



## **UNDP Project Document**

### **Government of the Republic of Niger**

#### **United Nations Development Programme**

Co-Management of Resources in the Aïr and Ténéré National Nature Reserve  
and adjacent areas  
(COGERAT)

#### **Summary**

The COGERAT project will establish a decentralised capability for sustainable management of the Aïr and Ténéré National Nature Reserve and adjacent areas. 20 million hectares will be co-managed by State and Municipal authorities under a co-management agreement by 4 Municipalities and the Government of Niger. Some 55,000 ha of degraded land important for the pastoral and market gardening economy will be restored using techniques that will also improve water harvesting. An additional 100,000 ha will be under Municipal and user group management and soil stabilisation, water harvesting and soil protection measures implemented. 7 Land Commissions will function to provide a framework for conflict resolution and securing rights of rural producers. Illegal extraction of natural resources (wood, hay, wildlife) from the ATNNR and adjacent areas will diminish by 50%, domestic consumption of wood in urban areas will be reduced by 15% thereby reversing the decline in soil cover and organic matter in the soil. Internationally important wildlife habitat will be protected and restored and wildlife protected through cooperation between State, rural communities and tourist industry.

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### *Acronyms*

ANPIP	Niger Agency for the promotion of private irrigation
AGRHYMET	Regional Center for Training and Application of Operational Agro meteorology and Hydrology
ASS/FGEF	Sahlo-saharan antelope project French GEF
ATNNR	Aïr and Ténéré National Nature Reserve
ATP	Rangeland Assemblies
BAD	Arab Development Bank
BEEIE	Bureau for studies and evaluation of environmental impacts
CCD	Convention to combat desertification
CCNUCC	Convention on climate change
CEDEAO	Economic Community of West African States
CILSS	Inter-State Committee to combat drought in the Sahel
CITES	Convention on international trade in endangered species
CNEDD	National Council for Environment and Sustainable Development
CNUED	UN Conference on Environment and Development
COFO	Land Commissions
COFOB	Local level Land Commissions
COGERAT	Co-Management of natural resources in the ATNNR and adjacent areas
DED	Deutsches Entwicklungsdienst (Germany)
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
DFPP	Fisheries, Wildlife Directorate
EU	European Union
FICOD	Investment Funds for decentralised entities
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GTZ	German Development Agency
IUCN	World Conservation Union
KFW	German Development bank
LUCOP	Poverty reduction programme
MHE/LCD	Ministry of Water resources, environment and desertification control
NSCA	National Self-Capacity Assessment
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
OP 15	Operational programme 15 Sustainable Land Management
PAC	Community Action programme
PAGR NAT	Support Programme – management of the ATNNR
PAN/LCD-GRN	National Action programme for desertification control
PNEDD	National Plan for environment and sustainable development
PNLCD	National plan for desertification control
PRS	Poverty Reduction Strategy
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
ROSELT	Réseau d'Observatoires de Surveillance Ecologique à Long Terme (Long Term Ecological Monitoring Observatories Network )
SC	Scientific Committee
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation
SE/CNEDD	Executive Secretariat of National Council for Env't and Sustainable Dev't
SLM	Sustainable land management
UBT	Unité Bovin Tropical (Livestock Standard Unit)
UICN	World Conservation Union
UNESCO	UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNICEF	UN Children's Fund
WB	World Bank
WWF	World Wildlife Fund For Nature

## **SECTION I: Elaboration of the narrative**

### *PART I: Analysis of the Situation*

#### *Context and global significance*

1. Efforts to conserve the global environment have, over the last years, been focused on the conservation of biodiversity and climate change. However, increasing international concern for arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid ecosystems, where the use of natural resources is at the heart of livelihood strategies of the people living in these areas, and a recognition of the impact that the degradation of these ecosystems has on biodiversity and climate change, led the GEF to open a new window, first towards the integrated management of ecosystems and then a full Operational Programme (OP 15) on Sustainable Land management (SLM). The primary objective of the COGERAT project is to generate benefits in terms of sustainable land management, the reduction in soil loss and deterioration of livelihoods. This will be achieved through the preservation of the integrity of the landscape and of key ecosystem services such as watersheds, soil fertility and livelihood sustenance.
2. The ecological complex covered by COGERAT includes the Air and Ténéré natural Nature Reserve and adjacent areas, and corresponds to the territories of 4 Municipalities (Gougaram, Iférouane, Tabetot, Timia). It represents a coherent space in terms of the livelihood patterns of the traditional communities living within the area and with whom COGERAT will work closely in promoting sustainable land and natural resources management. The complex covers some 20 million hectares. The climate is arid with precipitation rarely exceeding 100mm per year. Land is generally poor and fragile, not very productive except in certain fertile valleys. Vegetation is sparse, and mostly concentrated in valleys. Given the topography of the area water flows quickly into valleys, filling the water tables. Life in the area is highly dependant upon the abundance and flow of water and on the biophysical structure of the soils. Indeed, slow and widespread flows of water are vital for the replenishment of water tables and the state of the pastures.
3. A part of the ecological complex covered by the COGERAT intervention was classified as a National Natural Reserve in 1988, as a World Natural Heritage in 1991 (placed on the World Heritage list of sites in danger following the 1992 rebellion) and was listed as a Man and Biosphere site in 1997. It is recognized internationally as a priority site for the protection of Saharan ecosystems. During the 1990's, the insecurity that prevailed in the area was the source of serious threats to the integrity of the ecosystem and its constitutive elements (poaching, anarchic exploitation of other resources). Thus, in the new context of spatial occupation and natural resources reduction, it seems important to elaborate and implement a real development and management plan of the reserve and its related areas. The results of such a program could be shared with neighboring Saharan countries. Positive effects and impacts are expected by the populations, the scientific community and international tourists. Generated information could enable to better manage the area and the natural resources.
4. Some 10,000 people live permanently in the complex. Most of them practice agriculture though some 4000 also keep livestock. The retention of water in the valleys has allowed the development of irrigated gardens where corn, wheat, and vegetables and fruits are produced. Production is for the most part sold in the markets of Agadez and Arlit, the two main urban centres of the Agadez Region. Some 18,000 nomads also use the resources of the complex on a seasonal basis.
5. Niger is among the poorest countries of the world; 60% of the population survives on less than a dollar per day. Consequently, the level of social indicators such as infant mortality (123 per thousand), life expectancy (47 years), the literacy rate (17%) and primary school enrolment (34,1%) are cause for

concern. Furthermore, the level of poverty has risen in comparison to the level thirty years ago – as the increase in the GNP is negligible whereas the population has more than doubled. Although very few indicators for northern Niger are available, they are probably lower than for the rest of the country<sup>1</sup> (for example, primary school enrolment rate in northern Niger is less than 10%, as against 30% for Niger as a whole and 72% for sub-Saharan Africa). Finally, given the extremely weak resource base and the low level of capital investment, the possibilities for future growth are not positive.<sup>2</sup>

6. Within the complex of the proposed project area, the Reserve covers an area of 8 million hectares including the mountains of the Air (summits reach 2200 meters) and the desert of the Ténéré. The Reserve was classed as a national nature reserve in 1988, natural world heritage site in 1991 (then a world heritage site in 1992, during the rebellion) and a biosphere reserve in 1997. Within the reserve, there exists a sanctuary for certain Saharan antelopes threatened with extinction such as the Addax and the Oryx. The importance of this space for the conservation of the Saharan bio-diversity has also been reaffirmed many times by the international scientific community.<sup>3</sup> The Reserve also contains a cultural and archaeological heritage of inestimable value that has led UNESCO to undertake a commitment for an emergency rehabilitation program for this ecological complex.

