



REQUEST FOR CEO ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

PROJECT TYPE: FULL-SIZE PROJECT

THE GEF TRUST FUND

Submission Date: 30 June 2008

Re-submission Date:

PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

GEFSEC PROJECT ID: 2632

GEF AGENCY PROJECT ID: not applicable at this time

COUNTRY(IES): Morocco

PROJECT TITLE: Participatory Control of Desertification and Poverty Reduction in the Arid and Semi-Arid High Plateau Ecosystems of Eastern Morocco

GEF AGENCY(IES): IFAD, UNIDO

OTHER EXECUTING PARTNER(S): Haute Commissariat aux Eaux et Forêts et à la Lutte Contre la Désertification (HCEFLCD) and MAPM

GEF FOCAL AREA(S): Land Degradation, International Waters

GEF-4 STRATEGIC PROGRAM(S): LD-SP 1; IW-SP 3

NAME OF PARENT PROGRAM/UMBRELLA PROJECT: MENARID

Expected Calendar	
Milestones	Dates
Work Program (for FSP)	April 2008
GEF Agency Approval	Sept. 2008
Implementation Start	Jan. 2009
Mid-term Review (if planned)	June 2011
Implementation Completion	Jan. 2014

GEF Fees: Shared, 50% IFAD/50% UNIDO

A. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: Combat desertification, protect the ecosystem functions and productivity of the pastoral resources, and improve the livelihoods of the rural poor in the Eastern High Plateaus of Morocco

Project Components	Inv, TA, or STA**	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	GEF Financing*		Co-financing*		Total (\$)
				(\$)	%	(\$)	%	
1. Mainstreaming SLM/IWRM principles for rangeland ecosystems	TA & Inv.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SLM/IWRM mainstreamed through improved regulations and coordination mechanisms among line ministries Stakeholders have increased jurisdiction to safeguard ecological integrity, functions, and services of rangeland ecosystems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principles and standards of SLM/IWRM are mainstreamed and harmonized with sectoral programs at regional and national levels ATP is widely disseminated within line ministries and implemented at the regional level 45 RUA¹'s have increased responsibility and authority for common rangelands use planning and management Policies for basin-scale SLM/IWRM supported 	377,199	37	631,017	63	1,008,216
2. Capacity building for national and local institutions to support integrated SLM/IWRM	TA & Inv.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced national and local institutions capacity to sustainably support integrated SLM/IWRM, including the traditional local knowledge Operational early drought and climatic warning system for decision-making is supported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SLM/IWRM training manuals are available for wide dissemination A minimum of 45 RUA's trained to incorporate SLM/IWRM in their decision-making processes Database for bio-physical monitoring available Climatic risks are fully taken into account in the regional development strategies and for improved natural resources management 	425,444	30	1,014,322	70	1,439,767
3. Up-scaling best practices for SLM and water conservation practices for rangeland Ecosystems	Inv.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large scale SLM/IWRM pilot areas established and serve as model for up-scaling SLM/IWRM best practices up-scaled to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participatory SLM/IWRM plans developed and implemented in 3 sites (120,000 ha) Package of SLM/IWRM best practices adapted to the ecosystems of the EHPM identified and promoted: (i) 	3,766,987	23	12,952,711	77	16,719,698

¹ RUA = Range Users Association

		<p>preserve ecosystem integrity in the EHPM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A farmer/herder knowledge management and information system for SLM/IWRM established 	<p>100.000 ha of BMP for pasture management. and control of stocking; (ii) 5.000 ha of extended protected areas for biodiversity and seed production; (iii) 15.000 ha of water harvesting, catchment ponds, and rehabilitation of Siga; (iii) 120 ha with control measures for sand stabilization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational network of co-operators/leaders for implementing SLM/IWRM best practices and sharing information in place • Local range users and RUA's have improved access to knowledge and expertise for land use planning and management • 20% improvement in supply of portable water • Establishment of one community-led knowledge management and Training Center 					
4. Local communities livelihoods Improvement	Inv.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets of income generating activities with socio-economic and environmental benefits promoted • Eco-tourism potentialities Supported • Capacity building for environmental services supported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minimum of 5 innovative environmentally friendly small enterprises promoted • A minimum of 20% increase farmers' income through value-added and market access for local products • A minimum of 3 pilot ecotourism enterprises developed • Innovative types of environmental services supported 	440,052	19	1,817,008	81	2,257,059
5. Project monitoring and evaluation	Inv. & TA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results based system for project monitoring and evaluation is developed and implemented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An operational M&E system established • Projects technical reports , results, and lesson learned disseminated 	397,474	24	1,263,610	76	1,661,084
6. Project management				591,266	33	1,206,497	77	1,797,763
Total Project Costs				5,998,422		18,885,165		24,885,587

** TA = Technical Assistance; STA = Scientific & technical analysis.

B. FINANCING PLAN SUMMARY FOR THE PROJECT (\$)

	<i>Project Preparation</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Agency Fee*</i>	<i>Total at CEO Endorsement</i>	<i>For the record: Total at PIF</i>
GEF	350,000	5,998,422	634,842	6,983,264	6,985,000
Co-financing	203,931	18,885,165		19,089,096	19,035,165
Total	553,931	24,883,587	634,842	26,072,360	26,020,165

* Fees to be equally sheared between IFAD and UNIDO

C. SOURCES OF CONFIRMED CO-FINANCING, including co-financing for project preparation for the PDF

<i>Name of co-financier (source)</i>	<i>Classification</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Amount (\$)</i>	<i>%*</i>
Project Government Contribution	National Government	Guarantee	13,501,694	70.93
GEF Agency IFAD	Implementing Agency	Soft loan	5,174,029	27.18
GEF Agency (UNIDO, IFAD and GM)	Executing Agency	Grant (PDF-B co-financing)	80,000	0.42
HCEFLCD, INRA and IAV	National Executing Agencies	Guarantee (in-kind - PDF-B co-financing)	70,000	0.37
Others	Beneficiaries	Guarantee (in-kind)	209,442	1.10
Total Co-financing			19,035,165	100

* Percentage of each co-financier's contribution at CEO endorsement to total co-financing.

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

<i>GEF Agency</i>	<i>Focal Area</i>	<i>Country Name/ Global</i>	<i>(in \$)</i>			
			<i>Project Preparation</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Agency Fee</i>	<i>Total</i>
IFAD	LD	Morocco	350,000 (received)	4,998,484	534,848*	5,883,332
IFAD	IW	Morocco		999,938	99,994	1,099,932
Total GEF Resources			350,000	5,998,422	634,842	6,983,264

* Including 35,000 \$ agency fee not yet received.

E. PROJECT MANAGEMENT BUDGET/COST

<i>Cost Items</i>	<i>Total Estimated person weeks</i>	<i>GEF (\$)</i>	<i>Other sources (\$)</i>	<i>Project total (\$)</i>
<i>Local consultants/admi. staff*</i>				
• National Project Coordinator	312	152,720	61,174	213,894
• National Project Assistant	312	-	167,041	167,041
• Field assistants (x4)	1144	175,702	70,397	246,081
• Accountant	312	91,632	36,704	128,336
• Other administrative staff	936	-	127,269	127,269
• Sociologist	156	-	67,612	67,612
• Economist	156	-	67,612	67,612
• Forestry	156	-	67,612	67,612
• Range management	156	-	67,612	67,612
• Veterinarian	156	-	67,612	67,612
<i>International consultants*</i>	-	-	-	-
<i>Office facilities, equipment, vehicles and communications**</i>		34,245	208,094	242,339
<i>Travel**</i>		76,229	76,229	152,458
<i>Miscellaneous (including running cost)**</i>		60,738	121,549	182,287
Total	3016	591,266	1,206,497	1,797,763

* See Annex C for Terms of References.

** See project Brief – Annex 22 for budget details.

Travel refers to Project staff travel within the Project area and at national level during the whole project duration.

F. CONSULTANTS WORKING FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPONENTS:

<i>Component</i>	<i>Estimated person weeks</i>	<i>GEF(\$)</i>	<i>Other sources (\$)</i>	<i>Project total (\$)</i>
Local Consultants*				
• Agro-meteorology	24	30,000	-	60,000
• GIS	24	30,000	-	
International Consultants				
• Agro-economist/rural dev.	12	45,000	-	232,500
• Natural Resources Manag.	20	75,000	-	
• Environmental policies	18	67,500	-	
• Water harvesting and drought proofing engineer	12	45,000	-	
Total	878	292,500	-	292,500

* See Annex C for Terms of References. Costs are including travel and DSA.

G. BUDGETED M&E PLAN:

The M&E system is described in detail in the Project Brief. The monitoring system will operate as a continuous process throughout the life of the project which will be evaluated on the basis of execution performance, delivery, and project impact, including global environmental benefits.

The M&E will be conducted through a special unit, working under the supervision of the HCEFLCD. M&E procedures will be conducted in accordance with established IFAD/UNIDO and GEF procedures, using criteria, indicators, and means of verification compatible with those in TerrAfrica and MENARID, as well as new procedures developed by ICRAF.

The key reporting indicators are based on the project goals, objectives and outcomes, working from the project Logframe. Three sets of key performance indicators will be used (described in detail in the Project Brief (Annex 14): key indicators for monitoring project performance; (ii) key indicators for monitoring overall project success; and (iii) key performance indicators for environmental and economic impact and SLM advocacy. They will include the following:

- Core well fare indicators.
- Rates of erosion and soil carbon using spectroscopy.
- Knowledge management.
- SLM advocacy index.

Reporting and publications

The project will be subject to reporting in line with the prevailing IFAD and UNIDO policies and procedures. Accordingly:

- The PMU will prepare regular quarterly and annual progress reports on project activities detailing progress achieved in terms of the scheduled programme of work, project expenditure, the problems and constraints emerging over the period, and recommendations for correcting them, plus detailed work plan for the following period. Each report will be sent to the donor with copies to the national counterparts for their information and appropriate actions.
- Project technical staff and consultants will also prepare technical reports detailing the project progress and their achievements/findings. These will be issued as field documents and, upon request, will be submitted to the donor as well as to other collaborating projects.
- During the last three months of the project, the PMU shall prepare and submit to the counterpart and to the donor a terminal report for approval. This terminal report will assess, in a concise manner, the extent to which the project's scheduled activities have been carried-out, the outputs produced, and the progress towards achieving the immediate objectives and the related development objectives (impact assessment). It will also present recommendations for any future follow-up action arising out of the project.
- In addition, the project will produce periodic thematic and technical reports and other project publications as needed. Reports produced on a regular basis include:
- All reports will be edited in a consistent and recognizable format defined at the beginning of the project. The reports will be published and distributed through various publications, including progress reports, technology transfer brochures, information news letters, multimedia publications, technical reports, journal articles, and scientific reports. Opportunity for publications will be determined by the project team depending on the nature and merit of the reports.

Review

Tripartite Review Meetings (TPR) will be held once a year with participation by Government, IFAD and UNIDO representatives. A self-evaluation report (SER) showing the progress of the project for that year will be prepared and distributed one month ahead of each meeting. This review will analyse the results of the project and may recommend any complementary measures required.

Independent evaluation

- The project shall be subject to an independent mid-term evaluation after the actual project start date. This mid-term review will analyze the physical, financial and impact indicators as provided in the log-frame. It will complete the PSC meetings and recommend any complementary measures required to improve the achievement of the project's expected objectives/impact.

- The project will be also subject to an-independent evaluation at it end. The project evaluation will be based on assessments of project results and impacts on the generation of global benefits, including reduced land degradation and control of desertification, maintenance of biodiversity, and carbon sequestration and impact on poverty reduction.
- The TOR of the review team will be developed as part of the Project Implementation Plan.

The table below summarises the above-mentioned monitoring, reporting and evaluation activities, including related budget.

