



## PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

**PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Project**  
**THE GEF TRUST FUND**

**Submission Date:** 30 October 2007  
**Re-submission Date:** 17 December 2007

### PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

**GEFSEC PROJECT ID<sup>1</sup>:** 3383

**GEF AGENCY PROJECT ID:** To be assigned

**COUNTRY(IES):** Niger

**PROJECT TITLE:** Agricultural and Rural Rehabilitation and Development Initiative (ARRDI)

**GEF AGENCY(IES):** IFAD, Ministry of Agriculture,

**OTHER EXECUTING PARTNERS:** SIP Partners

**GEF FOCAL AREAS:** Land Degradation

**GEF-4 STRATEGIC PROGRAM(S):** LD-SP 1

**NAME OF PARENT PROGRAM/UMBRELLA PROJECT:** SIP

INDICATIVE CALENDAR	
Milestones	Expected Dates
Work Program (for overall SIP)	June 2007
Niger PIF Approval	Nov 2007
CEO Endorsement/Approval	Nov 2008
GEF Agency Approval	Jan 2009
Implementation Start	Jul 2010
Mid-term Review	Jan 2013
Implementation Completion	Jun 2015

#### A. PROJECT FRAMEWORK (Expand table as necessary)

**Project Objective:** To reduce the vulnerability of disadvantaged groups and contribute to improved living conditions.  
**GEF increment:** To promote and upscale sustainable land management (SLM) and natural resources management (NRM) practices at key agro-ecological sites in the Maradi Region.

Project Components	Investment or TA	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Indicative GEF Financing		Indicative Co-financing		Total (M \$)
				(M \$)	%	(M \$)	%	
1. Mainstreaming SLM/NRM in development planning at departmental and local levels.	TA	IFAD SLM are aligned with the Niger CSIF (SIP/IR2)  SLM mainstreamed and fully integrated into development planning at the local level (SIP/IR2)  Institutional capacity for SLM strengthened (SIP/IR2 and indirectly delivers on IR1)	Institutional structures strengthened in SLM/NRM – 8 training sessions on SLM  SLM Information dissemination systems strengthened and SLM KM improved (farmer to farmer exchange, improved extension, etc)  SLM/NRM mainstreamed in 20 % of the local plans (PDVs)	1.0	33	2.0	67	3.0
2. Reversing land degradation through on-the-ground investments at key agro-ecological sites	Investment	Land, rangeland degradation effectively reversed at key sites. Responds to SIP IR 1  Land productivity is improved (SIP IR1)  Cost effective and innovative land rehabilitation measures are promoted and up-scaled (SIP IR1 and IR4)	Investments in targeted agro-ecological zones realized Support to 300 PIPs (Parcelle d'initiative paysanne) and about 30 000 exploitation is mainstreaming SLM  Innovative SLM/rangeland management techniques piloted and promoted (i.e. RNA, reseeded, plantation with autochthon species, etc. targeting 2800 ha Contribute to increase in food security for 34 000 people in Maradi	1.5	33	3.1	67	4.6
3. Promoting conservation agriculture and environment-friendly alternative income sources	Investment	Environment-friendly agricultural benefits realized (SIP IR 1 and IR 3 where applicable)	In-farm and off-farm conservation agricultural practices adopted/up-scaled; innovative income sources promoted Farmer's income increased and poverty trends reduced	1.3	23	4.4	77	5.7

<sup>1</sup> Project ID number will be assigned initially by GEFSEC.

			through co-financing of 1250 NRM micro-projects					
4. Project management				0.4	10	3.8	90	4.2
<b>Total project costs</b>				4.2	24	13.3	76	17.5

In line with the principles of the Rural Development Strategy (RDS) and its programs addressing SLM, the government of Niger has requested the TerrAfrica/SIP support to contribute to improved conditions of poor populations and the terrestrial ecosystem services upon which they depend. Under the leadership of UNDP and in close cooperation with WB and IFAD, this support will begin with the development of a SLM Country Investment Strategic Framework (CSIF) at national level which will be translated and adapted to sub-national and local levels in the Maradi, Zinder and Diffa. Terrafrica tools and processes (such as the CSIF and national inter-ministerial committee) will be aligned and integrated with existing ones created through the SDR. The three SIP operations in Niger (PLECO, ARDI and PAC) have therefore been designed and are being implemented in line with the SDR's priority programs 10 (environmental sustainability) and 13 (land restoration and reforestation). The World Bank IDA/GEF blended operation will deliver targeted investments at local level throughout the country; the UNDP and IFAD operations are geographically focused respectively in the Zinder/Diffa and Maradi regions. The three PIFs were prepared in close coordination among the three agencies and the government to ensure complementarities among the interventions; specifically for site selection special caution has been given to avoid overlays of GEF and other donor funded interventions

In Maradi, IFAD has initiated a local partnership framework where a letter of understanding was signed between the government and all UN agencies and bi-lateral and multilateral organizations. The letter outlines the main principals for coordinated and programmatic approaches as well as for the harmonization and alignment of donors' approaches and interventions.