7. The local populations of the project area draw most of their revenues and their means of subsistence from the exploitation of the natural resources of the Complex, including the Reserve. The Reserve cannot be divorced from the larger Complex; productive use occurs both inside and outside the Reserve and biodiversity exists both inside and outside. Merely conserving the Reserve (as was originally conceived) will not address the root causes of land degradation nor the barriers to SLM, many of which go beyond the system boundary of the Reserve. These natural resources, which are also very fragile and of which the productive potential varies greatly from one year to another (according to the rainfall which dictates the recharge rate of wells and the extent of pasturage available), are being submitted to increasing accumulated pressures as a result of the increase in needs and the development of non-sustainable methods and technologies of exploitation. For example, the significant rise in the number of irrigated gardens in the valleys results in the over-exploitation of the water table and in some cases leads to its drying up during the dry season. The competition among the different potential users (farmers and herders) is aggravated in this new context of increasing land use pressure but there are no measures adopted to control and regulate access to these resources. This situation is reflected in the development of social tensions and in an increase in conflicts. The deterioration in the tree cover brought about by increased tree-cutting for the different energy needs and for construction for an increasing population settling in the zone is the fundamental cause of erosion problems which affect the areas of agricultural and pastoral production. The problems of soil erosion also affect the zones of natural flooding that limit their retentive capacity and have a constraining effect on the infiltration of water into the water table. The degradation of the ecology and thus of wildlife habitats, coupled with unbridled poaching, potentially endangers the survival of certain animal species that are particularly representative of Saharan ecosystems in the area.

8. Insufficient awareness of environmental issues, the weak development of alternative activities and of methods and technologies appropriate for sustainable land management as well as poverty are among the root causes of the degradation of natural resources in the area of the Reserve and its periphery. The combination of all these pressures has aggravated land degradation and has negative consequences for the maintenance of the land potential which constitutes the production support for the vital needs of the

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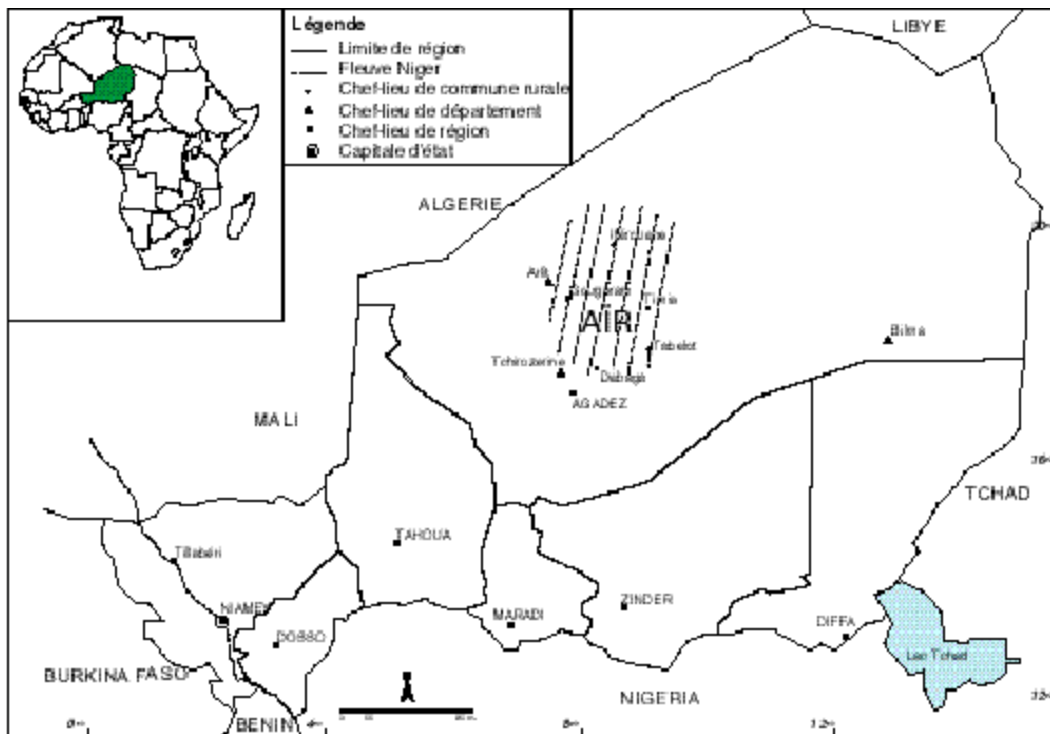
<sup>1</sup> UNDP as quoted in *Marchés Tropicaux - 1864* – September 4 1998

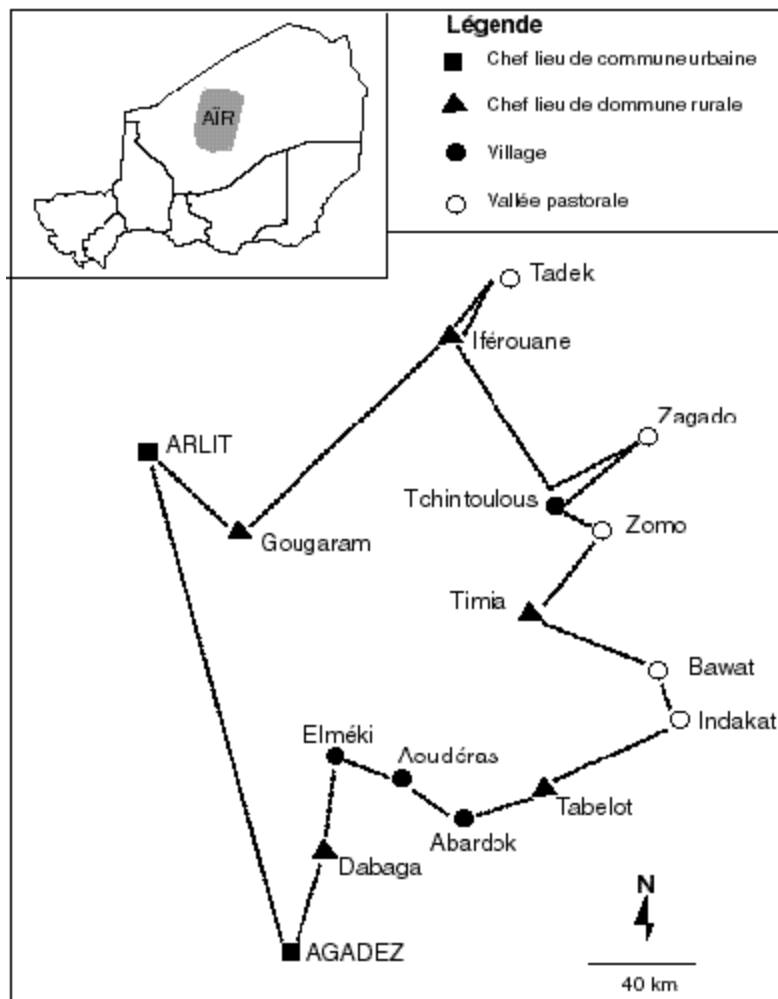
<sup>2</sup> Paragraph taken in large part from the Niger CAS (Oct. 97).