Monitoring and Evaluation Work plan and Budget for reporting

Type of M&E activity	Responsible parties	Time frame	Budget (x1000USD)
Inception workshop, including M&E details	HCLEFLCD Project Coordination Cell Project M&E Cell IFAD/UNIDO	Within first 3 months of project start-up	20
Base-line/assessment	PMU to hire local support institutions (IAV, INRA)	Mid-first year	40
Measurement of means of verifications for project purpose indicators	PMU Project M&E Cell Local/international institutions/consultants to be contacted	Mid and End of the project	50
Measurement of means of verification for project progress and performance	PMU Local support institutions RUA's	Annually	100
Quarterly reports and Annual Project Report	PMU IFAD/UNIDO HCEFLCD	Quarterly Annually	20
Supervise data collection at pilot sites	PMU SLM Focal Groups Support institutions under contractual arrangements	Continuous activity	150
PSC reports	Project Orientation Cell	Annually	20
Project coordination meetings	PMU Project partners	Following project work plan	20
Tripartite Review meetings and report	PMU IFAD/UNIDO HCEFLCD Other national Counterparts	Annually	20
Periodic status reports (technical and financial)	PMU	To be agreed upon by PMU and IFAD/UNIDO/HCEFLCD	-
Technical reports	PMU National and International consultants	To be agreed upon by PMU and IFAD/UNIDO/HCEFLCD	-
Self-evaluation	IFAD/UNIDO Project Managers PMU	Annually	-
Mid-term evaluation	Project M&E Cell External Consultants	At the mid-term of the project implementation	60
Final external evaluation	Project M&E Cell External Consultants	At the end of the project implementation	80
Terminal report	PMU	At least one month before the completion of the project	20
Total			600

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. PROJECT RATIONALE AND EXPECTED MEASURABLE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Land degradation affects the livelihoods and food security of about 1.5 million households in Morocco, and is undermining the carrying capacity of the ecosystems of the country. It is forcing farmers to extend production to marginal and fragile lands, thus seriously degrading the natural resource base. At the same time, rangeland quality is being depleted due to increasing herd size and prolonged drought. The majority of Morocco climatic zones fall under semi-arid and arid ecosystems (93%). These ecosystems, rich with diverse habitats and species heterogeneity, are of high international importance. However, the pervasive poverty, the increasing pressure on the land and its inadequate management, are leading to wide scale land degradation, depletion of water resources, loss of wildlife habitat, and increased susceptibility to droughts and climate change.

The use, management and control of degradation of common lands are serious issues in Morocco. In the Eastern Region, about 70% of the land is collectively used by local tribes and communities, and land use conflicts over access to grazing areas and water are regular features, seriously contributing to continual and often intensive degradation of the land. This combination of factors result in a spiral of increasing rural poverty and continual degradation of natural resources, with increasing outward migration of poor people to urban areas and elsewhere.

Related to the issues of land degradation and rural poverty is the major issue of water scarcity, with the Eastern High Plateaus being one of the most deprived regions in the country. Groundwater resources exist in several basins, Ain Bni Mathar, and the Moulouya basins, as well as several smaller basins, but the groundwater is found at great depths and yields are often quite low. Surface water resources, estimated at 1.65 M m³/yr, are highly irregular and unreliable, and related mostly to sporadic winter and some spring and summer storms. These normally drain and/or runoff very quickly, and in the absence of water harvesting and constructed water catchments, they do not provide much relief to the perennial problems of water deficits and the frequent droughts (annual rainfall has been decreasing in the region, and there have been five major droughts since 1975). The application of SLM technologies, including mechanized water harvesting, catchment ponds, and rehabilitated Sigas, are some of the only viable options for the sustainable management of the land and water resources of the region

The GEF project concurrently addresses the major problems of the region, namely land degradation, rural poverty, and water management. This is achieved through an integrated approach by (i): Mainstreaming SLM/IWRM at national, provincial, and local levels; (ii) specific investments to mobilize and empower range users as partners in managing the natural resources, and (iii) specific investments to improve the ecosystem integrity and diversify the income potentials of the local populations. The philosophy is to create and promote investment opportunities for land resource management which provide concurrent environmental and economic benefits. Mitigation of a process as complex as desertification can only be achieved by building partnerships with local beneficiaries whose livelihoods and economic well being depend on the sustainable management and conservation of their resources. Thus, the project will be articulated around five interlinked components to deliver an integrated approach for SLM and IWRM. These are the following:

- **Mainstreaming SLM principles and IWRM for rangeland ecosystems:** This will be achieved through interventions consisting of: (i) sensitizing relevant sector ministries to incorporate SLM and IWRM principles into their major programmes and local initiatives; (ii) establishing inter-institutional agreements as necessary for networking SLM/IWRM and national/regional integrated development; (iii) developing partnerships and procedures to resolve conflicting jurisdictions in land and water use and tenure (Accord Tripartite) for commonly used lands, including devolving responsibility and authority for control and management of rangelands to local authorities and RUAs; (iv) mobilizing local range users and RUA's as primary agents for sustainable use of range lands; (v) strengthening the coordination of GOM and donor-sponsored projects on SLM in relation to their contributions and impacts on mitigation of land degradation, desertification, and poverty reduction in Morocco.
- **Capacity building for national and local institutions to support integrated SLM and IWRM:** This component will contribute to (i) consolidate and strengthen the capacity of selected national and local government departments and services to implement existing enabling policy environments, remove institutional barriers to SLM/IWRM, and accelerate the adoption of improved technical interventions that produce concurrent economic and environmental benefits. (ii) promote and enhance the capacity of local stakeholders in the use, management, and control of natural resources, including the allocation of local land and water use, undertaking participatory land use planning activities, preparation of land management plans for SLM and water conservation, and resolution of land

use conflicts. (iii) support the early drought and climatic warning system, initiated under the IFAD PDPEO-II Project.

- **Up-scaling SLM and water resources management best practices for rangeland ecosystems:** This component focuses on investments and will support the following interventions: (i) establish three large-scale pilot areas, and develop SLM focal groups to provide leadership in development and adoption of SLM and water conservation technologies; these areas will be representative of the arid region in the south, and the dry, semi-arid region in the centre and north, and will serve as models for SLM up-scaling for the remainder of the EHPM. SLM and IWRM practices will emphasize proven techniques and may include technical interventions for control of land degradation, rehabilitation of degraded areas, and protection of rangeland resources, such as rotational grazing, natural rest (fallow) pastures, protection of seed producing areas, controlled stocking rates, windbreaks, contour terraces, water conservation and harvesting techniques, etc. (ii) develop and implement an effective SLM knowledge management system, supported by an Information and Training Centre for information exchange and herder-herder training. (iii) promote a farmer/herder SLM network based on the RUA's and their federations for implementing, monitoring and up-scaling selected SLM best practices; (iv) provide support to RUA's to up-scale selected SLM best practices in the rest of the area, involving a mix of traditional and technical on-the-ground solutions for desertification control.
- **Support for local livelihood improvement:** This component will promote income generating activities to alleviate poverty and absorb excess labor, so as to reduce pressures on natural resource exploitation. The focus will be on adding value to local products while preserving environmental services. Activities will include market development for natural products (truffles, rosemary, aromatic plants etc), dairy processing, and specialty livestock products. This component will also promote small business opportunities in ecotourism through supporting: (i) pilot eco—tourism enterprises in terms of training, equipment, marketing, etc.; (ii) building partnerships between coastal and in-land tourism; and (ii) linking with the eco-museum of Chekhar SIBE initiated under a GEF project. As part of this component, the project will also provide capacity building to support development of an incentive framework (payment for ecosystem services) for improved carbon sequestration and other ecosystems services in the EHPM. This will be achieved through: (i) developing partnerships with RUA's for improved carbon sequestration mechanisms assisting the local communes and RUA's to formulate carbon projects in line with potential buyers' guidelines for example.
- **Project monitoring and evaluation:** This component will develop a results-based M&E system integrating activities achieved, and the economic and environmental impacts of the project. These will be documented and will serve to guide SLM activities and investments in arid and semi-arid rangeland ecosystems. The reports produced (including SLM best practices) will be disseminated in national, regional (through MENARID) and international events.

National and Local Benefits of the Project: Investments in SLM and IWRM best management practices will improve the quality of rangeland resources, and improve net primary productivity. This will result in improved quality of livestock products from the area, and improved incomes for the farmer/herders. Other benefits will include improved capacity and proven methodologies to guide expansion of SLM and IWRM in the EHPM and other regions of Morocco, leading to reduction on land degradation and control of desertification. The SLM/IWRM technologies will increase the levels of organic matter in the soil, improve soil carbon storage, and improve the soil water retention. These improvements will improve the capacity for mitigation of droughts and climate change, since it has been shown in many other arid and semi-arid areas that even small increases in soil organic matter will pay large dividends in assuring some degree of productivity and mitigation of climate risks. There will be increased beneficiary knowledge and awareness of the importance of collective action on desertification control. The RUAs will be mobilized and empowered as the first line defense against desertification, and supported to act collectively in the rehabilitation and improved productivity of the natural resources that constitute the source of their livelihoods. A knowledge management and training centre will be established to collate and disseminate local and scientific information on control and mitigation of land degradation and desertification. These issues of rangeland management and control will be anchored by strengthening the enabling policy and program environment at the national level, centered on resolution of problems of cross-jurisdiction and the devolution of authority and responsibility to local levels. Desertification, however, is a complex environmental, social, and economic problem, and thus the project will support alternate and improved income generating activities for the local population, especially women and unemployed youth, with specific investments for improving the value added of the productive assets and potential of the EHPM and reduction of poverty.

Global Environmental Benefits from the Project: The application and dissemination of SLM and IWRM best practices that are generated and disseminated by this project will provide added value to the global environment, particularly on critically endangered ecosystems (arid and semi-arid EHPM). In general, global benefits will include: (i) maintenance in

ecosystem integrity and service provision capacities; (ii) control of land degradation and conservation of soil and water resources leading to higher net primary productivity, (iii) increased carbon and biomass carbon sequestration and carbon stocks; (iv) mitigation of drought and climate change through improved ecosystem resilience (water harvesting, improved soil moisture storage, amelioration of climate risk); (v) improved wildlife habitat and reduced habitat fragmentation in sites and ecosystems of global importance to reduce stress on remaining biodiversity hotspots and (vi) enhanced institutional capacity at national and local levels for management of environmental issues involving SLM and IWRM.

The project will measure global environmental benefits through direct measurements of NPP increase, rehabilitation or rangelands and key ecosystems, rate of change in land degradation, soil erosion, and rangeland quality, change in soil and biomass carbon stocks, and rates of adoption of soil and water conservation best practices. The preservation and conservation of the rangeland resources of the High Plateaus, including the ecosystem integrity and functions of the alfagrass ecosystems in particular, will be a major contribution to environmental benefits. Following the major drought of 1979 – 84, and the drastic losses of the *Artemisia-herba alba* stands (the most palatable rangeland sites and the among the richest in terms of floristic diversity), there was increased tendency for herders to concentrate their herds in defined areas with supplemental feeding with local and imported forages. This resulted in considerably increased pressure on the land, considerably increased soil erosion, and drastically reduced species richness in many ecosystems, especially those dominated by alfa grass (*Stipa tenacissima*). It is important to note that maintenance of the alfa grass ecosystem is critical for the control and mitigation of desertification, because of its high resistant to drought. If this important resource and its concomitant global environmental benefits, such as maintenance of soil carbon stocks, biodiversity, etc., are allowed to deteriorate further, then no amount of rehabilitation will restore it. This is the last step in the defence against desertification for the entire EHP.

Other global benefits will accrue from conservation of native biodiversity, which will be used for rangeland rehabilitation and management. Emphasis will be on native plant species which will be preserved through use of endogenous sources of seed stock for rangeland improvement and rehabilitation. Also, there are 47 species of mammals in the area, most of which are endangered and three already extinct, and 61 species of birds of which 25 are either endemic, rare or endangered, and 23 species of reptiles. The interventions in this project will improve the local habitat conditions and improve local cover and water supplies, through constructed water catchments, shrub plantations, natural rangeland fallows, and improved vegetative cover. These activities will work to control the desertification process, and thereby help to maintain the biodiversity resources in the region.

The project will illustrate the importance of engaging and mobilizing local rural populations (RUAs) in the management of common lands, and in control of land degradation and desertification. Through these initiatives, rural populations most affected by desertification will be mobilized as important partners to effect the front line control. The project will illustrate how to develop such a practical and cost effective approach, and how to duplicate this in other countries of North Africa and the Middle East, as well as other regions subject to the threats of desertification.