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

	Project Preparation	Project	Agency Fee	Total
GEF Grant	0.150	4.200	0.435	4.785
Co-financing	0.152	13.300		13.452
<b>Total</b>	0.302	17.500	0.435	18.237

#### C. INDICATIVE CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT (INCLUDING PROJECT PREPARATION AMOUNT) BY SOURCE AND BY NAME

Sources of Co-financing	Type of Co-financing	Amount
Government Contribution	In Kind/Cash	2.600
GEF Agency (IFAD)	Grant	6.852
Bilateral Aid Agencies (Belgium)	Cash	2.000
Multilateral Agencies (WFP)	Cash	1.000
Others: beneficiaries	In-kind	1.000
<b>Total co-financing</b>		13.452

## **PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION**

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

**Issue:** With three-quarters of the country located in arid and semi-arid zones of the Sahel, Niger's productive potential (in terms of agricultural lands, pastoral spaces, forestry and fisheries resources) faces increasing degradation resulting from unfavorable climatic conditions, land tenure pressures exacerbated by elevated population growth (3.6%), as well as unsustainable land and natural resources management practices. Despite

the adoption of an adequate environmental policy, legal and institutional framework, its implementation remains weak because of insufficient human, material and financial resources. Moreover, the weakness in mechanisms for mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity building prevents the creation of conditions favorable to full application of the policy/legal framework and to long-term capacity building for sustainably managing the environment and combating land degradation in Niger. Maradi, the project area, is most populated region of the country with an average of 53.5 habitants / km<sup>2</sup>, six times higher than the national average (8.7 habitants/ km<sup>2</sup>). 20 % of the population is concentrated on 3 % of the total national territory (which represents the area of the Maradi region). If current population growth rate (highest in the world with 3.73 %) is maintained, population density is expected to reach 100 habitants/ km<sup>2</sup> in Maradi in ten years.

The Maradi region is characterized by a decreasing rainfall gradient from south (700 mm/yr) to north (200 mm). The rainy season starts in June and lasts till September-October. The dry season lasts 8 months. The region covers three major agro-ecologic zones: (i) the sahelo-saharian zone (departments of Dakoro, Tessaoua and Mayahi) is mainly dominated by rangelands and represents an important area for the supply and sale of livestock. It is increasingly characterized by encroachment of cropping systems in marginal and rangelands (up to the 300 mm/yr isohyets limit). The Sahelo-saharian zone has been home to significant biodiversity (Fauna and flora), it hosts the Gadabégi reserve which undergoing increased degradation due to droughts and illegal hunting; (ii) the Sahelian zone (Dakoro, Mayahi, Tessaoua and parts of Aguié), The area is widely dominated by agricultural land (cropping) and some livestock production. It covers two major systems, the plains in the east part and the dune system in the west. The eastern region represents the main zone for traditional rain-fed cropping systems. The area is subject to intense land degradation processes, degradation of the natural vegetation cover and cropping encroachment in natural ecosystems. In the west, the dune system of Tillabery, dosso and Tahouna are characterized by lower population density and limited cropping areas. The sudano-sahelian extends over a small area in the southern part of Maradi and covers the Guidan Roudji, Madarounfa and Aguié. It is a relatively humid zone (600 mm/yr in average) and includes important water reservoirs such as lake Madarounfa. The sudano-sahelian area is subject to high population density and has a complex land tenure system. The overall characteristics of the sub-agro ecological zones in the proposed project area are further summarised in the following table.