<sup>3</sup> The IUCN's Strategy for Protected Areas in sub-Saharan Africa, published in 1990; the World Bank's Ecologically Sensitive Areas in Africa, published in 1993; the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Action Plan for Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes published by the Protected Species Commission of the IUCN in 1999.

population (crops, pastures, firewood, etc.). In the end, this will be reflected by increasing poverty among the people of the area and by the accumulated degradation of resources (in other words, a vicious circle).

9. The development and the management of the Complex must be improved and the capacities of the local communities to negotiate and plan investments and to develop income-generating activities that take into account the constraints and the possibilities offered by the local environment need to be reinforced. The integration of the different scales of planning and of management (local level, reserve level and indeed at the level of the department/region) also represents one of the major challenges of this project and of decentralization in Niger. The community/decentralized management of the natural resources of the Complex should eventually result in a concrete improvement of the means of existence for local populations. Efforts will be deployed so that the natural resources of this ecological complex are put to use in order to contribute to community development and to the local economy, without compromising their value for maintaining ecosystem integrity. The sharing of benefits between the State and the local communities (for example, the sharing of revenues from eco-tourism) should in addition reinforce the responsibilities of local communities in the co-management of the resources of the Complex.





Analysis of threats, causes and barriers

10. The principal threats are caused by anthropic factors. Instability and lack of effective control on the ground has left the door open for excessive extraction of wood, grass and wildlife. These extractions have not only a significant impact on local communities who see their supplies of needed fuel and construction wood dwindle, but they also have consequences for soil stability and productivity (as shown in the PDF-B study on the State of natural resources) by leaving soils bare and vulnerable to wind and water erosion.

11. Land degradation is estimated by the PDF-B Study on the *Elaboration of a Strategy for restoration / conservation of natural resources and the management of the Saharan ecosystem of the ATNNR and adjacent areas* to represent some 3.5 to 4 t / ha/ year, well above the 2 t / ha/ year threshold for sediments.<sup>4</sup> Mountainous areas (hills) tend to see higher rates of land degradation with productive activity concentrating in the valleys. For the Aïr part of the ATNNR (not including the Ténéré desert) Giazzi (2005) estimates total matter carried away at 18 million tons / year. Extrapolating to the ATNNR and adjacent areas (including a part of the Ténéré desert) one might estimate the total matter carried away by water at 70 million tons / year.

<sup>4</sup> “Exploitations et Etat des ressources naturelles au Niger» (CNEDD, 2001).

12. In the Agadez region, 91% of the population practices agriculture in a context marked by high pressure on land and resources and a large number of constraints (poverty, distances, scarcity of resources, population increase due to natural growth + return of migrants, lack of infrastructure, lack of security of access to and control of natural resource use, lack of organisation at local level, lack of financial, material and human resources). Pressure on land and resources is calculated on the basis of the population density and the net cereal supply in dry years, expressed as the percentile of cover of local requirements.

13. An analysis of livestock pressure – based on livestock densities and the length of the rainy season - indicates that in the Agadez region risk is medium to high given the large spaces and the variations in space and time of pasture distribution. Density of livestock pressure is below 5 UBT/km<sup>2</sup>.

14. Pressure on wood resources – based on average consumption per capita / year and length of the rainy season – shows Agadez to be a high extraction area. Assuming the national averages of 400 t / capita / year for urban centres and 450 t / capita / year for rural areas, this would place total wood consumption at some 94,000 t / year. This implies 5000 trips by 15-ton trucks, plying through fragile soils and provoking or exacerbating the creation of ravines and erosion.

15. Demographic pressure, whether from the increasing needs of urban centres of the Agadez Region or due to the return of migrants forcibly returned to Niger, has substantially increased in the last 15 years. (PDF-B Study of State of natural and socio-economic environment). The extension of areas given over to gardening has also consequences, still not well understood, on the water tables that allow this activity.

15. The poverty of the resident population, in the ATNNR and adjacent areas as well as in the nearby urban centres makes the implementation of alternatives difficult, The lack of consultation and common management schemes impedes the emergence of coordinated actions aimed at sustainable use of natural resources and soil protection.

16. Pressure on wildlife from poaching has decimated red-necked ostrich and dama gazelle populations in the last 15 years and pressure generally is high for mammals and birds. Poaching continues even after the end of the rebellion as the total lack of surveillance and control in the ATNNR and adjacent areas is exploited by poachers equipped with modern hunting equipment.

17. The principal barriers that COGERAT will address are: the absence of a landscape level framework for collaborative action (InterMunicipality Platform); the absence of shared management objectives and responsibilities between the State and local communities (Co-Management Agreement); the poverty of local and regional population (production and soil and water conservation improvements); lack of capacities of local communities and state extension services to adopt sustainable land management technologies and methodologies (training); lack of information on soil and natural resource potential and trends for decision-making (scientific and local knowledge based monitoring, adaptive management).

A detailed presentation of threats, causes and barriers is presented in Section III Part V.

### *Institutional, sectoral and policy context*

18. Niger currently has at its disposal an arsenal of institutions, strategies and laws relating to the environment. In fact, 1998 was an intensive planning year for the environment and natural resources. The following are some of these documents: (i) the National Environmental Plan for Sustainable Development (July, 1998); (ii) the National Action Program for combating desertification and for natural resource Management (October, 1998); (iii) the Biodiversity Strategy and Plan of Action (October, 1998); and (iv)



the Environmental Management Law (November, 1998). These different strategies and action plans, especially the NAP, put the control of land degradation and sustainable management of natural resources at the top of their priorities.