Finally, the project will provide a major global benefit through the development, testing and illustration of innovative protocols and an institutional model for control of desertification and IWRM. This initiative is centered on mainstreaming SLM and IWRM in government policy and program frameworks, coupled with devolution of authority and responsibility for mitigation of land degradation to local levels, and empowerment and mobilization of local farmer/herders as partners in the struggle against land degradation and desertification. This model will be suitable for replication in large areas of similar ecosystems in North Africa and the Middle East, and to similar regions of SSA. The project will illustrate the importance of a high level State appointment (i.e., HCEFLCD) to resolve conflicts of cross-jurisdiction, operationalize the regulatory and enabling policy environment, implement a bottom-up land use planning approach, and the process of mainstreaming SLM processes into priority rural development strategies.

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

The proposed GEF project responds to several important initiatives of the Moroccan NAPCCD: (i) supporting the implementation of an enabling environment and removing critical barriers, (ii) integrated participatory models for sustainable development; (iii) capacity building to combat land degradation including support institutions and farmers/herders associations; (iv) generation of technological packages adapted to arid- and semi-arid areas, and (v) promotion of income generation activities for poverty reduction. It is also in accordance with the priority objectives of the Government, including:

- Morocco's policy for environmental management and combating desertification: The GEF project is developed as an integral part of the National Action Plan for combating Desertification (NAPCCD), and the National Action Plan for the Environment (NEAP). These are strategic documents for sustainable development, approved and enforced by acts of parliament.
- Morocco's strategy for rural development (Strategy 2020) and National Initiative for Human Development (INDH): The GEF project is consistent with the GOM agricultural and rural development strategy for 2020, and with the INDH, a large-scale poverty reduction program designed to: (i) alleviate poverty, vulnerability, marginalization and social exclusion by improving the incomes and the living conditions of vulnerable people; and (ii) the establishment of a sustainable dynamics in favour of human development, the prosperity and wellbeing of all the people of Morocco.
- The major initiatives and programmes in the EHPM particularly: (i) The IFAD Livestock and Pasture Development Project (PDPEO). Within the PDPEO, the major line ministries (Interior, MAPM, HCEFLCD) acting on natural resources elaborated an agreement (Accord Tripartite) defining their respective responsibilities and the mechanisms to enhance synergy for the management and conservation of the EHPM rangelands. (ii) The Programme for Agricultural Development in Jerada province (PDAJ) financed by the GOM and focusing on activities such as agro-forestry and water catchments; (iii) The GOM programme for drought impact alleviation focusing on safeguarding livestock from the effect of drought and creating employment opportunities; (iv) More recently, the GOM established the Agency for the Development of the Eastern region of Morocco with primary objectives to reduce the pervasive poverty in the region and foster sustainable economic growth.

The proposed project is also a direct response to operationalize the SLM partnership framework and resource mobilization strategy for Morocco, which was prepared in collaboration with the Global Mechanism (GM) and endorsed by financing partners.

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

The project conforms closely to the GEF's Focal Area strategy, objectives, and eligible activities under the Land Degradation and International Waters. It focuses on a landscape approach, which embraces ecosystem principles addressing processes that provide people with ecosystem goods and services at local and global scales. It is located within a region severely affected by land degradation but which has potential for yielding global environmental benefits and up-scaling good SLM practices that would be replicated in neighbouring countries.

The project responds to the strategic objectives and programs of Sustainable Land Management and International Waters. In particular, it relates to Land Degradation Strategic Objective 2: *To upscale sustainable land management investments that generate mutual benefits for the global environment and local livelihoods*; and Strategic Program LD-SP1: *Supporting sustainable agriculture and rangeland management*. In addition, the project relates to Strategic Program IW-SP3 in International Waters: *Balancing overuse and conflicting uses of water resources in surface and groundwater basins that are transboundary in nature*. The project involves also an integrated approach to poverty reduction and rangeland improvement, rehabilitation, and protection, to ensure long term, sustainable control and mitigation of land degradation and desertification in the eastern region through participatory management.

The project involves mainstreaming SLM and IWRM strategies and principles into national development priorities, as well as national and community level capacity building to ensure participatory involvement in integrated land use planning and implementation. Emphasis will be on the use of indigenous species for regeneration activities, and on using local knowledge and proven technologies common to the farmer/herder populations of the area to manage pasture resources and aid in reversing the current trend of land degradation.

The GEF assistance will be consistent with the work program priorities of the Moroccan NAPCCD, and with the partnership building and resource mobilization activities initiated by the Global Mechanism (GM). The components of the project and the project M&E system are fully compatible with the MENARID Strategic Investment Program and will be an integral part of the arid lands priorities/programs in the MENA region.

D. COORDINATION WITH OTHER RELATED INITIATIVES:

The GEF investment will strongly support the “Haut Commissariat aux Eaux et Forêts et à la Lutte Contre la Désertification – HCEFLCD”, and accelerate its capacity for strong leadership in integrated environmental policy and rural development. The HCEFLCD is a high level, cabinet appointment, with oversight responsibilities on line departments concerning all aspects of environmental management. The HCEFLCD has the authority and the responsibility to coordinate and regulate development activities in rural areas to ensure development which is economically and environmentally sustainable. This agency will have direct responsibility to direct and coordinate this project and will ensure high coordination with other similar initiatives in the country.

This project will be an integral part of a portfolio of projects on SLM in Morocco. Specifically, it will build on the successes achieved in the Livestock and Pasture Development Project (PDPEO), developed under an IFAD contracted loan. This approach was identified as the best and most cost effective approach to fast track SLM priorities and principles in national and local programs and policies, and the best opportunity for mobilizing local populations as full partners in control of desertification and reduction of rural poverty.

In addition, the project will link closely and provide input to important international and regional programs on desertification, such as: (i) information systems on desertification, in support of national and regional programs of the CCD in the Mediterranean region; (ii) monitoring and follow-up of the desertification in southern Mediterranean countries, implemented in partnership with the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS) within the “Life Program” of the European Union; (iii) development of M&E systems within the UNCCD Action plans of Maghreb countries neighbouring the Mediterranean; and (iv) the project “Conserving Biodiversity through Transhumance” which produced a large data base of local knowledge in managing, using and conserving biodiversity. The database developed under this project will constitute a valuable source for developing indicators and support the development of the information centre to be established under this GEF proposal. These supplemental/technical outcomes, including reinforcing the knowledge base, development of indicators, and monitoring and evaluation systems for desertification control, will be highly useful for up-scaling SLM to other regions in Morocco and other countries in the MENA region.

Synergy will also be developed with the existing projects in the EHP involving the GEF, namely the Protected Areas Management Project, aiming at the creation and management of national parks and biodiversity conservation at 2 sites: (i) “Sites d’Intérêt Biologique et Ecologique” *SIBE of Jbel Krouz*: a large site (60,000 ha) representative of the Atlas Saharien ecosystems, located in the province of Figuig (southern part of the Project area); (ii) *SIBE of Chekhar*: a diverse, somewhat degraded ecosystem (10,000 ha) up to 1350 m, in the Province of Oujda, with remnant oak forest (northern part of the Project area).

The proposed GEF project is also in harmony with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) targeting poverty reduction, decentralization to local level to allow development actions to be adapted to specific problems, partnership approaches to program development and execution using participatory mechanisms together with the beneficiaries.

The project is an integral part of the MENARID programme framework. It will work towards MENARID’s objectives and PRs in harmony with other ongoing and planned GEF projects in the country/region. It will meet MENARID objectives while contributing to increased exchange of lessons learned and best practices across the MENA region.

E. INCREMENTAL REASONING OF THE PROJECT:

Without the GEF involvement: Morocco’s rural areas are characterized by poor socioeconomic infrastructure, low levels of education, inadequate support services and an ageing farm population. Farmers are thus not equipped to face the challenges of an economy that is opening up to free market competition. The major causes of insufficient productivity in the agricultural sector are: (i) degradation of natural resources; (ii) rural poverty; (iii) insufficient social infrastructure; (iv) limited involvement of the rural population, especially women, in the development process; (v) poor use of the Government’s human and financial resources; and (vi) the almost non-availability of rural financial services for small farmers and the rural poor. Natural resources are affected by increasing degradation. Apart from the broad alluvial plains, most of Morocco’s soils are fragile and subject to erosion. It is estimated that 35% of the rural population live in areas of serious degradation, i.e. on rangelands and key ecosystems for the country and the global environment. The baseline scenario aims to increase incomes and improve living conditions among rural poor people in the eastern region of Morocco in particular. There is a particular focus on women and girls, whose income-generating activities are poorly developed and who have little access to rural financial services. The baseline interventions work towards the creation of new socio-economic opportunities that

generate incomes and build autonomy among local communities. The baseline scenario will not be sufficient to address the strong linkages between environmental degradation (that affects both the local and the global environment). Without GEF intervention less emphasis and lower investment will be leveraged to restore key ecosystem functions and hydrological regimes which constitute the main resource base for the local population.

With the GEF involvement: The proposed GEF project aims to combat land degradation and desertification in the arid and semi-arid high plateaus, conserve rangeland ecosystems, and contribute to alleviation of rural poverty (main driver for environmental degradation in the region). This will be achieved by building on results of previous experiences and by completing ongoing initiatives from a global environmental perspective. The project will be particularly linked to the Livestock and Pasture Development Project (PDPEO), which is being implemented under an IFAD loan. The two projects are complementary and will be blended to capture the synergy of objectives, improve cost effectiveness, and maximise impact on the ground.

Specifically, the PDPEO focuses on livestock production compatible with sustainable participatory management of rangeland resources, drought proofing, and poverty reduction. Its objectives are to increase the income and improve the living conditions of the rural poor in the Eastern Region. Its activities include: (i) working through local community empowerment to capitalize on the potentials of the eastern region, (ii) control and mitigate drought, and (iii) create new economic opportunities for the most vulnerable groups.

The GEF project will focus on control of land degradation and desertification and on conservation and preservation of the integrity, functions, and services of the alfa grass and other steppe ecosystems. At the same time, it will contribute to rural development objectives by providing support to enhance the institutional management of local natural resources by ensuring effective participation of all stakeholders and bottom-up natural resources management. It will promote the further empowerment and capacity of the RUAs and local communes to become full partners in the use and management of natural resources of the region in balance with its natural capacity. The project will put equal emphasis on IWRM and will seek to balance over-use of water resources over 15.000 ha in key basins (Ain Bni Mattar and Moulouya). IWRM and SLM will be addressed in a holistic manner.

The proposed GEF project will develop and illustrate one of the most important principles in sustainable global environmental management, i.e. the concurrent achievement of environmental and economic benefits through targeted investments. The project will promote the concept of balanced eco-environmental management by promoting best SLM and IWRM practices which provide added economic return while concurrently ensuring environmental stewardship. The project will also demonstrate the importance of mobilizing and empowering resource users as the primary, first line agents for managing their natural resources.

The GEF project will support the poverty reduction objectives of the PDPEO project by promoting development of small businesses, ecotourism, and other income generating activities, including off-farm, rural activities for men and women. The focus will be on activities that improve income, but concurrently improve ecosystem resilience, reduce pressure on rangeland resources, and contribute to global benefits. This will be promoted by conducting market surveys for natural products from the area, including specialty range fed meats (e.g. organic meat production), honey production, truffles, local arts and crafts etc., evaluating the potentials for eco-tourism in the area, and promoting collective self-help initiatives. These activities will be funded collectively through the PDPEO project and other sources such as the Agency for the Development of the Eastern Region of Morocco.

By targeting degraded alfa ecosystems, the proposed project will add a significant global environmental dimension to the baseline scenario through carbon sequestration, conservation and restoration of habitats through rangeland management, improvement in the hydrologic regime at the basin scale, and improve soil and water conservation. The proposed GEF project will also strengthen the capacity of local resource users (herders in particular) to adapt to climate change impacts through drought early warning coping strategies and diversified income generating activities.

Finally, the EHPM are representative of globally important ecosystems, such as those found in many countries in North Africa and the Middle East. The integrated biophysical, social and economic model presented in this project has the potential to reverse the continued desertification of these regions. This will ensure the continual provision of viable environmental services and reliable economic returns from these regions.

F. RISKS, INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS, THAT MIGHT PREVENT THE PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S) FROM BEING ACHIEVED AND OUTLINE RISK MANAGEMENT MEASURES:

Project risks involve both natural and institutional risks (see Risks assessment and potential mitigation measures in table below). The risks of natural disasters, such as droughts, and insect infestations, are endemic in the eastern region. The people in the area have long standing experience in coping with natural disasters, and these risks are tolerable if they are of relatively short duration, but they become more serious if they last for four years or more. To

minimize this risk, the project will promote collective action for the rational use and management of rangelands, including pasture rotation, natural (fallow) rest periods, natural regeneration, etc., as well a drought proofing activities such as water harvesting, and other water management activities. Also, the project will contribute to strengthening the drought warning system in collaboration with the National Observatory on Drought under the Ministry of Agriculture.