Main Zones (sub-agroecological zones)	Departments	Climatic conditions	Soils	Land use intensity (occupation)	Water resources
Zone 1: Agricultural zone A1	Maradounfa and south Guidan Roudji	Rainfall > 450 mm/yr – 37 days per year	Sand dunes and hydromorphic soils	90 to 100 %	Goulbi Maradi and Gabi
Zone 2: Agricultural Zones A2	South Tessaoua and south/central Aguié	Rainfall ranges between 450 and 550 mm/yr for 30 to 35 days per year	Sand dunes and hydromorphic soil in N’kaba and Mayfarou	90 to 100 %	Limited surface water resources
Agro-pastoral zone Zone B1	Central Guidan Roudji	Rainfall: 400 mm for 35 days	Dune and alluvial soils	70 %	Goulbi Maradi
Agro-pastoral zone Zone B2	Central Mayahi	Rainfall 400 mm for 30 days per year	Sand dunes and soils of low fertility in N’kaba	60 to 100 %	Deep aquifers and not accessible for cropping

Climate effects on the natural resources are today coupled with a rapid population growth and increasing exploitation of natural resource base for agriculture and livestock rearing in Maradi. The significant unequal geographical distribution of population density is a major factor aggravating the ecological imbalance in Maradi

(particularly in its southern part). This part holds the main agricultural and livestock potential of the country and is exposed to intense human and animal pressure which is leading to significant extension of cropping land, overgrazing and clearing of the natural vegetation cover. Cropping lands extension is generating conflicts among land users (farmers and livestock) and leading to a reduction of classified and protected spaces. Natural ecosystems are increasingly exposed to degradation due to cropping encroachment and increasing demand for ecosystem goods and services. Soils in the Maradi region are the most exploited in the country, excluding the pastoral area, Agriculture dominates 30 to 90 % of land (depending on the year). The recent development of Chufa (*Cyperus esculentus*) cultivation (currently covering about 135 000 ha in Tessoua and Aiguié only), poses an additional threat to soils fertility and the vegetation cover (due to slash and burn practices). The region hosts about 48 water ponds (permanents and semi-permanents). However, the increasing impact of droughts and erosions are affecting these limited resources. Lake Madarounfa is particularly exposed to siltation problems and increased human pressure.

The legal arsenal demonstrates the government concern about environmental and land degradation in Niger. It also demonstrates the commitment and the progress in adapting participatory NRM approaches through decentralisation and transfer of responsibilities to grass roots organisations. However, the application of such texts often suffers from numerous breaches, because of lack of complementary texts and/or concerted institutional follow up and evaluation mechanisms. Land degradation is also driven by complex land tenure issues (notably in the southern part of Maradi), conflicts and poverty due to the limited internal resources mobilization and low self-funding capacity.

SLM activities are currently carried out in a piecemeal fashion with little coordination and harmonisation at all levels. SLM is not fully mainstreamed in development plans and several institutional and policy barriers are limiting up-scaling of best SLM practices.

At large, the implementation of environmental conventions, treaties and international agreements is also carried out in an incoherent manner that does not allow for an efficient and effective follow up and monitoring of results and impact.

**Project:** Recognizing the extent and the consequences of land degradation in Maradi, the GEF increment is intended to complement the IFAD/Government investment (ARRDI) by generating global environmental benefits through mainstreaming SLM/NRM in development planning, enhancing capacity for integrating SLM practices into productive landscapes at the local level, financing SLM-targeted investments in innovative techniques for land, rangeland management at key agro-ecological sites in the Maradi Region and promoting conservation agriculture and environment-friendly alternative sources of income. The GEF increment will enable ARDDI to intensify and better integrate and upscale good SLM practices with the full participation of all the relevant actors in the region. Planned for a period of five years, the GEF-blended project aims to arrest and reverse existing trends in land degradation in the Maradi Region through: (i) technical assistance and capacity building; (ii) targeted on-the-ground investments in SLM/NRM measures and conservation agriculture; and (iii) management, monitoring and evaluation of these interventions:

- Mainstreaming SLM/NRM in development planning at national, departmental and local levels will complement the efforts of the SIP/TerrAfrica and ARDDI in: (i) promoting regional collaboration on land and natural resources management; (ii) building village, inter-village and communal capacity for land, and rangeland management; (iii) building capacity in the decentralized governmental structures for agriculture and environment; (iv) supporting institutional capacity for SLM, (v) disseminating information and best practices; (vi) raising public awareness on SLM/NRM; and (vii) supporting local communities in developing rules for natural resources management, land and rural development committees.
- The targeted investment activities through component 1 and 2 will bring needed financial support to populations at the inter-village, communal and regional levels for their SLM/NRM interventions, complementing the efforts of the ARDDI at the village level. This will include co-financing for: (i)

identification of priority agro-ecological areas for intervention and preparation of appropriate SLM/NRM plans for these interventions; (ii) support for innovative and cost-effective SLM/NRM measures/practices in these priority areas; (iii) targeted investments for such initiatives as regeneration of vegetative cover, rangeland management, agro-processing and energy conservation measures; (iv) investments in larger scale SLM/NRM operations at the inter-village and communal level; and (v) investments in conservation agriculture and environment-friendly alternative sources of income for local populations. This entails promotion and up-scaling of good off-farm and in-farm conservation agricultural practices with the integration of environmental- friendly income-generating activities.

