted for approval to National Authorities. The NAPs will pay special attention to, and include, proposals for updated national and regional legislation/policies and proposals for institutional reforms to reflect agreed SAP priorities and agreements by year 3 as indicated above in the examples of specific SAP targets, Output 3.2: Joint Authority operational with strengthened role/capacity by year 4, and the new Output 3.3: Gender-sensitive review of existing institutional settings and policies at national level in the four countries, and at regional level (JA)) will allow the development of a full governance baseline assessment and institutional analysis at national and regional level for the NSAS, including recommendations for change and a roadmap to address recommended changes in the governance environment, at national and regional level.</p>
<p>5. STAP recommends including a full governance baseline assessment and institutional analysis if the project is approved for preparation. The implementing agencies could consider a strong regional host for the project that works in partnership with the executing agencies (Joint Authority and CEDARE). The assessment should include understanding the roles of IGAD and AU.</p>	<p>Project Execution is by UNESCO. The Joint Authority and national agencies will be key partners to this project and members of the PSC, and will be able to assist in directing the project in partnership with UNESCO and UNDP.</p> <p>As mentioned above, a full governance baseline assessment and institutional analysis at national and regional level for the NSAS, including recommendations for change and a roadmap to address recommended changes in the governance environment, at national and regional level will be undertaken during the project implementation. The assessment will include understanding the roles of IGAD and</p>

STAP Comment	UNDP Response
	<p>AU. The PMU will be hosted within one of the four Joint Authority national offices and countries should provide information about the facilities available in order to assure the functioning of the Unit. The Project Manager position will be advertised. The Project Manager will be located at the PMU and will act as the head of the PMU and should be from another NSAS country than the PMU host country. The Project Manager will coordinate with national institutions and the Joint Authority taking care of their consideration in the day by day execution of the project.</p>
<p>The knowledge management aspects of the project are less well synthesized than would be expected from a GEF-6 proposal, the relevant PIF section is missing. Component 2 adequately reflects the capacity building and data standards proposed. However, the links to the NSAS Regional Information System (NARIS) are not clear. Therefore, STAP recommends that a KM strategy is defined taking into account the wide range of regionally important databases, training materials to be developed and delivered according to the SAP and outlined in the PIF and also how the likely lessons to be learned can be shared effectively.</p>	<p>A knowledge management strategy will be developed during the inception of the project and will consider the capabilities of relevant existing databases such as the NARIS. Training to help strengthen data management (and the operation of the NARIS) is planned under Component 2. The project will facilitate the sharing of information between the countries through the implementation of the pilots. The project will also benefit from the sharing of information through (in both directions) GEF IW:LEARN and with actions being undertaken by UNESCO and co-financing non-country partners such as IAEA in the Sahel and adjacent regions. Results and lessons learnt from Components 2 and 4 (pilot demonstrations) will contribute to Component 5 and the development of a NSAS investment programme for further SAP implementation. They will also be widely disseminated and contribute to the communication and outreach strategy of the project. The knowledge management strategy to be developed in the inception of the project will address fundamental needs within the NSAS through the delivery of trainings (training workshops, formal training, ad hoc trainings such as webinars, exchange study tour with other transboundary water management institution) targeting a range of stakeholders (national technical and managerial staff, JA, NSAS users such as e.g. farmers, women's groups, NGOs) and making use of existing and new databases and tools</p>
<p>7. STAP recognizes, however, the importance to keep up analytical work and confidence building measures related to the management of the NSAS in spite of political uncertainty. STAP proposes that the project design is re-considered in ways that elements of</p>	<p>A key criteria in the selection of pilots has been security and accessibility of the sites. In addition sustainability criteria were used to help national experts identify some of the issues associated with post-project management of the</p>

STAP Comment	UNDP Response
knowledge generation on the system as a whole and confidence building measures are kept intact. Pilot projects should only be considered in areas where they have a lasting chance to be well implemented and monitored.	interventions. The three long-term water resources and ecosystem quality objectives designed in the SAP to address the shared concerns identified in the SADA and achieve the vision for the NSAS (WR/EQO 1, 2 and 3) were integrated in the list of 18 criteria developed for the selection of the four pilot demonstration projects can be found in Annex H: Pilot selection template with criteria

### Council Comments

The United States, in light of its policies for certain development projects, registered an opposition to this proposal. Nonetheless, we see strong merits in supporting regional collaboration on the transboundary Nubian sandstone aquifer. As the proposal is further developed, UNDP should respond to the STAP comments and may reflect on our technical comments:

Council Comment	UNDP Response
The proposal should make more explicit what global environmental benefits and MEA targets are being addressed by the project	<p>The project is considered by the countries to offer important and Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs) through the actions to improve the NSAS governance and management involving a wide range of stakeholders, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GEBs arising from enhanced aquifer management of the shared resources through a strengthened JA and national authorities that will deliver livelihood and ecosystem benefits</li> <li>• Reducing demand through the application of measures to use the water resources of the NSAS more efficiently</li> <li>• Reducing pressure on other national and transboundary water resources where available (e.g. Nile River)</li> <li>• Flow of data including on water levels, abstraction rates and water quality</li> <li>• Assessment of the fragile ecosystem</li> <li>• Sharing experience on common issues through carefully selected pilot projects</li> <li>• Strengthening of the JA and its national offices</li> <li>• Training of personnel from the JA and the countries in different fields</li> <li>• Awareness raising among the relevant institutions and the public at large on the environmental issues and the threats of</li> </ul>

Council Comment	UNDP Response
	<p>climate change on the ecosystem and biodiversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving the institutional and legal system to achieve a rational management of the shared groundwater resources</li> <li>• Introduction of suitable agricultural practices and water conservation techniques</li> </ul> <p>Targeted MEAs include the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate (UNFCCC) and Paris Agreement, The benefits from this project will also contribute to other multi-lateral environmental agreements including the Ramsar Convention, Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Water Birds, etc. dependent on the water resources available at oases fed by the NSAS.</p>
<p>The proposal should provide greater detail on how Component 2 will “address the SAP priorities to strengthen national and regional capacities on water resource and ecosystem management and assist in increasing awareness within the wider stakeholder groups (including the indigenous population) on ecosystem management and protection,” and how the outcome on training will be made sustainable.</p>	<p>Specific training packages are proposed in the project document based on national inputs and recommendations received during the PPG. Trainings will be further refined and tailored to the specific needs and interests of the four Nubian countries in the inception of the project. The detailed knowledge management strategy to be developed in the inception of the project will address fundamental needs within the NSAS through the delivery of trainings (training workshops, formal training, ad hoc trainings such as webinars, exchange study tour with other transboundary water management institution) targeting a range of stakeholders (national technical and managerial staff, JA, NSAS users such as e.g. farmers, women’s groups, NGOs). Training of Trainers will be privileged, whereby trainings and lessons learned can be shared and reach wider targeted stakeholders. The project will facilitate the sharing of information between the countries through the implementation of the pilots. The project will also benefit from the sharing of information through (in both directions) GEF IW:LEARN and with actions being undertaken by UNESCO and co-financing non-country partners such as IAEA in the Sahel and adjacent regions. Results and lessons learnt from Components 2 and 4 (pilot demonstrations) will contribute to Component 5 and the development of a NSAS investment programme for further SAP implementation. They will also be widely disseminated and contribute to the</p>

<b>Council Comment</b>	<b>UNDP Response</b>
	communication and outreach strategy of the project.

**ANNEX C: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES AND THE USE OF FUNDS<sup>14</sup>**

A. Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

<b>PPG Grant Approved at PIF: \$ 150,000</b>			
<b><i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i></b>	<b><i>GETF/LDCF/SCCF/CBIT Amount (\$)</i></b>		
	<b><i>Budgeted Amount</i></b>	<b><i>Amount Spent To date</i></b>	<b><i>Amount Committed</i></b>
<b><i>Project preparation grant to finalize the UNDP-GEF project document for project: “Enabling implementation of the Regional SAP for the rational and equitable management of the Nubian Sandstone Aquifer System (NSAS)”</i></b>	\$150,000	\$123,132,53	\$4,256,06
<b>Total</b>	\$150,000	\$123,132,53	\$4,256,06

<sup>14</sup> If at CEO Endorsement, the PPG activities have not been completed and there is a balance of unspent fund, Agencies can continue to undertake the activities up to one year of project start. No later than one year from start of project implementation, Agencies should report this table to the GEF Secretariat on the completion of PPG activities and the amount spent for the activities. Agencies should also report closing of PPG to Trustee in its Quarterly Report.

**ANNEX D: CALENDAR OF EXPECTED REFLOWS (if non-grant instrument is used)**

Provide a calendar of expected reflows to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/CBIT Trust Funds or to your Agency (and/or revolving fund that will be set up)

N/A