Risks assessment and potential mitigation measures

Risks	Risk rating*	Risk mitigation measures
Control of desertification and poverty reduction is deemphasized in GOM policy agenda	L	The recent and continuous commitments made by the GOM both in terms of poverty reduction and preservation of the environment and associated budget allocations reduces this risk
Long-lasting and repetitive drought	S	The project will promote collective action for the rational use and management of rangelands, including pasture rotation, rests, natural regeneration, etc., as well a drought proofing activities such as water harvesting, etc. Also, the project will contribute to strengthening the drought warning system in collaboration with the National Observatory on Drought under the MAPM
Line Ministries preoccupied with other priorities	L	The project will sensitize relevant sector ministries to incorporate SLM and IWRM principles into their major programmes and local initiatives
On-ground implementation slowdown by bureaucratic constraints	M	Use of the project participatory approach associated with sufficient institutional strengthening provided under the project will allow adequate remedial measures to this risk
Decentralization policies not effective	L	Sufficient institutional strengthening, policy statement on roles and responsibilities of local authorities and RUAs, and backstopping to securing RUA's rights on rangelands is provided under the project
Insufficient staffing for backstopping	L	In addition to the line ministries departments and services, the project will involve R&D national institutions and local NGO's for backstopping
Inadequate staffing for backstopping	L	A comprehensive training/recycling program for technical staff will be implemented
Environmental benefits inadequate to attract attention and adoption	L	Local communes and RUA's will be mobilized to ensure both environmental and economic benefits. Experience during the PDPEO has shown that when participatory programs are well designed, the beneficiaries are well motivated
Inadequate technical capacity devoted to information gathering and management	L	The project is building on existing experience associated with sufficient institutional strengthening is provided
RUAs and local communes motivated only towards increasing profits and resource exploitation	M	The project will make sure to mobilize RUAs and Communal and Regional authorities with sufficient commitment and finances necessary to modify and replace current destructive range management practices with SLM and IWRM best practices.
Limited funding from GOM and local Communes to develop required infrastructure for eco-tourism activities	M	The EHMP are identified by the GOM as a high priority region for economic development: INDH, support from the ADO and ADS, etc.
Lack of commitment from partner institutions	L	Sensitization workshops have been held (and will held) to ensure the participations of all concerned partners
Overall risk rating	L	
<i>* Risk rating – H (high risk), S (Substantial risk), M (Moderate risk), and L (low risk). Risks refer to the possibility that assumptions, defined in the logical framework may not hold</i>		

Institutional barriers and risks will be minimized through actions in implementing and extending the Accord Tripartite, and having this mainstreamed in line ministry's strategy documents, including poverty reduction strategies, rural development strategies, and in accordance with NAPs for environment and for the CCD. This Accord, and the agreements resulting there from, will resolve cross-jurisdictional inconsistencies between GOM departments in land use, land management, and it will resolve the issues of local land use and tenure for land improvements in the eastern region.

The project will significantly depend on the strength and commitment of local stakeholders, particularly communes and RUAs that are identified as the key partners. It will ensure that these organizations are mobilized and empowered with sufficient commitment, finances, jurisdictions, and backstopping to enable them to provide the leadership, guidance, and entrepreneurship necessary to implement and manage the planned initiatives within the project.

G. COST-EFFECTIVENESS IS REFLECTED IN THE PROJECT DESIGN:

The GEF project will draw on lessons and build on successes already achieved through the IFAD Project (PDPEO) to address desertification, SLM, and IW issues in the Eastern Region of Morocco. This approach was identified in the Concept Note and confirmed during the PDF B phase as the best and most cost effective mix of institutional and technical activities, and the best opportunity for mobilizing local populations and partnership building to combat desertification. The GEF project will capitalize on these achievements and lessons learned, and accelerate and promote efforts to simultaneously promote desertification control while contributing to improving economic and social sustainability of the rural populations.

The project is strongly supportive of the work of the HCEFLCD, and thus it is strategically important for building the institutional and administrative structures necessary for control of desertification and reduction of rural poverty in Morocco. This model, which is designed to accelerate building enabling policy environments while also mobilizing local action through participatory approaches, has been shown to be successful in other areas, and will serve as a model for control of desertification in other countries in North Africa.

The proposed project adopts a targeted approach to capacity building and SLM/IWRM mainstreaming while putting emphasis on investment on the ground. The objective is to increase the impact per GEF dollar on both people and ecosystems. Linking with the MENARID M&E framework will reduce transaction costs and contribute to a cost-effective knowledge sharing function. The project is also focusing on up-scaling in view of supporting a multiplier effect and wider dissemination of the investment. Further cost-effectiveness assessments will be undertaken during project preparation.

PART III: INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION AND SUPPORT

A. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENT:

IFAD will be the implementing agency, while UNIDO, in co-operation with the HCEFLCD, will be the project supervision agency (CI). Through its country office in Rabat and the respective Division, Programme Development and Technical Cooperation (PTC Division, Agro-Industries and Sectoral Support Branch - AGR), UNIDO will supervise and assist in project implementation, monitoring, and supervision. In addition, it will provide assistance with the promotion of income-generating activities as one of the primary interventions on poverty reduction.

The project will be implemented in line with existing institutional framework with the HCEFLCD as the main national counterpart. Its execution plan is detailed in Annex 11 of the project document. A summary of the plan is described below.

In consultation with the HCEFLCD, IFAD/UNIDO will set-up a Project Management Unit (PMU) which will be responsible for the day-to-day implementation and coordination activities. It will specifically be responsible for managing, conducting, and monitoring the project, meeting the immediate objectives and projected outputs, making effective and efficient use of the resources allocated in accordance with the project document, and ensuring effective coordination between the project and the other SLM projects in the country.

The PMU will make use of the existing structure for the implementation of the PDPEO, Phase II to ensure efficient coordination and benefit from existing structures. The organizational and operational structure of the PMU will be designed to ensure that the project management team has the autonomy and the capacity to effectively conduct its day-to-day operations and/or to make any amendments necessary to the project's action/activity plans so as to ensure that consistent implementation progress is made.

When necessary, the PMU will be assisted by national support institutions for R&D and extension (IAV Hassan II, INRA, DPA, CT's, DREFO, and CRRA). It will also be supported by HCEFLCD headquarters and UNIDO field office in Rabat for all administrative matters and with appropriate international expertise when necessity arises.

In addition to the PMU and national support institutions, SLM Focal Groups will be established to assist in local level project interventions (SLM investments, local knowledge diffusion, M&E, etc.). Members of SLM Focal Groups will be identified from participating farmer/herders through the collective decisions of local RUAs and communes, but emphasis will be given to local leaders and innovative farmers and herders. These groups will be guided and supervised by the PMU.

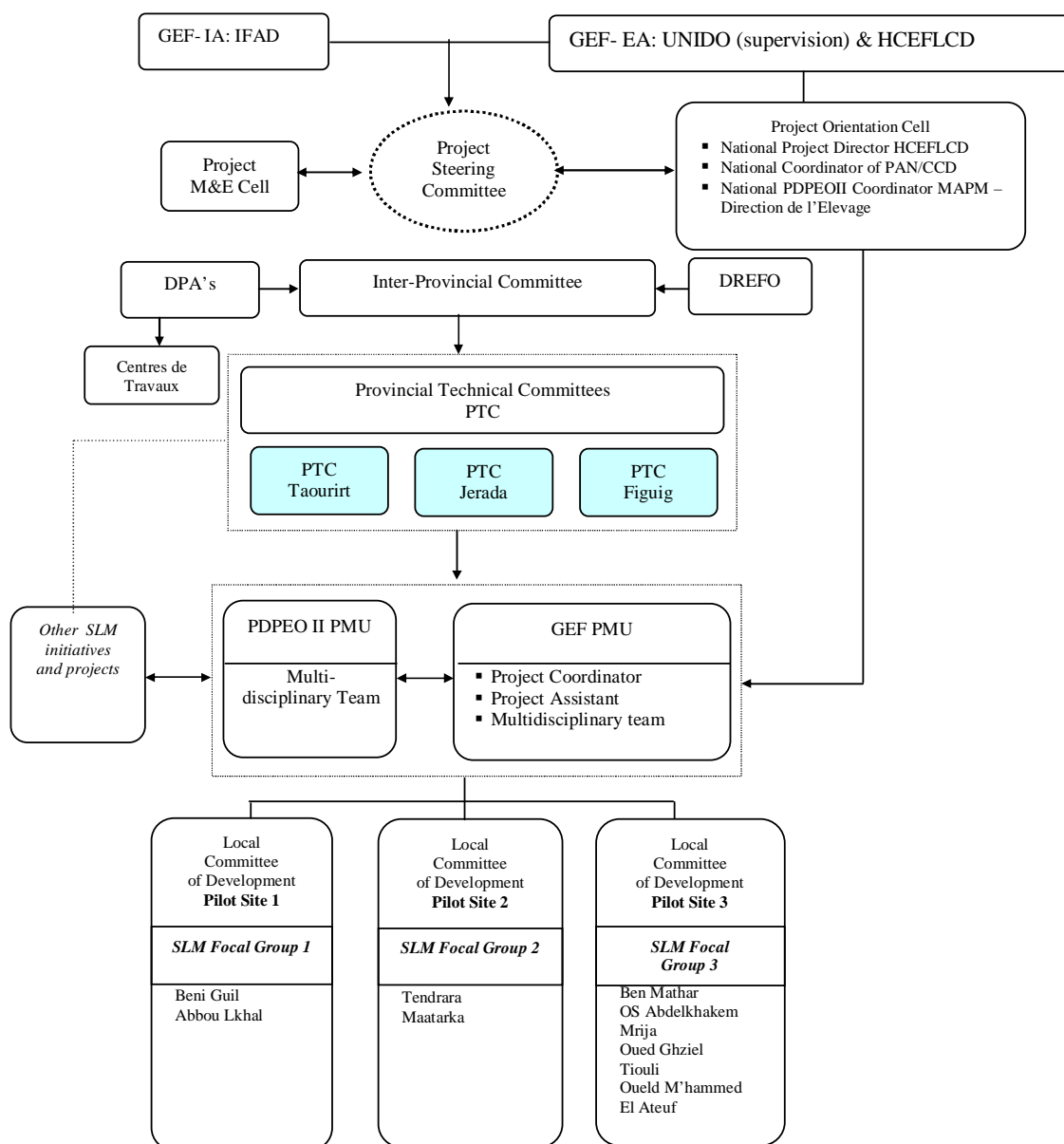


Figure 1: Organizational structure of the Project

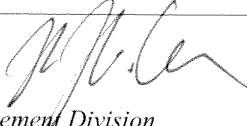
PART IV: EXPLAIN THE ALIGNMENT OF PROJECT DESIGN WITH THE ORIGINAL PIF:

The Project is aligned with the PIF.

PART V: AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for CEO Endorsement.