19. The Government of Niger has adopted a Strategy for the Reduction of Poverty (SRP) which aims at reducing the percentage of the population living below the poverty line from 66% to 50% by: (i) the creation of a stable macro-economic framework; (ii) the development of productive sectors; (iii) the improvement in access for the poor to social and basic services; and (iv) the promotion of good government and the reinforcement of its capacities. With regards to the “development of productive sectors”, the government has developed a Rural Development Strategy (RDS) which is an integral part of the SRP and takes into consideration the aspects related specifically to the control of land degradation and the sustainable management of natural resources. Decentralised management of natural resources and the goal of food security constitute important elements of the Country Programme Cooperation Framework and contribute to UNDAF outcomes. Indeed, they contribute to the cooperation area No 1 for the outcomes 1 and 2, and to the cooperation area No 3 for outcomes 3, 4, and 5.

20. Several Government Ministers and other government and private structures are closely monitoring the management of natural resources. These are: the Ministry of Environment and Desertification Control, the Ministry of Animal Resources, the Ministry of Agriculture and the National Council of the Environment for Sustainable Development (CNEDD), which is attached to the Prime Minister’s Office. The CNEDD is responsible for developing policies, strategies and plans of action for the environment and for sustainable development. It is also responsible for monitoring the implementation of these plans of action: the National Program for Desertification Control and Natural Resource Management, and the Biodiversity Strategy were developed by this Council in collaboration with other actors in the government and civil society. The implementation of these strategies and plans of action is left to the technical ministries and civil society.

21. At the level of the Ministry of Hydraulics, Environment and combating desertification the institutional framework is reinforced by the Directorate of Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture (responsible for wildlife and habitat conservation), the Directorate of Environment (responsible for desertification control) and the Directorate of Program Planning. These offices are in charge of the implementation of the national environmental policy. Furthermore, the Permanent Secretariat of the Rural Code is in charge of capacity building for decentralized management and the establishment of the regulatory frameworks for natural resources and conflict management. Finally, the High Commission for Decentralization is responsible for questions raised in the context of the creation of Municipalities.

22. At the local level, there are regional and sub-regional bodies of these respective agencies, including local representation of the National Council for Environment and Sustainable Development (CNEDD). However, these local institutions in particular have suffered from weak capacities for land planning and management, as well as for participatory sustainable development. In view of the current process of decentralization in the country, with its important consequence for the management of natural resources, local development and land use planning, a detailed analysis of the needs for capacity building is necessary at all levels. In this regard the Niger - National Capacity Self Assessment for Global Environmental Management (NCSA) which is at the preparation stage, is a strategic partner for COGERAT. An analysis<sup>5</sup> of capacity building requirements at the local level was undertaken during the PDF-B Phase and results have been incorporated into this proposal.

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<sup>5</sup> *Definition of a Programme to reinforce the capacities of local actors in the ATNNR and adjacent areas* MH/E-LCD / UICN 2005

23. With respect to conflict management related to the use of natural resources, Niger has established - in 1993 under Ordinance 93-015 - a legal framework and an institution named the “Rural Code” which is in charge of the establishment of regulatory frameworks for natural resources and conflict management at the local level. The Rural Code has created a Land Commission (Commission Foncière – COFO) and Local Land Commission (Commission Foncière de base – COFOB). There are currently more than 122 of these commissions all over the country. These COFOBs, where they have been created, have proven to be an important tool in the management of natural resources by the local community. They are playing an important role in forecasting and managing conflicts thereby avoiding situations that in the past have led to loss of life.

24. Though the political will exists, human and institutional capacity remains insufficient. In the public sector, development is hampered by weak administrative capacity. This is the result of years of deteriorating working conditions, political instability and lack of opportunities for the population that has little access to better education and training. In addition, the competition between the Government, development partners and the private sector for scarce capable human resources limits the availability of expertise. Also noticeable is the poor coordination between various interventions due to conflicts of competencies and a lack of resources that would enable the various ministerial departments to implement and/or coordinate sustainable development activities efficiently. This also occurs at the level of civil society organizations, some of which are led by civil servants.

25. Emerging NGOs, which often prove to be important partners for the implementation of development programmes, are also lacking in experience. Private sector development is limited by the lack of professional and entrepreneurial capacity, as well as the absence of financial resources required to undertake development actions. In addition, capacity building is carried out not necessarily on priority needs but based on available opportunities. Needs in terms of capacity building related to the implementation of national strategies have not been systematically assessed. Some rare assessments have been carried out, as in the case of capacity building needs related to biodiversity.

26. Capacity requirements in the area of land degradation have been addressed in Component 6 of the Niger National Action Plan on Land Degradation. The sub-programme addressing capacity building needs of institutions in charge of monitoring and assessment of drought and desertification are considered within the NSCA. NSCA resources will contribute to the implementation of this component,

### *Analysis of the Stakeholders*

27. A review of the stakeholders, of their capacities to participate effectively in the co-management of their area and a review of their capacity building needs was conducted during the PDF-B (*Study Reinforcement of the capacities of Stakeholders*)

28. The main actors of the project are the people living in the ATNNR and adjacent areas and the Municipalities (Municipal Councils) of Gougaram, Iférouane, Timia and Tabelot. For the most part the population is engaged in agricultural and pastoral activities. A certain number are agro-pastoralists, while some work in the tourism sector during the season. The perspective opened up by the conjunction of the decentralisation process and COGERRAT confronts stakeholders with the limitations imposed by their lack of means and lack of management and technical tools to act positively on their environment.

29. It is in this area that extension services, NGOs and territorial administration of the Agadez region have an important role to play. On the one hand this concerns the establishment of a co-management partnership aiming at controlling, stabilising and reversing degradation trends in the ATNNR and adjacent areas, and on the other collaborating in the community level capacity building so that the

Municipal and user groups are able to assume their new responsibilities for management of natural resources.

30. The national level also has a role to play in support of the local level in the mobilisation of financial resources, in adapting legislation (notably that relative to the Reserve), in the establishment of Land Commissions that are central to securing rights for rural producers, as well as in the monitoring and assessment of project activities with a view to improving SLM practices throughout the country.

A Stakeholder Involvement Plan is given in Section III, Part IV.

### *Analysis of the Baseline*

31. The baseline scenario concerns projects and programmes financed by the State budget, Municipalities, NGOs, Associations and international development partners. These projects and programmes have an indirect impact on natural resources in that they reduce poverty and cumulatively reduce pressure on natural and land resources. The development areas covered by the baseline projects include: education, health, rural infrastructure, agricultural and pastoral production, energy, legislation and administrative organisation.