- The management, monitoring and evaluation activities will again complement the efforts of SIP and the ARRDI in managing, monitoring and evaluating project activities to assure the sustainable management of land in key ecosystems of the Maradi Region. The tools developed will allow the principal actors in the region to better understand their natural resources in order to design realistic objectives for their management, use and disseminate the information for raising public awareness and developing local plans.

**Global Environmental Benefits:** The global environmental benefits in reversing land degradation in the Maradi Region to be realized by the project include the: (i) restoration of the structure and functional integrity of the region's key ecosystems, thereby restoring the environmental services threatened by ecosystem degradation; i.e. in lake Madarounfa (world heritage site) (ii) decrease of the negative effects of desertification through the promotion of techniques for protecting the vegetative cover and assisting natural regeneration in the sahelo-saharian zone; (iii) reduction in the demand for new land and in the pressure on vegetative and forest cover through sustainable agriculture; (iv) control of soil erosion, restoration of soil structure and fertility in the Sahelian and Sudano-sahelian zones; (v) reduction of pressures on and overexploitation of natural resources as a result of improvement in income and food security of rural households. Moreover, the project will have a positive impact on the protection of biological diversity and habitats in targeted areas while contributing to carbon sequestration in biomass through improved rangeland management, reduced pressure on natural vegetation cover and RNA using autochthon species). Reduction in water erosion and sediments carried in lakes and water bodies such as Madarounfa and Kourfin Koura. The project will upscale conservation farming (in-farm and off-farm) and promotes environmentally friendly income generating activities that yield global environmental benefits and could lead to a reduction in unsustainable land use practices (e.g. chufa cultivation, slash and burn etc), reductions of burning of biomass, reduction in GHG emissions and increase in soil organic carbon pool. The project will define a set of indicators for global environmental benefits that could include: % Increase in Net Primary Productivity (NPP), % Increase in carbon stocks (soil and plant biomass) and % availability of fresh water resources (particularly in the southern part of Maradi), overall % decrease in mortality rates consequent upon crop failures and livestock deaths and % decrease in number of rural households below the poverty line. Indicators and means of verification (i.e. use of NDVI at high resolution or other methods) will be further defined during the PPG phase.

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

The project responds to and is fully consistent with the environmental and rural development priorities of the Government of Niger. It is fully in line with the **National Plan for Environment and Sustainable Development** (1998) and the more recent **Sectoral Consultation on Environment** (2004), both of which seek to integrate environmental concerns into national development planning. The project represents a major advance in implementation of both the **National Action Programme of the UNCCD** (NAP/CCD-NRM, 2000) and the **Rural Development Strategy** (RDS, 2003), whose priority programme on “**Preservation of the Environment**” aims at sustainable exploitation of natural resources, rehabilitation of degraded lands, preservation of forest resources and reversal of the trend toward reduction of wooded areas. The proposal is aligned with the sectoral and sub-sectoral strategies that were elaborated for the livestock, water, irrigation and environment/NRM. These sectors are under the responsibility of four ministries but are all included within the Rural Development Strategy (RDS) umbrella and for which a medium-term expenditure framework (Cadre de dépenses à moyen terme - CDMT) is formulated. Finally, Niger is a key stakeholder in **TerrAfrica** (2005) and, as such, will participate in its **Strategic Investment Plan** (SIP). Niger's participation in the SIP will begin with

development of a **SLM Country Investment Strategic Framework (CSIF)**, which the present project will translate and adapt to sub-national and local levels in the Maradi region.

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

The project is designed to address issues covered by GEF's **Land Degradation Focal Area** and contributes to its two **strategic objectives (SOs)** in the following manner:

- **SO 1:** *To develop an enabling environment that will place sustainable land management (SLM) in the mainstream of development policy and practices at regional, national and local levels.* Consistent with this SO, the project will contribute to removing barriers to building capacity in SLM and to financing SLM activities in the Maradi Region, mainstreaming integrated ecosystem management in both regional and local development planning, particularly in agricultural and pastoral ecosystems.
- **SO 2:** *To upscale sustainable land management investments that generate mutual benefits for the global environment and local livelihoods.* Consistent with this SO, the project will provide additional funds to complement the ARDDI in financing sustainable land management initiatives at the inter-village, communal and regional levels, as well as capacity building in technical skills and participatory planning for SLM. This will also allow wider dissemination and better replication of recognized best practices in SLM throughout the Maradi Region.