Kevin Cleaver
Assistant President
Programme Management Division
IFAD



Date: 30 June 2008

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Please do not forget to copy the IFAD/GECC Registry on all official communications, GECCregistry@ifad.org

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

PROJECT OBJECTIVES	VERIFIABLE INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	CRITICAL ASSUMPTIONS	RISKS
Rural Development and Poverty Reduction Objective <i>To protect the pastoral resources of the arid and semi-arid high plateaus while improving the livelihoods of the rural poor in the Eastern Region of Morocco</i>	Percent decrease in rural households below the poverty line Improved net primary productivity of rangelands Percentage increase in value added for local produce Percent income creation through ecotourism	Socio economic surveys at the beginning, midterm and project completion Natural resource monitoring and surveys	Continuous commitment of GOM to sustainable natural resources management, combating desertification, and poverty reduction strategies Adequate personnel/skills for staffing at DPA and CT	Control of desertification and poverty reduction is deemphasized in GOM policy agenda Long-lasting and repetitive drought
Global, National, and Local Environment Objectives <i>To combat desertification, mitigate the impacts of land degradation, and protect the natural ecosystem integrity and functions of the rangeland ecosystem resources of the Eastern Region</i>	Percentage increase in vegetation cover Percentage increase in carbon stocks (soil and vegetation biomass) Percentage increase in area with SLM/IWRM best practices applied Number of local communes and RUAs empowered for land use and rangeland resource management Percentage area rehabilitated for desertification, drought, and climate change mitigation Increase in area with water harvesting and soil conservation investments	Natural resources monitoring and surveys Technical reports Minutes of Local, Provincial and National Committees Activity reports produced by the Communal Councils Sector ministries expenditures reports Midterm and final evaluation reports	Cross sectoral planning systems strengthened (budget allocation and investment) Adequate empowerment of RUAs for sustainable use and management of rangeland resources Key people in the RUA's and decentralized institutions are competent and respond positively	

OUTCOME BY COMPONENT	VERIFIABLE INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	CRITICAL ASSUMPTIONS	RISKS
Component 1: Mainstreaming SLM/IWRM principles for rangeland ecosystems				
<p>Sub-component 1.1: Harmonize and mainstream SLM/IWRM into major GOM programmes and support the implementation of the Tripartite Agreement (ATP):</p> <p>Outcome 1.1: SLM/IWRM mainstreamed through improved regulations and coordination mechanisms among line ministries</p> <p>Output 1.1.1: Principles and standards of SLM/IWRM are mainstreamed and harmonized with sectoral programs at regional and national levels</p> <p>Output 1.1.2: ATP is widely disseminated within line ministries and implemented at the regional level</p> <p>Activity 1.1.1: Sensitize line ministries to incorporate SLM principles into their major relevant programmes and local initiatives: INDH, RDS 2020 and existing CDP's</p> <p>Activity 1.1.2: Plan and organize cross-sectoral workshops addressing SLM/IWRM principles and poverty reduction</p> <p>Activity 1.1.3: Establish inter-institutional agreements as necessary for networking SLM/IWRM and national/regional integrated development</p> <p>Activity 1.1.4: Translate into Arabic, publish and widely disseminate ATP within line Ministries, local communes and rangeland users</p> <p>Activity 1.1.5: Promote inter-ministerial negotiations and agreements between HCEFLCD and line Ministries (Agriculture, Interior, Justice and Env.)</p> <p>Activity 1.1.6: Support line ministries for developing regulations to incorporate principles of ATP in their respective policies and programs.</p> <p>Activity 1.1.7: Extend the implementation of the ATP within the EHP and to other regions</p>	<p>Number of projects approved applying SLM/IWRM principles and criteria</p> <p>Percentage increase in allocation of resources to sector ministries dealing with natural resources</p> <p>ATP available in Arabic (none at baseline)</p> <p>Number of inter-ministerial agreements between HCEFLCD and line Ministries negotiated and signed (including water use)</p> <p>Institutional agreements on water use</p> <p>Line ministries develop regulations to incorporate principles of ATP in their respective policies and programs</p> <p>ATP agreements are disseminated at regional, provincial and communal levels (none at baseline)</p>	<p>Consultation of the relevant project and programme documents</p> <p>Publications of ATP</p> <p>Minutes of meetings, workshops concerning dissemination and implementation of ATP</p> <p>Publication of joint signed inter-ministerial agreements</p> <p>Publication of strategy documents of line Ministries integrating principles and criteria of ATP in sector policies and programs</p> <p>Progress and M&E reports</p>	<p>Integration is effective and all line ministries adopt the principles and criteria of SLM/IWRM</p> <p>Continued full commitment of GOM to achieving the objectives of the ATP</p>	<p>Line Ministries preoccupied with other priorities</p> <p>On-ground implementation slowdown by bureaucratic constraints</p>

OUTCOME BY COMPONENT	VERIFIABLE INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	CRITICAL ASSUMPTIONS	RISKS
<p>Sub-component 1.2: Support devolution of responsibility and authority for common rangelands use planning and management:</p> <p>Outcome 1.2: Stakeholders have increased jurisdiction to safeguard ecological integrity, functions, and services of rangeland ecosystems</p> <p>Output 1.2: RUA's have increased responsibility and authority for common rangelands use planning and management</p> <p>Output 1.3: Policies for basin-scale SLM/IWRM supported</p> <p>Activity 1.2.1: In partnership with line ministries, prepare policy statement on roles and responsibilities of local authorities and RUAs on rangeland management and mitigation of desertification</p> <p>Activity 1.2.2: Under decentralization policy, develop guidelines and regulatory procedures for devolving resp. for sustainable rangeland use and management</p> <p>Activity 1.2.3: Increase awareness of local authorities and RUAs for implementing the guidelines</p> <p>Activity 1.2.4: Mobilize local range users and RUA's as primary agents for sustainable use of range lands, including control of desertification</p> <p>Activity 1.2.5: Assist in securing RUA's rights on rangelands through new and innovative contractual modalities</p> <p>Activity 1.2.6: Advise on policies and legislation to ensure implementation of participatory land use planning and management of common lands involving all stakeholders</p> <p>Activity 1.2.7: Strengthen the capabilities of the enforcement agencies for rangeland use planning and management</p>	<p>Local authorities and RUAs have clear directives for assuming responsibility and authority for sustainable management of common rangelands</p> <p>RUA's rights on rangelands use secured</p> <p>Capacity enhanced for 45 RUAs for decentralized decision-making (gender disaggregated)</p> <p>Decrease in conflicts in areas managed by RUAs</p>	<p>Documents of HCEFLCD policy statement</p> <p>Signed agreements</p> <p>Activity reports produced by Communal Councils</p> <p>Progress and M&E reports</p>	<p>GOM committed to decentralization of authority</p> <p>Local authorities and RUAs are provided with adequate support and backstopping</p> <p>Local communities are participating actively</p>	<p>Decentralization policies not effective</p>

OUTCOME BY COMPONENT	VERIFIABLE INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	CRITICAL ASSUMPTIONS	RISKS
Component 2: Capacity building for national and local institutions to support integrated SLM/IWRM				
<p>Sub-component 2.1: Develop and organize appropriate SLM/IWRM training packages addressing various levels and sectors</p> <p>Outcome 2.1: Enhanced national and local institutions capacity to sustainably support integrated SLM/IWRM, including the traditional local knowledge: capability to plan, develop and implement SLM/IWRM</p> <p>Output 2.1: SLM/IWRM training manuals are available for wide dissemination</p> <p>Output 2.2: Stakeholder's capacity developed to incorporate SLM/IWRM in their decision-making processes</p> <p>Activity 2.1.1: Develop appropriate SLM/IWRM training programs and manuals, including traditional local knowledge</p> <p>Activity 2.1.2: Organise SLM/IWRM training programs for national departments (HCEFLCD, MAPM, Interior, Justice and Education)</p> <p>Activity 2.1.3: Organise SLM/IWRM training programs for regional support institutions (DPA's, DREFO, CT's, DAR, etc.)</p> <p>Activity 2.1.4: Organise SLM/IWRM training programmes for local authorities, NGO's and RUA's</p>	<p>Minimum of 3 training sessions completed on SLM/IWRM (gender disaggregated) none at baseline</p> <p>SLM/IWRM training manuals produced and disseminated</p> <p>Minimum of 45 RUAs trained to incorporate SLM/IWRM in planning and implementing land use decisions (gender disaggregated)</p>	<p>Reports/evaluation on training sessions</p> <p>Training manuals</p> <p>Progress and M&E reports</p>	<p>Continued commitment of line ministries towards principles and criteria of SLM</p>	<p>Line Ministries preoccupied with other priorities</p>

OUTCOME BY COMPONENT	VERIFIABLE INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	CRITICAL ASSUMPTIONS	RISKS
<p>SUB-COMPONENT 2.2. STRENGTHEN AND EXPAND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EARLY DROUGHT AND CLIMATIC WARNING SYSTEM (EWS) INITIATED UNDER THE PDPEOII:</p> <p>Outcome 2.2. Operational early drought and climatic warning system for decision-making is supported</p> <p>Output 2.2: Climatic risks are fully taken into account in the regional development strategies and for improved natural resources management</p> <p>Activity 2.2.1: Establish additional meteorological stations for better coverage of the EHPM</p> <p>Activity 2.2.2: Develop systematic monitoring of vegetation and soil in selected sites</p> <p>Activity 2.2.3: Promote a reliable monitoring mechanism of livestock numbers (density and mobility)</p> <p>Activity 2.2.4: Link to existing early locust warning and initiate impact assessment</p> <p>Activity 2.2.5: Promote better linkages and integration of the natural resource GIS for SLM/IWRM in the EHPM</p> <p>Activity 2.2.6: Integrate EWS with the national system of drought alert</p>	<p>5 additional meteorological stations established and operational</p> <p>Biophysical database established and continually updated with meteorological, vegetation, soil moisture, and land degradation information</p> <p>Livestock density database established and updated</p> <p>Estimates of temperature, precipitation, and soil moisture produced to improve readiness for natural catastrophes (drought and locusts)</p> <p>Contingency programs for mitigation of natural disasters developed and operational</p>	<p>Technical reports</p> <p>Databases</p> <p>Minutes of the meetings of the local authorities</p> <p>Action plan</p> <p>M&E reports</p> <p>National drought observatory reports</p>	<p>Adequate backstopping from the GOM field technicians</p> <p>Financing by the GOM is ensured and sustained</p>	<p>Insufficient staffing and inadequate backstopping</p>

OUTCOME BY COMPONENT	VERIFIABLE INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	CRITICAL ASSUMPTIONS	RISKS
Component 3: Up-scaling SLM and water conservation best practices for rangeland ecosystems				
<p>Sub-component 3.1: Implement appropriate SLM/IWRM plans for pilot sites and develop mechanisms for up-scaling</p> <p>Outcome 3.1: Large scale SLM/IWRM pilot areas established and serve as model for up-scaling</p> <p>Output 3.1.1: Tool-kit for RUAs and communes of recommended procedures for participatory planning and application of SLM/IWRM best practices</p> <p>Output 3.1.2: Participatory SLM/IWRM plans developed and implemented in 3 sites (120.000 ha)</p> <p>Activity 3.1.1: Delimit and characterize three pilot areas representative of diversity in the EHP</p> <p>Activity 3.1.2: Through participatory approach, select SLM/IWRM best practices for land use and land management, including: i) BMP for pasture management and control of stocking, ii) extend protected areas for biodiversity and seed production, iii) rehabilitation of Siga areas, iv) water harvesting, v) control measures for sand stabilization, and vi) potential income-generating activities.</p> <p>Activity 3.1.3: For each site, establish local SLM Focal Groups for technical backstopping</p> <p>Activity 3.1.4: Implement selected SLM/IWRM best practices on the pilot sites</p> <p>Activity 3.1.5: Monitor and evaluate implemented SLM/IWRM practices and take corrective measures as deemed necessary</p> <p>Activity 3.1.6: Document and duplicate successful practices and strategies</p> <p>Activity 3.1.7: Through participatory approach, monitor social and poverty variables, as well as local and global benefits variables: biodiversity, etc.</p>	<p>3 large scale pilot SLM areas (35 000 ha each) representing the major eco-regions of the EHPM established:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Merija Ain-Beni Mathar: northern arid • Tendirara-Maâtarka: central arid • Est Bouarfa: Southern Presaharan <p>Participatory land use and management plans for integrated SLM/IWRM prepared for each site (none at baseline)</p> <p>SLM Focal Groups established and operational</p> <p>Package of SLM/IWRM best practices adapted to the ecosystems of the EHPM identified and promoted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100.000 ha of BMP for pasture management. and control of stocking • 5.000 ha of extended protected areas for biodiversity and seed production • 15.000 ha of water harvesting, catchment ponds, and rehabilitation of Siga in the Ain Bni Mathar and Moulouya basins • 120 ha with control measures for sand stabilization <p>10% increase in net primary productivity in the project area</p> <p>Trend in water use efficiency in teargetted areas</p> <p>20% improvement in supply of potable water; decreased distance for water transport</p> <p>20% increase in vegetation cover; improved regeneration of native plant species;</p> <p>20% increase in improved forage availability</p> <p>Reduced soil erosion; improved wildlife habitat</p> <p>Number of case studies reports on SLM/IWRM published and disseminated</p>	<p>GIS maps of the 3 pilot areas representing the major eco-regions of the EHPM</p> <p>Project progress reports</p> <p>Participatory land use and management plans</p> <p>TORs for SLM Focal Groups</p> <p>Participatory surveys</p> <p>Publication of final reports</p> <p>Documentation of promoted SLM/IWRM practices</p> <p>M&E reports</p> <p>Remote sensing images</p>	<p>Local RUAs are motivated to participate in promoted SLM/IWRM practices</p> <p>There is no prolonged drought and GOM's strategy against drought is effective</p>	<p>Severe, prolonged drought</p> <p>Environmental benefits inadequate to attract attention and adoption</p>