32. However these projects and programmes only partially touch SLM aspects. In the absence of the COGERAT project, local communities and the Municipalities will not be in a position to establish a common, ecosystem level land restoration and natural resources management plan, to implement ecosystem level land restoration and control measures, and to engage in a process of negotiation with the State to achieve an agreement on co-management of the ATNNR and adjacent areas and of the natural resources it contains that are so vital to local livelihoods.

33. Without the GEF alternative funding sought under this project, land degradation will increase due to a lack of concerted effort to restore and sustainably manage the landscape as a whole; local NRM systems already stretched to the breaking point by increasing pressures on scarce land and resources will break down; soil erosion will continue to increase due to acceleration of soil instability due to excessive pastoral pressure and extractions of vegetation to satisfy urban needs.

## ***PART II: Strategy***

34. Community and decentralised management of natural resources and measures to control land degradation in the ATNNR and adjacent areas should achieve, over time, a substantial improvement in the means of existence available to local communities and to the realisation of global benefits in the form of restoration of degraded land and vegetation cover, the preservation of habitats for internationally important species of fauna, erosion control, improved management of pastoral and agricultural resources, and the effective management and preservation of the integrity of a World Heritage arid landscape.

35. Efforts will be made to enhance the contribution of natural resources to community development and to the local economy, while maintaining the long-term productive potential and the internationally recognised natural values of the ATNNR and adjacent areas. The co-management of the complex and the achievement of shared benefits will reinforce cooperation and allow a better sharing of costs and responsibilities between State, local authorities and rural communities. The new distribution of rights and responsibilities will need to be consistent with the orientations fixed by the Law on Decentralisation, the Rural Code and the revised Forestry Code.

36. The development and management of the ATNNR and adjacent areas must be improved: at the same time the capabilities of local communities to plan and implement investments and income generating activities that take account of the constraints and opportunities of the environment will be reinforced. The integration and collaboration between various decision-making and planning levels is one of the challenges of decentralisation in Niger, and across West Africa. It is therefore expected that this project will generate lessons, possibly even models of co-management and participatory land restoration methodologies that can be reproduced.

37. The project will develop linkages with analogous experiences underway in Algeria (Tassili-Ahaggar) and in Libya (Tadrart-Acacus) that could contribute to the elaboration of a new regional integrated vision for the restoration, conservation and sustainable use of natural resources of Saharan ecosystems.

38. During Phase I of COGERAT (PDF-B) a number of studies were conducted. These were: Assessment of the state of the natural and socio-economic environment in the ATNNR and adjacent areas; analysis of stakeholders and their attributes, capabilities and capacity building needs; proposals for land restoration and management measures; analysis of financial mechanisms; proposals for an awareness raising, education and communications programme. This information complements experiences acquired in the context of earlier projects (PAGRAT notably) and the relatively exhaustive information obtained in the context of the Etude Initiale (Giazzi, 1996).

39. In Phase II, COGERAT will adopt a strategy based on promoting local capacities. A relatively light Project Implementation Unit based in Agadez will animate a dialogue amongst local, regional and national stakeholders; will offer a range of methodological and technical tools designed to enable Municipalities and other local and regional stakeholders and user groups to act in a concerted manner to integrate within their Municipal Development Plans measures to restore and sustainably manage soils, water, vegetation, livestock and wildlife resources. The Project Implementation Unit will assist communities in the identification and implementation of sustainable land management approaches and techniques, and to this end will assist in the mobilisation, from within the Agadez region and beyond, of the requisite technical and financial support.

40. Phase II will allow the establishment of a decentralised land management system based on shared responsibilities between the State and the 4 concerned Municipalities. Substantial land restoration actions will be carried out and capacities of local communities and state extension services built.

41. Phase III will consolidate the co-management system thus established and further reinforce capabilities at the local level to manage the landscape sustainably and to the benefit of local communities. No GEF funding is being requested for Phase III because it is expected that Phase II will develop models and approaches that will be replicated by others (Government, Fund, other donors).

42. To achieve the objective of combating land degradation, the project will integrate activities related to local development to those for restoring the integrity of the ecosystem. GEF funding will focus on activities that promote alternative, and more sustainable approaches and practices in the area of agricultural, the rangelands, rural energy use, and land use management. The activities related to the local development will be promoted through co-financing.

43. This project will build on the baseline of initiatives in the zone, such as those of DANIDA, GTZ, UNESCO, UNDP, the EU, French cooperation, the SSA and ROSELT. In order to deal with the global environmental problems, additional resources from the GEF have been judged necessary in order to make it possible to operate at the wider landscape scale and to reinforce indigenous integrated activities of natural resource management for ensuring ecosystem integrity in a globally and nationally important area.

### Project fit with GEF Operational Program

44. With the goals of improving and extending the productive capital (soil, water, vegetation, wildlife) of the Complex on one hand and that of the way of life of the people on the other, the project aims to respond to the main challenges of combating desertification as they are defined in the PAN/LCD-GRN of Niger. In adopting a global integrated approach which takes into account the social, economic and ecological dimensions of the project area, in promoting the full and entire participation of the local people and a clear sharing out of roles and responsibilities among all of the actors involved in the development of the area (the government, the local communities, civil society, NGO's, traditional authorities, etc...) and finally, in adopting a long term vision of the problem of sustainable development on the basis of the achievements of preceding activities in the area, the project fully conforms to the fundamental principles of the PAN/LCD-GRN of Niger and responds to the GEF selection criteria of OP-15 on land degradation.

45. The Reserve, which is a part of the project area, represents a priority site for the conservation of Saharan biodiversity, as confirmed by its classification by UNESCO as a world heritage site and as a Biosphere Reserve. It is also covered in the important documents relating to strategic conservation, such as Biodiversity in sub-Saharan Africa (IUCN, 1990), Action Strategy for Protected Afrotropical Areas (IUCN, 1986), Ecologically Sensitive Sites in Africa (World Bank, 1993), Antelopes -Global Survey and Action plans (East, 1990) and more recently in the Plan of Action on Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes (Antelopes SSA/IUCN, 1999).

46. One alternative considered was to maintain the project under the original submission of OP1 (World Bank-GEF submission of 1999, which was approved, but then cancelled from the GEF pipeline when the World Bank decided to advise the Niger government to transfer the project to UNDP). An initial resubmission by UNDP of this Concept was done in early 2003 under OP1 (SP1), however based on comments received from GEFSEC and following UNCCD COP6, the government of Niger decided that the project would be better housed with OP15. The new Concept was therefore redesigned after a consultative workshop with the government, Swiss Cooperation, French Cooperation, IUCN and UNDP in August 2003, to meet the eligibility requirements of OP15. The new design in particular puts greater emphasis on the entire "Complex" (covering the migration routes of Tuareg, Peuhls, Toubous, Hausa, Arabs and Songhai nomads, as well as the Reserve only as one part of a larger, integrated landscape design). Furthermore, the project's primary goal has been revised towards achieving integrity and stability of this Sahelo-Saharan ecosystem based on improved customary management of land and natural resources. It is expected that the baseline would cover both classic rural development and classic biodiversity conservation, while the GEF increment would bring in the overall "glue" of sustainable land management at the landscape level. As such, the project would primarily address SP2 of OP15 but would also incorporate elements of capacity building of SP1.