Furthermore, the project fits directly within two of the three GEF-4 **strategic programs (SPs)** as follows:

- **SP 1:** *Supporting sustainable agriculture and rangeland management:* The project is a direct fit with *Dryland Management in Areas of Intense Competition for Land Resources*. Niger is in the Sahel of Africa; the Maradi Region is located in a semi-arid ecological zone, its land and rangeland resources are subject to intense competition linked to both high population density and rapid growth. The region's low-fertility soils are often over-exploited; rangelands are degraded or converted to fields. Land degradation is the principal cause of the poverty and food insecurity affecting the local population. The project brings both technical and financial support to the population in order to improve the situation, supporting both capacity building and investments in SLM in order to mainstream SLM in inter-village, communal and regional resource management and development planning.

**D. OUTLINE THE COORDINATION WITH OTHER RELATED INITIATIVES:**

As noted above, the project is part of the SIP for Niger in the **TerrAfrica** framework and fits precisely within its overall objectives. The project will work specifically towards the objectives of advancing the mainstreaming of SLM in development planning, improving governance for SLM, catalyzing investments that address weaknesses in the enabling environment and applying practices on the ground that simultaneously help secure ecosystem services and reduce poverty where livelihoods depend on SLM.

To further consolidate the SIP/TerrAfrica principles and approaches, the ARDDI and its range of interventions already offer a good basis for an incremental GEF operation. IFAD is already taking the lead in coordinating a local partnership framework in Maradi where a letter of understanding was signed between the government and all UN agencies and bi-lateral and multilateral organizations. The letter outlines the main principles for coordinated and programmatic approaches as well as for the harmonization and alignment of donors' approaches and interventions. At national level, UNDP is taking a lead in coordinating the SLM agenda and the elaboration of the CSIF. UNDP, IFAD and other partners such as the World Bank will work closely with the Government of Niger to align their SLM activities around a Niger CSIF and its implementation and adaptation at sub-national and local levels.

The project will collaborate with a number of national and regional GEF projects in order to maximize synergies and minimize duplication of efforts. For example, it will build on and benefit from the experiences of the World Bank project related to **Community Action Programme**, which aims to integrating ecosystem protection into regional planning. It will take lessons from the experiences of the **Soil and Water Degradation in the Niger River Basin Project**, particularly with respect to pilot projects, co-financing and monitoring/evaluation of natural resources. It will also collaborate closely with the **Integrated Management of Shared Ecosystems in the River Basins of Niger and Nigeria**, as far as adoption of changes to the legal framework and financing river basin management activities. The project will also benefit from collaborations foreseen between the ARDI and other projects in the region, establishing a mechanism to ensure coordination among the various development partners.

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

**Without GEF:** Efforts that are addressing land degradation in Niger in general and the Maradi region in particular are not new. Several projects have been implemented by many donors and agencies in a rather fragmented fashion and based on a narrow approach to SLM. The impact and sustainability of such types of projects are at higher risks due to the rapidly increasing land degradation dynamics resulting from unfavorable climatic conditions, land tenure pressures exacerbated by high population densities (population growth is estimated at 3.73% in the most populated region of Niger), as well as widespread unsustainable land and natural resources management practices and increasing conflicts over natural resources. Despite the adoption of an adequate environmental policy, legal and institutional framework, its implementation remains fragmented and weak because of insufficient harmonization, lack of SLM mainstreaming at all levels and insufficient human, material and financial resources. Moreover, the weakness in mechanisms for mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity building prevents the creation of enabling conditions to fully implement and up-scale good SLM practices in Maradi.

Without the GEF funds, this business as usual model will continue leading to further fragmented interventions to SLM. Also without the GEF funding the baseline project would not be able to adequately address all the root causes, and barriers that have hindered SLM in Maradi. Baseline funding will not prioritize activities that preserve key ecosystems of global importance in the region (e.g. Lake Madarounfa). Also the baseline scenario is not likely to offer a comprehensive approach to mainstream SLM in Maradi (within local development plans), it will be only limited to activities that increase farm yields, improve and diversify livelihood systems. Baseline intervention require an incremental operation that could build on its approach to provide cost-effective and innovative SLM/NRM operations (leading to both poverty reduction and global environmental benefits) while responding to a programmatic shift to harmonization with other GEF and non GEF operations on SLM.