OUTCOME BY COMPONENT	VERIFIABLE INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	CRITICAL ASSUMPTIONS	RISKS
<p>Sub-component 3.2: Promote a farmer/herder SLM/IWRM network based on the RUA's and their federations for implementing, monitoring and up-scaling selected SLM best practices</p> <p>Outcome 3.2: SLM/IWRM best practices up-scaled to preserve ecosystem integrity in the EHPPM</p> <p>Output 3.2.1: Operational network of co-operators/leaders for implementing SLM/IWRM best practices and sharing information in place</p> <p>Activity 3.2.1: Based on activities from component 2, develop the farmer/herder SLM/IWRM network</p> <p>Activity 3.2.2: Promote dissemination and up-scaling workshops for information sharing and learning on SLM practices</p> <p>Activity 3.2.3: Organize cross-site visits and exchange of information/knowledge on SLM/IWRM best practices</p> <p>Activity 3.2.4: Hold tri-annual meeting with RUAs and local authorities to review progress and upgrade PLMPs as required</p> <p>Activity 3.2.5: Support the RUAs to up-scale selected SLM best practices in their areas of coverage</p> <p>Activity 3.2.6: Promote participatory monitoring activities with technical backstopping by SLM Focal Groups</p>	<p>A minimum of 5 up-scaling and dissemination workshops completed</p> <p>By year 4, at least 50% of participating RUAs in each pilot area are adopting and applying SLM/IWRM best practices</p> <p>By year 4, at least 20% of farmer/herders in areas adjacent to the pilot areas are applying SLM/IWRM on the ground</p> <p>By year 6, at least 50% of all RUA's in the EHPPM are applying SLM/IWRM principles</p> <p>Number of case studies reports on SLM published and disseminated (none at baseline)</p>	<p>Project progress reports</p> <p>Workshops documentations</p> <p>Minutes of meetings with RUA's</p> <p>Reports of SLM Focal Groups</p> <p>SLM Advocacy Index</p> <p>Reports on rates of adoption of SLM/IWRM practices</p> <p>M&E reports</p>	<p>Local authorities and RUA's are empowered with responsibility and authority for use and management through decentralization policy</p> <p>RUAs and farmer/herders can be motivated to include environmental management in their land use systems</p> <p>No periods of severe prolonged drought</p>	<p>Severe, prolonged drought</p> <p>Conflicts over resource use</p>

OUTCOME BY COMPONENT	VERIFIABLE INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	CRITICAL ASSUMPTIONS	RISKS
<p>Sub-component 3.3: Developing and implementing an effective SLM/IWRM knowledge management and information system</p> <p>Outcome 3.3: A farmer/herder knowledge management and information system for SLM/IWRM established</p> <p>Output 3.3.1: Local range users and RUA's have improved access to knowledge and expertise for land use planning and management</p> <p>Output 3.3.2: Methods and didactic materials for SLM/IWRM best practices for rangeland ecosystems in the EHPM disseminated within the MENA region</p> <p>Activity 3.3.1: Develop business plan for a farmer/herder information and training center within the EHP, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location • Physical facilities • Staffing • Budget • Information to be available • Financial sustainability beyond term of project <p>Activity 3.3.2: Establish the farmer/herder information and training center</p> <p>Activity 3.3.3: Collect and organize local and scientific knowledge on SLM/IWRM best practices and successful control of desertification</p> <p>Activity 3.3.4: Produce tool kits for SLM/IWRM best practices applied in arid- and semi-arid rangeland ecosystems (booklets, videos and CD's)</p> <p>Activity 3.3.5: Operationalize the Centre (organize training sessions, visits, information transfer, etc.)</p> <p>Activity 3.3.6: Establish linkages between the farmer/herder information and training center, IW-LEARN, and the MENARID framework</p>	<p>Business plan for the farmer/herder information and training centre developed and approved</p> <p>Centre operational and providing services to stakeholders</p> <p>A minimum of 3 training sessions, with minimum of 50 % of RUAs (gender disaggregated)</p> <p>Tool kits and information dissemination procedures established, including the mass media (none at baseline)</p> <p>Reports on successful SLM/IWRM practices and strategies are prepared and duplicated</p> <p>Networking with other centres/institutions in the MENA region and with IW-LEARN</p>	<p>Records of the Centre</p> <p>Statements of the range users and local authorities</p> <p>Project progress and M&E reports</p> <p>Publication and information dissemination reports (technical manuals, flyers, videos, web, etc.)</p> <p>Communication/visits between the centre and other institutions in the MENA region</p>	<p>Adequate technical capacity is available for information/ knowledge management</p> <p>Long term financial sustainability plan is developed</p>	<p>Inadequate technical capacity devoted to information gathering and management</p>

OUTCOME BY COMPONENT	VERIFIABLE INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	CRITICAL ASSUMPTIONS	RISKS
Component 4: Interventions for local communities livelihoods improvement				
<p>Sub-component 4.1: Support identified income generating activities focussing on adding value to local products while preserving environmental services</p> <p>Outcome 4.1: Sets of income generating activities with socio-economic and environmental benefits promoted</p> <p>Output 4.1.1: Local communities have access to diversified sources of incomes reducing their vulnerability</p> <p>Output 4.1.2: Increased value-added and market access for local products</p> <p>Activity 4.1.1: Prepare technical manuals for micro and small enterprises linked to value added of local products and control of desertification</p> <p>Activity 4.1.2: Support appropriate technology options for local commodities and associated training</p> <p>Activity 4.1.3: Initiate and promote the service sector in support of income generating activities related to SLM/IWRM best practices such as rangeland rehabilitation</p> <p>Activity 4.1.4: Strengthen managerial and marketing skills of RUA's and other relevant groups</p> <p>Activity 4.1.5: Provide advice and link to local financial services (AMC, eg. Al-Karama, etc.)</p> <p>Activity 4.1.6: Promote labelling for local products</p> <p>Activity 4.1.7: Establish linkages to marketing structures for selected local products such as truffles, medicinal plants, desert honey production, etc.</p> <p>Activity 4.1.8: Assess economic and environmental benefits with RUAs in field visits and workshops and corrective measures</p>	<p>Minimum of 5 innovative environmentally friendly small enterprises promoted</p> <p>Minimum of 20% increase in farmer's herder income through value added and market access for local products</p> <p>Technical manuals on business opportunities incorporating SLM/IWRM principles prepared</p> <p>Number of RUA's with diversified economic activities and financial returns (gender disaggregated)</p> <p>Number of households, women and youths engaged in new income-generating activities</p> <p>Number of promotional activities for local products such as truffles, medicinal plants, desert apiculture</p> <p>Service sector engaged in support of income generating activities related to SLM/IWRM best practices for rangelands</p>	<p>Technical manuals</p> <p>GOM socio-economic surveys</p> <p>Local communes and RUA's reports</p> <p>Project progress reports</p> <p>M&E reports</p>	<p>A solvent demand exists for the products promoted</p> <p>Adequate backstopping available to promote value added production with environmental benefits</p>	<p>RUAs and local communes motivated only towards increasing profits and resource exploitation</p> <p>Occurrence of natural disasters</p>

OUTCOME BY COMPONENT	VERIFIABLE INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	CRITICAL ASSUMPTIONS	RISKS
<p>Sub-component 4.2: <i>Promote eco-tourism in the EHPM</i></p> <p>Outcome 4.2: <i>Eco-tourism potentialities of the EHPM evaluated in terms of income potential, employment creation, and impact on natural resources</i></p> <p>Output 4.2.1: <i>Eco-tourism initiated in the eastern region with diversification of economic activities</i></p> <p>Activity 4.2.1: Carry out market analysis for the promotion of eco-tourism in the EHPM Activity 4.2.2: Support pilot eco-tourism enterprises (training, equipment, marketing, etc.) Activity 4.2.3: Support the operationalisation of the eco-museum of Chekhar SIBE initiated under a GEF project Activity 4.2.4: Promote partnership between coastal and in-land tourism</p>	<p>Market analysis completed for promotion of ecotourism</p> <p>Minimum of 3 pilot eco-tourism enterprises supported</p> <p>Number of visitors to the eco-museum of Chekhar</p> <p>Number of partnership ventures established between coastal and in-land tourism</p>	<p>Study report on market analysis</p> <p>Eco-tourism enterprises reports</p> <p>Project progress and M&E report</p> <p>Partnership agreements</p>	<p>GOM and local Communes committed to support eco-tourism activities, especially required infrastructure</p> <p>Potential partners are willing to and capable of participating efficiently</p>	<p>Limited funding from GOM and local Communes to develop required infrastructure</p>
<p>Sub-component 4.3: <i>Support and incentive framework for improved carbon sequestration</i></p> <p>Outcome 4.3: <i>Carbon sequestration initiatives promoted in rangelands with local economic and global environmental benefits</i></p> <p>Output 4.3.1: <i>Payment mechanisms for environmental services developed for rangelands in the EHPM</i> Output 4.3.2: <i>Global benefits from increased carbon sequestration identified</i></p> <p>Activity 4.3.1: Develop partnerships with RUAs for improved carbon sequestration approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agroforestry • Rangeland rest • Shrub plantations <p>Activity 4.3.2: Targeted capacity building for formulating carbon projects in line with potential buyers' guidelines</p>	<p>Minimum of 5,000 ha of rangelands put into rest</p> <p>Minimum of 10,000 ha with shrub and agroforestry plantations</p> <p>Minimum of 2 carbon projects formulated and approved (none at baseline)</p> <p>Minimum of 5% increase in carbon stocks (soil and vegetation biomass)</p>	<p>Natural resources monitoring reports</p> <p>Project progress and M&E reports</p> <p>GOM surveys</p>	<p>Local authorities and RUA's are motivated to include environment management in rangelands use</p>	<p>Severe, prolonged drought</p> <p>Conflicts over resource use</p>

OUTCOME BY COMPONENT	VERIFIABLE INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	CRITICAL ASSUMPTIONS	RISKS
Component 5: Project monitoring and evaluation				
<p>Outcome 5.1: Results based system for project monitoring and evaluation is developed and implemented</p> <p>Output 5.1: Results and lessons learned are monitored, reported and disseminated</p> <p>Activity 5.1.1: In line with the MENARID framework, develop a M&E system integrating, activities achieved and project economic and environmental impact</p> <p>Activity 5.1.2: Submit the M&E system to the PTC and NPSC for approval</p> <p>Activity 5.1.3: Prepare a detailed plan of action for the implementation of the M&E system, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key indicators for monitoring project performance • Key indicators for monitoring overall project success • Key performance indicators for environmental and economic impact and SLM/TWRM advocacy <p>Activity 5.1.4: Implement the M&E activities as per plan of action and involving all stakeholders</p>	<p>By year 1, initial assessment completed for reference data and monitoring</p> <p>By year 2, initial assessment data geo-referenced and put into data-bank</p> <p>By year 2, monitoring activities actively implemented in the three pilot sites</p> <p>By year 2 to 6, cost effective M&E system in place for reporting on economic and environmental impacts and project activities</p> <p>By year 3, M&E system in place to measure progress in achieving project objectives and operational throughout the rest of the project and for long term</p> <p>By year 3 and 6 M&E reports produced for presentation to stakeholders and other partners</p>	<p>Document of the M&E system</p> <p>Records of data bank</p> <p>Reports on pilots sites monitoring for economic and environmental data</p> <p>Monitoring and evaluation data and reports</p> <p>Project reports</p> <p>Communication between principal actors</p> <p>Records of the management and implementing units</p>	<p>Adequate technical capacity is available for information gathering and management</p> <p>GOM institutional support for M&E continuous and effective</p>	<p>Severe and recurrent drought directing GOM resources to other priorities</p>