47. The immediate threats in this region are related to mismanagement of land (inappropriate land use patterns; inappropriate production systems), and not to the loss of biodiversity of global significance. It is possible that eventually biodiversity loss will become a critical issue, if the problem of land mismanagement is not address. Therefore, this project fits better with the Objectives of OP 15 than with the Biodiversity Focal Area of the GEF. However, it is expected that there will be substantial global benefits not only for ensuring ecosystem integrity, stability, functions and services, but also for avoiding future threats to globally significant biodiversity. In addition, the project is expected to generate national benefits in terms of poverty alleviation, improved natural resource management, reduced conflicts and therefore more propitious environment for generating tourism revenues.

48. The UNDP's National Program for Niger, on the basis of the UNDAF and the PRSP, is founded on three major programs which are taken into account by this project: (i) the Management Program for

Combating Poverty (known in Niger by the abbreviation «PCLCP »); (ii) the Support Program for the National Plan for the Environment and for Sustainable Development; and (iii) the Program of Capacity Reinforcement for Economic Management, the Promotion of the Private Sector and Good Government. Particularly relevant for this project are the programs that focus on food security and micro-businesses and the sustainable management of land, water and other natural resources and combating desertification.

*Project Goal, Objective, Outcomes and Outputs / Activities*

49. The activities that will be developed in the context of COGERAT Phase II aim to address the fundamental causes of land degradation and the loss of biodiversity in the ATNNR and adjacent areas (poverty of local population and population of nearby urban centres, increase in inappropriate and uncontrolled use of natural resources) An emphasis will be placed on five approaches: (i) promotion of a strong enabling framework for stakeholders to implement shared management of natural resources at the landscape level; (ii) improvement of livelihoods and ecosystem integrity through the implementation of SLM and SRM; (iii) enhancement sustainability of co-management arrangements; (iv) A participatory monitoring system based on local knowledge and scientific methods provides necessary information on the ecological and socio-economic situation ; (iv) improvement of learning and adaptive management by making information available to stakeholders and decision-makers.

The long-term **Goal** of the project is therefore the following:

**“To contribute to combating land degradation and sustainable management of the Saharan ecosystems of northern Niger by integrating the processes of local development and decentralization”**

50. The GEF alternative will permit the development of synergies between the different programmes intervening in the ATNNR and adjacent areas while promoting an integrated landscape approach-taking account of social, economic and ecological dimensions in the context of an ecosystem approach.

**The objective of Phase II of COGERAT (2005 – 2010) is:**

**« To set up a decentralized community system of land and natural resource management in the ATNNR and adjacent areas which will reverse trends towards environmental degradation and improve livelihoods of resident populations ».**

51. To this end, the project will support the establishment of modalities and management practices based on an informed and consenting partnership between rural communities (organised in the framework of Municipalities) and the State. As concerns the State, the main partners will be the Ministry of Water Resources, the Environment and Desertification Control (represented in the region by the Environment Extension Services and the Conservator of the ATNNR), the institutions of the Rural Code (Land Commissions) and Territorial Administration for aspects concerning the control and policing of illegal extractions of natural resources. Tourism stakeholders at regional level (travel agencies, Ministry offices at regional level) are important partners for COGERAT given the importance of the ATNNR and adjacent areas for their activities as because of their extensive knowledge of the area and presence on the ground. Finally, the Ministry for Local development (responsible for support to Municipalities) and public works, education and training extension services will also be key partners of the project.

52. The collaboration will result in the conclusion of a co-management agreement between the State and the 4 Municipalities covering the sustainable management of natural resources of the ATNNR and adjacent areas. This agreement will take account of the need to stabilise ad reduce the scale of natural

resources extractions from the complex, the need to reverse trends towards the degradation of lands, of the need to furnish local communities with viable and sustainable economic alternatives, and of the need to preserve, within the ATNNR, the characteristics which led to the inscription of the site on the World heritage list.

The Outcomes of the project are:

**53. Outcome 1: Strong enabling framework for stakeholders to implement shared management of natural resources at the landscape level.** An Inter Municipality platform including the 4 Municipalities concerned by the ATNNR and adjacent areas ecosystem will be established (**Output 1.1**). These Municipalities have recently been created in the context of the Decentralisation process. The Municipalities have identified, in the context of PDF-B, a first set of common issues on which to work. These include: capacity building, identification of sensitive areas; identification and quantification of external pressures on the land and resources of the ATNNR and adjacent areas; support required to stabilise and reverse degradation trends and deterioration in livelihood conditions. The Municipalities will make special to ensure that the interests and needs of nomadic/pastoral populations are taken into account in discussions leading to a co-management agreement and in the resolution of land ownership and management questions in Land Commission negotiations.

54. In the framework of former natural resource conservation and management program intervening in the zone (and notably in the RNNAT), we progressively went from scientific and technical approaches to protect a small number of animal (addax, and Oryx) and plant (wild olive tree) species to a participatory approach to conserve the ecosystem and utilize in a sustainable way the cultural riches and the natural resources while achievement of the PAGNAT, initiated in 1999 on Swiss and Danish cooperation funding and closed in December 2000 (after a twelve-month transition phase financed by Swiss cooperation) was to start a form of community organization around local population movement or route spaces.

55. The route is a Socio-spatial unit crossed by nomadic groups socially identified and which occupy a space (but flexible) surrounded by water points and grazing lands that are associated to them, during an annual production cycle in normal weather conditions. The routes are spaces from which community development initiatives can be carried and population participation in sought sustainable land and ecosystem management actions. These routes defines during PAGRNAT enabled to set up some community-based organizations (CBO) within which the hierarchical social structures within the Air Tuareg and Haratin communities provide a traditional means of regulating conflict. During the PDF B phase all stakeholders particularly the local communities recognize that in order to achieve success the project intervention will be base on route "Terrain de parcours" approach.

56. The sustainable financing (**Output 1.2**) of co-management organs and of joint initiatives to reverse land and livelihoods degradation trends will be at the heart of Phase II preoccupations. In addition to identifying and implementing measures to increase Municipal revenues, the project will support the collaborating parties in mobilizing funds for support to local initiatives (*PDF-B Study on Financial mechanisms*) in matters of control, surveillance, soils restoration and conservation, and economic activities compatible with ecological and economic sustainability. To begin, the COGERAT project will support local initiatives that will permit, in addition to supporting income generative initiatives, the encouragement of private or group based land and vegetation restoration initiatives as well as reintroduction of endangered species where this can be linked to income generation. Most of the financing for this output will be constitute by existing programmes' funding (LUCOP, PNN, PADDEN, PMR-NN. Dialogue on how to develop a sustainable mechanism to finance local initiatives will be supported under this component.