**With GEF:** The GEF financing will permit the Maradi Region to integrate its initiatives combating land and rangeland degradation, extending integrated planning and management of natural resources to the inter-village, communal and regional levels. GEF operations will increment the baseline by further mainstreaming SLM principals and investments in development interventions. The main environmental outcomes that will be associated with the GEF involvement include an improvement in the sustainability of agriculture production systems (off-farm, in-farm, conservation agriculture and sustainable rangeland management), reduction in soil degradation and improved natural capital base. The proposed GEF project will have specific targets that focus on key ecosystems and upscale good SLM practices where global benefits could be yielded. The project will intervene in three sites (in zones A1, A2, B1 and B2 mentioned above). The exact location/type of interventions will be defined in a participatory manner with communities and key stakeholders. The GEF alternative will target SLM up-scaling in 2800 ha across the four sub-agroecological regions in Maradi.

Up-scaling of SLM/NRM best practices and their integration in inter-village planning processes is an innovative way by which the GEF will be innovative, incremental and driver for sustainability of SLM/NRM actions in Maradi. Furthermore, the proposed GEF operation is part of a country programmatic approach to SLM in Niger. This path will offer greater harmonization of SLM interventions and better knowledge sharing/learning processes among all GEF and non-GEF operations on SLM/NRM. The added value of the GEF's involvement

through the proposed program is to build on the above “business-as-usual scenario” by helping to catalyze a paradigm shift to approaches that complement the economic and social dimensions of land degradation with the ecological aspects, particularly the global environmental benefits, in a harmonized way. Such shift would work towards a yet needed holistic approach to SLM. The proposed GEF project is part of the TerrAfrica initiative, it will be aligned with the country strategic investment framework on SLM and ensure harmonization and exchange (in terms of information and Knowledge) with all relevant GEF/non-GEF projects in the Maradi region in particular.

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

The principal risks faced by the project are: (i) **Climatic**: The frequency of droughts and irregularity of rainfall pose threats to vulnerable rural populations and thereby to the activities planned for the project. The project will promote measures to anticipate worst-case scenarios (e.g. water conservation techniques, drought-resistant crops, etc.) to address these risks; (ii) **Political**: Certain political decisions and policies (e.g. decentralization of development decision-making, security of land tenure, etc.) will affect the harmonization, coordination and progress of project activities. The project will work closely with political authorities to ensure harmonization of decisions/policies with project objectives; (iii) **Institutional**: Limited capacity in both national and local institutions in the region threatens to impede progress on project activities. A capacity needs assessment will be performed at project start-up and appropriate capacity building will be provided. For cost-effective mitigation, this will build on existing assessment (e.g. NCSA project, etc).

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

Cost-effectiveness cannot be presented in full at this stage. However, in order to develop a cost-effective project, during project preparation a qualitative assessment will be undertaken to compare and evaluate the proposed approaches to reaching project objectives, as well as the different activities proposed within each approach, for both their effectiveness and their cost. The blended nature of the GEF investment with the IFAD line intervention in MARADI will offer an opportunity for reduced management cost and increased on-the-ground impact per GEF dollar. The overall umbrella, along the SIP and TerrAfrica principles, will contribute to reduced transaction costs for GEF operations in the Maradi region where IFAD has already initiated donor harmonisation efforts. By setting the stage for country-wide up-scaling of best (in-farm/off-farm) practices the project will contribute to a disseminated impact therefore increasing GEF investment value. The project is also placing emphasis on institutional strengthening and proven community mechanisms for SLM mainstreaming. This will demonstrate cost-effectiveness of project investments while building the ground for increased sustainability of intervention thus increasing their cost effectiveness. Further cost-effectiveness assessment will be presented at CEO endorsement.



**PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINTS AND GEF AGENCIES**

**A. A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S):** (Please attach the [country endorsement letter\(s\)](#) or [regional endorsement letter\(s\)](#) with this template).

<i>Mr Yakoubou Mahaman Sani GEF Operational Focal Point Niger</i>	Date: 21 September 2007
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**B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION**

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for project identification and preparation.	
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<i>Please do not forget to copy IFAD/GEF Registry on official communications, <a href="mailto:gefregistry@ifad.org">gefregistry@ifad.org</a></i>	