OUTCOME BY COMPONENT	VERIFIABLE INDICATORS	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	CRITICAL ASSUMPTIONS	RISKS
Component 6: Project Management				
<p>Outcome 6.1: Project Management Unit (PMU) is established for implementing, monitoring and reporting on the project.</p> <p>Output 6.1: A highly efficient PMU in place for project implementation</p> <p>Activity 6.1.1: In partnership with the HCEFLCD and the Project PDPEO II, establish a functional PMU to guide and coordinate day-to-day project activities</p> <p>Activity 6.1.2: Establish and implement procedures for project management, monitoring, disbursement, etc., in relation to project goals and objectives</p> <p>Activity 6.1.3: Develop and implement strategies for progress evaluation and results dissemination</p> <p>Activity 6.1.4: Develop and publish procedures for dissemination of project information and for SLM up-scaling, including a webpage</p>	<p>PMU established, staffed, and Operational</p> <p>Agreement in place for effective coordination between Project and PDPEO II established</p> <p>Project management structure developed and approved</p> <p>By year 1, plans for project monitoring developed and approved</p> <p>A project webpage developed and continuously updated</p> <p>By year 1 to 6, annual reporting completed, final reposts published and disseminated</p> <p>Final reports completed and integrated with the Information and Training Centre and IW-LEARN</p> <p>Results and lessons learned are reported and disseminated</p>	<p>Physical establishment of PMU</p> <p>PMU staff list</p> <p>PMU reports and records of operations</p> <p>Monitoring in place</p> <p>Document of the project management strategy</p> <p>PMU work plan and annual project plan of operations</p> <p>Annual reports</p> <p>Final reports prepared and disseminated</p> <p>Reports of evaluation and validation workshops</p>	<p>Technical and managerial capacity of PMU staff is adequate or can be upgraded</p> <p>Good working relationships developed among LCD, PTC, NPSC, and the PMU and between PMU and PDPEO II</p>	<p>Lack of commitment from partner institutions</p>

ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS

Response from the GEFSEC to the PIF:

The GEFSEC gave a positive response to the PIF, requesting only that the IW Tracking Tool and a PPG status report be included at CEO endorsement. The PPG status report is included as Annex D of this submission; after discussions with GEFSEC, it was confirmed that the IW Tracking Tool is not yet available.

Response from STAP:

The response from STAP was positive, with the following three comments:

- a) *In a project with an overall goal of participatory control of desertification, Components 3 and 4 should be transposed. It would be unfortunate, for example, if the large-scale pilot demonstrations and the chosen 'best practices' in Component 3 are not aligned to local livelihoods... STAP is worried that Component 3, as presently structured, would merely promote 'technical fixes' that have not been properly analyzed from a local perspective.*

Response: The intention of the project is very much along the lines described by STAP, but this may not have been clearly described in the PIF. This has been taken into consideration in the Project Brief, with further explanations that the interventions for both SLM and IWRM will be first identified and agreed upon by the local RUAs, through participatory meetings. This is intended to ensure that the technologies selected have local support, and local buy-in. Also, the technologies have to have conservation value as well as provide some financial benefits. These normally have to be carefully matched with the local social structures and facilities. Concerted efforts will be made to avoid a top-down approach.

- b) *Component 3 intends to include the development of 'SLM focal groups' - projects that attempt to create new local institutions for specific purposes often find that the groups so developed are not sustainable. It is strongly suggested that the project builds upon the findings of existing 'social capital' which should be part of Component 4...*

Response: The SLM Focal Groups are not intended as new institutions. Rather, they are intended as "leadership groups" who will assume responsibilities to implement SLM and IWRM in the project area with the help of their peers. The FGs will be small, and membership selected from the local population by the local farmer/herders. Normally, these people know who their leaders are and who they are prepared to follow. The concept of the Focal Groups is to capture this local capacity, and put it to work for the benefit of the project. The tenure of the FG is only for the duration of the project, in an attempt to better ensure project success. However, if the FGs are successful, which they certainly will be, then they will continue beyond the term of the project.

- c) *The project could also be improved by being more explicit about GEBs and detailing the methods that will be used to measure the baseline situation and within-project tracking of the global environmental components that it is hoped will be benefited. It will be essential in this project to provide evidence that ecosystem functioning, integrity and resilience have been changed. The project components could choose a small number of key indicators from biodiversity, land degradation and climate change. So, for example, what methods and measurements will be used to estimate carbon stock from soil conservation practices? The scientific challenges of measuring carbon stocks could also be included to strengthen the scientific merit of the global environment (ii) - "conservation of soil and water resources leading to higher net primary productivity and increased carbon storage (soil and biomass carbon stocks)".*

Response: This is a very important comment, but it also is a very big area, since the identification, measurement, and evaluation of GEBs is still very much a work in progress. In this project, we relied heavily on recent developments from ICRAF and from the World Bank TerrAfrica program to identify GEBs and apply monitoring procedures that are scientifically sound. Thus, for example, soil carbon stocks, estimates of erosion, etc., will be done using spectroscopic methods developed by ICRAF. Other variables, such as the Advocacy Index, etc., are taken from recent work in TerrAfrica. The resultant M&E system is thus intended to provide reliable estimates that reflect GEBs, but also to be compatible with important new international programs that in themselves are developing such systems, including MENARID. The M&E system admittedly is quite comprehensive, but the data to be collected are quite simple in most cases. Desertification is a complex phenomena with biophysical as well as social and economic dimensions, and somehow these have to be captured in a cost effective manner in the M&E system.

ANNEX C: CONSULTANTS TO BE HIRED FOR THE PROJECT

The Project Management Unit will be located in Bouarfa and will be staffed by a National Project Coordinator, a National Project Assistant, four field-assistants, a Finance Officer and administrative support staff. This unit will be responsible for timely planning and implementation of all project activities, including the GEF component. The remaining National and International consultants will provide Technical Assistance and backup for the project. A summary Terms of Reference for the Project staff are as follows (including staff/consultants financed by GEF and others sources):

<i>Position Titles</i>	<i>\$/ person wk</i>	<i>Est'd person wks</i>	<i>Tasks to be performed</i>
FOR PROJECT MANAGEMENT			
<i>Local</i>			
National Project Coordinator	685	312	Plan, coordinate and control project activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure overall daily management of the project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prepare workplan and budgets - Supervise and coordinate project activities in accord with the project objectives and plans • Recruit and supervise staff: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft TOR and workplan for project staff and consultants, and recruit as necessary - Supervise project staff and consultants according to the project workplan • Prepare and monitor budgets and expenditures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft budgets and ensure financial coordination of the project activities - Monitor expenditures and oversee the use of project finances • Supervise M&E and prepare reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop reports and report to Project Steering Committee and Provincial technical Committees - Monitor the follow-up of evaluation recommendations • Act as resource person and participate in field excursions and external missions
National Project Assistant	535	312	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement participatory activities with RUAs, Commune leaders, etc: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organize meeting plans, dates, venues, etc - Direct and chair the discussions - Prepare meeting summaries and reports • Supervise development of land use and land management plans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prepare maps and reports of management plans - Organize for expert input as needed - Prepare the final reports • Supervise organization and implementation of plans and activities in the pilot areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organize the SLM Focal Groups, including workplan preparation - Negotiate location of pilot areas and prepare map coordinates of boundaries - Prepare budgets and supervise expenditures for pilot areas - Prepare reports on results and submit to Project Steering Committee • Organize meetings and promotions for SLM/IWRM adoption in surrounding areas • Organize promotional materials for the mass media, web sites, brochures, radio, etc • Conduct other advocacy activities as required • Act as resource person and participate in field excursions and external missions
Field assistants (x 4)	215	1144	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate and guide participatory planning in the pilot areas - Similar to above • Develop technical options for SLM/IWRM in the pilot areas in consultation with RUAs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to control land degradation - water harvesting, drought proofing, and mitigation of climate change - value added production • Supervise and advise the SLM Focal Groups and RUAs in application of SLM/IWRM: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organize transfer of required equipment, seeds, fertilizers, etc. for the treatments - Supervise proper implementation of treatments - Prepare reports on results and submit to Project Steering Committee • Develop and supervise the technical data for the M&E activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop procedures for monitoring results and collecting and recording data and observations - Prepare reports on results and submit to Project Steering Committee • Assist with advocacy and promotions as required. Prepare technical bulletins, radio submissions, and other advocacy activities. • Act as resource person and participate in field excursions and external missions

Accountant/ Financial Officer	411	312	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement financial disbursement and reporting system • Maintain financial records • Develop financial reports as required
FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE			
<i>Local</i>			
Sociologist/rur al dev.	433	156	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act as a resource person for socio-economic development issues • Advise in- and facilitate the application of the Accord-Tripartite • Assist in M&E and reporting as required
Economist	433	156	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise on small business development, private sector support, marketing opportunities, etc • Advise on opportunities to improve the value chain for local products, and work with the marketing chain to improve the quality and safety of local products • Advise on opportunities for eco-tourism development, and develop investment plans • Advise on employment creation opportunities for women and unemployed youth, and integrate with marketing plans and ecotourism enterprises
Forestry	433	156	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act a resource person for agro-forestry activities in the region and potential linkages • Facilitate cooperation between the ministerial departments, namely the HCEFLCD and MAPM • Assist in M&E and reporting as required
Rangeland Management Ecologist	433	156	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise on options and criteria for improved rangeland management, scheduling for rangeland rotations, rest periods, etc. • Develop criteria for M&E of rangeland conditions and integrate with M&E system • Develop criteria for monitoring global environmental benefits in rangeland systems, including climate change, and integrate with M&E system • Participate in participatory meetings with RUAs, Communes, etc., provide advice guidance, and counseling on criteria and procedures • Act as resource person and participate in field excursions and external missions as required
Veterinarian	433	156	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act as a resource person for improved livestock production and disease prevention
Agro- meteorology	433	156	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the PMU for setting-up the meteorological stations • Training local staff in the use and maintenance of the stations • Assist in data collection and analysis • Assist in M&E and reporting
GIS - Data Management Specialist	1250	24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop data management system for the project, including mapping, survey data, and GIS input. • Digitize and geo-reference all map materials and survey and M&E data, and local knowledge • Develop computerized reports as required by the PSC, Project Coordinator, technical and support staff • Advise and guide the development of the Knowledge and Training Centre to ensure seamless sharing of data, and liaise with IW-LEARN • Assist with project training as required by developing and providing training materials, and giving short courses
<i>International</i>			
Agro- economist and Rural Development	3750	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise on small business development, private sector support, marketing opportunities, etc • Advise on opportunities to improve the value chain for local products, and work with the marketing chain to improve the quality and safety of local products • Advise on opportunities for eco-tourism development, and develop investment plans and partnerships for 3 ecotourism enterprises • Advise on employment creation opportunities for women and unemployed youth, and integrate with marketing plans and ecotourism enterprises • Develop criteria for M&E of socio-economic conditions and integrate with M&E system • Develop criteria for estimating economic value of local and global environmental services, and integrate with M&E system

Natural Resources Management	3750	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise on integration of SLM/IWRM objectives to ensure concordance with GEF procedures and requirements • Advise on M&E procedures for monitoring rangelands, land degradation, impacts of water harvesting, etc., to ensure concordance with M&E procedures being developed in TerrAfrica, MENARID, and other international programs supported by the GEF • Advise on criteria and procedures for monitoring and estimating global environmental benefits and services such as carbon sequestration, biodiversity, climate change, etc., to ensure concordance with new international, scientific, M&E standards such as those from the IPCC, ICRAF, and others • Advise on project implementation and recommend adjustments as required • Act as external reviewer of progress reports to good scientific and technical quality, and ensure agreement with standards required by the project
Environmental Policy	3750	18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise on marketing and promotion of local products, value added chain, etc., to capture new market opportunities to ensure quality and safety of products and high financial returns. • Advise on development of business plan for eco-tourism to ensure adequate attention to partnerships, potentials for financial gain, employment creation, and environmental impacts • Advise on opportunities for payment for environmental services, including packaging and marketing of environmental benefits such as carbon sequestration, biodiversity, etc.
Water Harvesting and Drought Proofing Engineer	3750	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise on options for water harvesting, catchment ponds, drought proofing, mitigation of climate change, etc • Develop criteria for monitoring and evaluation of IWRM investments and integrate with M&E system • Develop criteria for global environmental benefits for land degradation and international waters and integrate with M&E system • Participate in participatory meetings with RUAs, Communes, etc., provide advice, guidance, and counseling on criteria and procedures • Act as resource person and participate in field excursions and external missions as required

ANNEX D: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES AND THE USE OF FUNDS

- **EXPLAIN IF THE PPG OBJECTIVE HAS BEEN ACHIEVED THROUGH THE PPG ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN.**

All planned activities under the PDF-B grant were achieved (please see the attached PPG Activities summary).