57. COGERAT will devote considerable efforts to training of stakeholders (**Output 1.3**) concerned by the sustainable management of soils and the sustainable use of natural resources. Training modules (PDF-B Study on the *Capacity building of Stakeholders*) will be implemented by service providers and government extension services and will cover the following subjects: (i) content and relevance for co-management of international (World Heritage, Conventions on Biological Diversity and Desertification) and national (Rural Code, Pastoral Code, Forestry Code, decentralisation law, Decrees establishing the ATNNR and the Integral Reserve known as the « Addax Sanctuary ») legal texts ; (ii) Social organisation and mobilisation, taking account of gender aspects ; (iii) negotiation, conflict resolution and co-management ; (iv) preparation of project documents and access to financial sources ; (v) organisation and systematisation of local knowledge and the use of this information in the context of monitoring and assessment of trends and impacts ; (vi) dissemination of land and natural resources restoration and protection techniques ; (vii) identification and implementation of alternative uses of space and resources that also can improve incomes and/or livelihoods.

58. The trends observed (PDF-B Study on the *State of the ecological and socio-economic environment*) in the ATNNR and adjacent areas concerning land degradation and the diminishing availability of natural resources and the increasing vulnerability of livelihoods are caused by factors having their origin within the ATNNR and adjacent areas, but are increasingly caused by pressures from outside the complex (urban centres Arlit, Tchirozérine, Agadez). The entire population of the Agadez region are direct or indirect users of ATNNR and adjacent areas natural resources. A substantial effort to raise awareness amongst the general public (**Output 1.4**) on questions related to wood (domestic energy and construction), land degradation processes (loss of vegetation cover, impacts of heavy vehicle traffic, erosion), alternatives (soils conservation and restoration measures, water harvesting), illegal extractions (poaching, wood and hay), and co-management and the realisation of shared benefits. COGERAT will support the development of initiatives involving organised user groups and which seek to restore agricultural and pastoral resources and improve soil fertility so as to improve yields. In parallel, COGERT will support the 4 Municipalities of the ATNNR and adjacent areas in the analysis and identification of common management measures concerning the use of wood, forage, restoration of pastures, the protection of gardens and water harvesting, all questions that have a direct bearing of the reversal of land degradation and improvement of livelihood conditions. The PNN is working in the area on issues related to natural resources management and will work closely with COGERAT in developing co-management arrangements covering the control of access to and use of natural resources.

59. The sporadic nature of rainfall and climatic regimes combined with the intrinsic fragility of the arid ecosystem and livelihoods means that occasional crises (droughts, locusts, floods) have often catastrophic impacts on the environment and human communities. Some early warning tools are available at the national level (AGHRYMET). These tools should be transferred to the region in the framework of the InterMunicipal platform. Concrete procedures for early-warning and crisis response (**Output 1.5**) will be formulated in the co-management agreement (see Output 1.1).

60. Pressures on natural resources and which contribute to land degradation often have their origins in urban centres outside of the ATNNR and adjacent areas. Extractions of vegetation (wood and hay) are often carried out illegally to the detriment of local communities, COGERAT will support the establishment of surveillance systems and procedures (**Output 1.6**) relying on State – travel agencies – local populations cooperation in order to reduce and eliminate illegal extractions. This surveillance will emphasize the protection of the archaeological site by promoting the ecotourism because certain favoured localities within this region are veritable museums of prehistoric archaeology, with a cultural record extending back well in excess of more than 90 000 years, spanning the full stages of prehistoric human cultural development from Early, Middle and Later Stone Age to Neolithic



plant and animal domestication. One aspect of this rich cultural heritage, reflected in part in the rock paintings and engravings within the mountains, is the evidence displayed of adaptations to changing climatic conditions in the past. The valorisation of this cultural heritage will contribute in the income generating of the local communities and municipalities.

61. The COGERAT financing scheme foreseen is to a significant extent composed of investment funds already existing within the region by various projects (LUCOP, PNN, PADDEN, PMR.NN). These funds are available to finance socio-economic development projects emanating from organised groups within the local communities (communes, cooperatives, producer associations). These funds are in principle available for all sorts of initiatives and constitute therefore a source of funding for initiatives by COGERAT supported groups. Local communities are required to contribute an average of 10% of the total investment required by these initiatives. UNDP will contribute up to US\$ 60,000 to this Outcome. ASS/FFEM will contribute up to US\$ 5,000 for awareness raising activities connected to Saharo-sahelian antelopes. Additional financing is to be sought from other potential partners: SDC and DANIDA to cover costs under this Outcome. Target: Up to US\$ 500,000.

62. **Outcome 2: Improved livelihoods and ecosystem integrity are improved through the implementation of SLM and SRM.** PDF-B studies, and notably that on the State of the natural and socio-economic environment underline a serious degradation of the environment and deterioration of livelihoods. COGERAT will therefore promote actions that both restore degraded lands and secure livelihoods. Water harvesting (dams, small dams, half moons) measures to increase infiltration and water table levels as well as protect 35 gardening sites from water borne erosion (dry stone consolidation of banks) (**Output 2.1**) and to restore 31 pastoral sites (re-seeding; half moons) (**Output 2.2**) will be carried out. 15 sites affected by wind deposits (soil binding) will be treated using sand fixation techniques (**Output 2.3**). The Pastoral Areas Assemblies (“Associations de terrains de parcours”) put in place up to 2002 by PAGRNAT may constitute a model for social mobilisation of nomadic communities in the context land improvement actions. COGERAT will promote the dissemination of alternatives to the use of wood for buildings, firewood and wells construction using « without wood » techniques and the alternative solution of use of other sources of energy e.g. use of mineral charcoal or solar energy, adapted stove (**Output 2.6**) so as to reduce pressure on wood resources of the ATNNR and adjacent areas. Pressure is such that the gathering of dead wood has led to increasing the vulnerability of soils to wind and water erosion and that a scarcity of dead wood is increasing extractions of living vegetation. (See PDF-B study on State of natural and socio-economic environment). Nomadic communities suffer not only from the diminishing availability of wood, but also from the deterioration of the land caused by ever-increasing levels of extraction to satisfy urban needs.

63. Natural resources protection, rehabilitation and management actions are eligible for funding under the investment funds already present in the region (LUCOP etc.). It is therefore foreseen that COGERAT will contribute to increasing the number of SLM and SRM initiatives submitted to these funds for financing, COGERAT envisages participating in the funding of local SLM SRM actions to the tune of 20% (**Output 2.5**). PDF-B Studies having already identified priority sensitive areas communities can already begin planning activities to submit to these non-COGERAT funds. Additional financing is to be sought from other potential partners: SDC and DANIDA to cover costs under this Outcome. Target: Up to US\$ 500,000.