- **DESCRIBE IF ANY FINDINGS THAT MIGHT AFFECT THE PROJECT DESIGN OR ANY CONCERNS ON PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION.**

Please see Section F above.

- **PROVIDE DETAILED FUNDING AMOUNT OF THE PPG ACTIVITIES AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION STATUS IN THE TABLE BELOW:**

* Uncommitted amount should be returned to the GEF Trust Fund. Please indicate expected date of refund transaction to Trustee.

<i>Project Preparation Activities Approved</i>	<i>Implementation Status</i>	<i>GEF Amount (\$)</i>				<i>Co-financing (\$)</i>
		<i>Amount Approved</i>	<i>Amount Spent To-date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>	<i>Uncommitted Amount*</i>	
Baseline Studies: a) Human and natural resources of the area b) State and trends in degradation and desertification c) Frequency and impacts of natural disasters d) Assessment of impacts with and without GEF interventions	completed	90.000	90.000	-	-	27.371
Special studies: a) Review of existing land use legislation/policies b) Review of the legal framework of grass-root organizations responsibilities and authority c) Evaluation of local knowledge and technologies d) Current and potential income-generating activities	Yet to complete	60.000	45.000	15.000	-	20.087
Workshops: Consensus building and setting-up coordination mechanisms	Completed	20.000	20.000	-	-	18.994
Capacity-building/study-tours	Completed	60.000	60.000	-	-	7.000
Preparation of full-project document	Yet to complete	120.000	95.000	25.000	-	130.479
Total		350.000	310.000	40.000	-	203.931

PPG ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN REPORT

Title of Project/Programme Component:

Participatory Control of Desertification and Poverty Reduction in the Arid and Semi-Arid High Plateau Ecosystems of Eastern Morocco

Total Project Preparation Budget: USD 500,000 (GEF allocation of 350,000 USD)

Objective of the project:

The project goal is to generate mutual benefits for the global environment and local livelihoods through catalyzing SLM investments for large-scale impact in the rangelands of Morocco and the restoration and maintenance of their ecosystem functions and productivity.

The project promotes the concept that effective mitigation of land degradation and control of desertification can be achieved only within the context of reduction of rural poverty, and only by integrated actions from all levels of stakeholders. Thus, the project objectives concern both rural development and local environment services at local, national, and global levels.

Rural Development and Poverty Reduction Objective

The rural development and poverty reduction objective is to protect the rangeland resources in the arid and semi-arid high plateaus, while improving the livelihoods of the rural poor in the eastern region of Morocco. This will be achieved by providing additional support to the GOM in synergy with the project PDPEOIL, which is being implemented under an IFAD negotiated loan.

Global Environment Objective

At global level, the objective is to control and mitigate land degradation and desertification, and protect the natural ecosystem integrity, functions and services of pastoral ecosystem resources of the arid and semi-arid high plateaus of the eastern region.

At national level, the objectives are to: (i) Harmonize and mainstream SLM principles and criteria into priority GOM's national rural development and environmental programmes; (ii) Enhance the efficiency of the coordination and evaluation of these programmes in relation to their impacts on mitigation of land degradation, desertification, and poverty reduction.

At local level, the project aims to: (i) Improve the institutional and administrative capacities of stakeholders including local communes and RUAs, in order to take responsibility and authority for protection of local environmental resources and control of land uses; (ii) Accelerate the adoption of SLM best practices for control of land degradation and desertification, rehabilitation of degraded areas, and protection of pastoral resources; (iii) Develop an effective SLM knowledge management and information system; and (iv) Support income-generating based on local products for improved communities' livelihoods and reduced pressure on the natural resources.

1. Main activities conducted and achievements in the reporting period:

Activity	Output produced or service delivered	Outcome observed
Succession of participatory workshops and group meetings to validate project components and activities	Consensus achieved. Priority actions defined. Institutional arrangement and project management structure established	Basic information and data completed for full proposal development.
Series of face-to-face meetings, workshops, and exchanges among the project proposal development team and partners – continuous activities	Series of meetings at the HCEFLCD for adjusting and fine-tuning project proposal planning and follow-up on editing and approval of studies and other activities of the PDFB phase. Working groups meetings for exchanges among the consultants undertaking the basic and specific studies	Better preparation for effective participation of the different partners in the workshop and better focus on the suggested agenda
Workshop to discuss the results of the baseline studies. December 4–5 2007	Final workshop to present the results and outcomes of the baseline studies by the national consultants and discussion with the international consultants and national consultants in charge of project document development. The workshop took place 4 and 5 December in Rabat.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final list of potential activities and actions formulated as candidates for the project established on the basis of the results of the studies. • Significant progress in project preparation and corrective measures.
Structure the project proposal format and organise the content. 1–15 December 2007.	2 weeks working group meeting held December 1 – 15 among national and international consultants to finalise the conclusions from the studies and draw actions and formulation of activities.	Interventions, actions, and activities of the project proposal better streamlined and project proposal structure refined
Second round table for partnerships and resource mobilisation for NAP-CCD. February 6 2007	Under the framework of NAP-CCD, a round table was organised with development partners as a part of the strategy for resources mobilisation to implement the plan of action. This is the second round table after the one organised in November 2003. The GEF project was presented by HCEFLCD as an example of integrated project targeting desertification control and SLM	Donors and national partners well acquainted with the project content and proposed activities making easier the process of requesting co-financing required for meeting the project increment budget.
National workshop to promote the Tripartite Agreement ‘Accord tripartite - ATP’. Fez May 4-5 2007	Multi-stakeholder workshop to accelerate the implementation of the Tripartite Accord, activate the local commissions and identify ways to sustain support of wide application of the agreement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ATP is widely disseminated within line ministries and bases for its application at the regional level prepared. • Additional political support to the project core approach provided by the promotion of this agreement that strengthens the policy environment. • Workshop report attached.
Activity	Output produced or service delivered	Outcome observed
Finalisation of basic studies reports.	Reports of studies completed, evaluated, edited, final reports provided. Major outputs for the full size project document development consisted of suggested actions and interventions	Information and quantified data for establishing baseline generated and put in the adequate format.
Meeting in Vienna, May 27 – 3 June 3	One week work was organised at UNIDO Vienna for the 2 national consultants and UNIDO representative to review the studies and harmonise proposed interventions with project logframe	Studies edited and corrective measures requested from the authors. Interventions listed in the project document harmonised with studies suggested actions

Activity	Output produced or service delivered	Outcome observed
Development of a monitoring and evaluation system canvas for the project	<p>The M&E system is established based on experience and procedures adopted by the HCEFLCD for monitoring GEF projects and other environmental initiatives within the framework of the NAP-CCD.</p> <p>The M&E activity will be conducted through a special M&E unit, under the direct responsibility of the HCEFLCD and IFAD/UNIDO.</p> <p>Three sets of key performance indicators were developed: (i) key indicators for monitoring project performance; (ii) key indicators for monitoring overall project success; and (iii) key performance indicators for environmental and economic impact and SLM advocacy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will be implemented using criteria, indicators, and means of verification specified in the logframe. It will provide the PMU, PSC, HCEFLCD, IFAD/UNIDO and project partners with a set of tools by which to conduct periodic assessments of project performance in accordance with project goals and objectives, including environmental and economic impacts. • Results from the M&E system will have direct application to the project, but they will also contribute to the growing global knowledge on land degradation and desertification, and the requirements for up-scaling these procedures to other regions and other countries.
Identification pertinent indicators	Through several participatory workshops and discussion sessions	List of pertinent criteria and ways of their measurements established taking into account the M&E canvas defined for NAP-CCD Morocco, and the M&E system adopted by the HCEFLCD and the MENARID framework
Activity	Output produced or service delivered	Outcome observed
Elaboration of the project full proposal document January – July 2007	Continuous work of the national consultants in connection with HCEFLC and UNIDO from January to July 2007 to produce final project document and annexes assembled	Project proposal elaboration completed by July 2007
Identification of project outcomes and activities	PDF-B phase identified the project goals and objectives and a series of activities to meet the strategic objective to address the root causes and barriers to integrated SLM, in particular investment needs and thematic priorities with focus on: targeting the poor; emphasising a participatory approach; strengthening of grass-roots institutions (RUAs); natural resource management; and improvement of living conditions for pastoralists, while reversing the current trend of degradation of the natural resource base. They are also driven by: (i) the country's needs as expressed in its NAPs, MDGs reports and national communications to the UNFCCC; and (ii) The requests from the country to allocated future GEF funding towards on-the-ground investments and up-scaling of SLM best practices.	<p>In line with the above, the project is articulated around six interlinked components driven by a combination of GEF4 under the LD Focal Area strategic thrusts and the main needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainstreaming SLM principles for rangeland ecosystems. • Capacity building for national and local institutions to support integrated SLM. • Up-scaling SLM best practices for rangeland ecosystems. • Support for local livelihood improvement - Income security and value added production. • Project monitoring and evaluation. • Project management.
Establishment of baseline and assessment of GEF alternative and incremental costs.	Incremental cost assessment performed. The GEF project takes into account baseline and co- financing at the national, provincial, and local levels. Activities around the thematic area of land degradation control and land-use planning have been initiated and baseline activities at both the national and provincial levels that match with the project outcomes were identified.	<p>Analysis of incremental cost completed and finalised and project budget finalised.</p> <p>GEF funds and resources use efficiency, on-the ground investments and costly interventions will be centred in three representative demonstration pilots for alternative integrated practices and approaches providing an opportunity for up-scaling proven SLM and environmentally friendly strategies improving livelihoods.</p>
Development of project logframe	Activities, outcomes and indicators organised as well as time span in a logframe matrix	Final logframe produced
Final participatory discussion of proposal structure, interventions and components	Final structure of the logframe and project components	Final structure of logframe developed and agreed-on

Organizational structure of the project coordination, implementation and management	A final structure of technical and financial implementation of the project will be assured following standards and procedures employed by IFAD and UNIDO. IFAD will be the implementing agency, while UNIDO will ensure project supervision through its country presence in Morocco.	The project will be implemented in line with existing institutional framework with the HCEFLCD as the main national counterpart. A Project Management Unit will set-up for implementation and coordination of activities while ensuring efficient coordination and benefit with PDPEO II PMU.
Meeting at HCEFLCD to wrap-up project document 6-8 July 2007	A final meeting held at HCEFLCD, Rabat 6-8 July 2007 to fine tune project document preparation	Final project content and structure agreed-on
Endorsement of documents of full size project proposal – July 2007	Final project brief was produced with all related annexes and attachments	Project document and reports of studies endorsed by UNIDO submitted to IFAD
Project proposal endorsement by IFAD.	A meeting was held at UNIDO, Vienna, 17 - 22 September 2007. Two representatives from IFAD, one from UNIDO, one from HCEFLCD and two consultants who developed the proposal attended the event.	During 3 days 17-19, the consultants presented the basic and specific studies and the project proposal. Comments and corrective measures made by IFAD were noted and discussed. During 3 days 20-22 consultants incorporated all the corrective comments and remarks to the documents in line with GEF guidelines and framework and with IFAD requirements.
January 2008. Project design was adjusted to fit the multi-focal area type of operations that are required under MENARID	Consultants have undertaken work in consultation with IFAD, Government and UNIDO in order to integrate the IW/SWRM activities in the project design at the request of the GEF Secretariat	Revised project document and alignment of the PIF that was approved by the GEF Council in April 2008 under the MENARID umbrella
IFAD internal review process	Project document was duly reviewed by IFAD's internal review processes, namely the Project development Team (PDT) and the Technical Review Committee (TRC). The meetings took place on 17 May and 11 June 2007, respectively.	Project documents revised to accommodate IFAD's comments. Final document ready

2. Main problems encountered and measures taken:

- The changes that occurred at GEF affecting the proposal submission process and consequences on the document preparation format and priorities have delayed the closure of the PDFB. Indeed the content had to be reviewed in line with the newly published GEF requirements and priorities (February 2007).

3. Final Actions (March, 2008)

The Project Brief was revised according to comments received from GEFSEC and STAP. In particular, this involved some adjustment of the project to provide a linkage between the LD and IW Focal Areas of the GEF. The basic objectives and budgets, however, remained the same.

4. Financial implementation of the project:

See Annex D – Section C.