64. During PDF-B consultations with local populations, the problem of impacts of harmful species (*Prosopis juliflora* and jackal) was raised again and again. *Prosopis* is a species introduced in the 1980s. Since then it has rapidly spread to the detriment of native species in particular other trees such as *Salvadora persica* and *Acacia raddiana*, two pillars of the most productive ecosystems of the Aïr. As for the jackal, its impact of livestock is a constant preoccupation of residents. The project will support

relevant extension services (forestry and animal resources) so that they might, with the local communities, identify and implement adequate control measures (**Output 2.7**). The jackal is a native species and mitigation of its impact on livestock will be sought through improved herd protection.

**65. Outcome 3: Enhanced sustainability of co-management arrangements.** This outcome will focus on ensuring financial and social sustainability of the project activities. The elaboration of a tourism development strategy (**Output 3.1**) in the ATNNR and adjacent areas will identify activities and services that travel agencies and local communities can put in place together with a view to improving the benefits and income remaining within the ATNNR and adjacent areas. The COGERAT will create condition for in depth consultation between stakeholders during the development of this strategy which will consider the ecotourism as a potential source of local employment as well as contributing to ecosystem protection.

66. The period of the rebellion and the long period of insecurity that followed had a considerable impact on wildlife. Estimated at 1600 individuals 15 years ago, the ostrich population is now down to a single individual in the wild, somewhere to the west of Assodé. In Iférouane, a couple is maintained in captivity thanks to a private initiative (supported later by UNESCO and DFPP) and gave birth this year to six young. However, support is irregular and the long-term viability of the initiative is in doubt. Efforts will be made to promote the rearing of ostrich by this local people as to generate income through the sale of example of the feathers or dried meat as it is going in parts of Kenya where the Maasai are successfully rearing ostriches and exporting the feathers that have useful dust-repellent properties. As for the dama gazelle, which may have totally disappeared from the region, a reintroduction from the Gadabegi ranch (central Niger) is possible. COGERAT will support local initiatives seeking to reintroduce endangered species (**Output 3.2**) to the extent that these actions can be assumed at a local level and that the income generating potential for local communities is demonstrable. UNESCO has already supported the ostrich raising actions underway and will continue its support. Additional financing is to be sought from other potential partners: SDC and DANIDA to cover costs under this Outcome.

67. Demographic growth has had the effect of increasing substantially the pressures on land and natural resources. In order to enhance the management of conflicts arising there from, the COGERAT will support the installation of Land Commissions (**Output 3.3**) charged, in the context of the Rural Code, with securing the rights of rural producers through a process of rights recognition. Land Commissions to be established at both rural and urban Municipality levels are an indispensable element in the process of managing access and control of the utilisation of land and natural resources.

68. In parallel, COGERT will support the 4 Municipalities of the ATNNR and adjacent areas in the analysis and identification of common management measures concerning the use of wood, forage, restoration of pastures, the protection of gardens and water harvesting, all questions that have a direct bearing of the reversal of land degradation and improvement of livelihood conditions.

69. The PNN is working in the area on issues related to natural resources management and will work closely with COGERAT in developing co-management arrangements covering the control of access to and use of natural resources. UNESCO has already supported the ostrich raising actions underway and will continue its support. Additional financing is to be sought from other potential partners: SDC and DANIDA to cover costs under this Outcome.

**70. Outcome 4: A participatory monitoring system based on local knowledge and scientific methods provides necessary information on the ecological and socio-economic situation.** Various studies concerning the state of the human and natural in the ATNNR (and to some extent adjacent areas)

have been published in the last 20 years. The PDF-B study on the State of the natural and socio-economic environment demonstrates that no monitoring system is currently functional and that the state of the natural and human environment has considerably evolved since the period covered (up to 1991) by the last exhaustive review (Etude Initial, Giazzi, 1996). The PDF-B Study on the *State of the ecological and socio-economic environment and proposals for the establishment of a long term monitoring system (l'Etat des Lieux et Propositions pour la mise en place d'un système de suivi à long terme)* proposes a scheme of observation and monitoring of the physical, biological and human environment, based on ROSELT protocols. A quantitative system (**Output 4.1**) based on a network of observatories gathering data that will be integrated with a Geographical Information System is to be established. ROSELT will assume the running of this information system in Phase III. This network will be enhanced by a qualitative effort to capitalise upon local knowledge of both sedentary and nomadic communities (**Output 4.2**), concerning the evolution of the physical, biological and human environment. The conjunction of these two information systems will contribute, by the end of the Phase, to the identification of a tool for decision-makers adapted to local capabilities combining an analysis emanating from local observers with an evaluation of trends generated from scientific data.

71. ROSELT / Niger and ASS will contribute up to US\$ 40,000 and 15,000 respectively to the implementation of the participatory and scientific monitoring of ecological and socio-economic conditions in the ATNNR and adjacent areas. Additional financing of up to US\$ 300,000 is to be sought from potential project partners.

72. **Outcome 5: Learning, evaluation and adaptive management improved.** The objective of COGERAT Phase II is to put in place a decentralised co-management system able to deliver results in terms of land degradation and improvement of livelihoods. During this period (2005 – 2010) the project, like most support to local governance and local development, will be managed by a Unit (Project Implementation Unit) external to beneficiary communities. The reinforcement of capabilities, the joint learning process involving the 4 Municipalities, state extension services, and local communities will make possible, in the Phase III (2010 – 2016) the management of project activities at the local level, on the basis of enhanced capacities and the framework provided by the Co-Management Agreement to be produced during Phase II. To this end, information gathered in the course of project implementation will be made available to decision makers and the public and will serve as the basis for the completion of a replicability plan – describing and mapping institutions and processes to be replicated in Phase III, after the end of the GEF project(**Output 5.1**). This learning process will be enhanced by a regular participatory monitoring and by the contributions of mid-term and final Phase external evaluations (**Output 5.2**) A Scientific Committee and a Steering Committee (**Output 5.3**) will ensure the political and scientific conformity of project activities. The preparation, each year, of a participatory (sedentary and nomadic communities) diagnosis (of the state of the physical, biological and socio-economic environment (**Output 5.4**) will complete the joint learning measures. Management and financial procedures as well as annual audits (**Output 5.5**) will ensure the proper use of resources made available to COGERAT.

73. Additional financing to the tune of US\$ 350,000 is to be sought from potential project partners. The Government of Niger will contribute US\$ 150,000 to cover its participation at all levels in the project and an additional US\$ 150,000 to Outcome 1, US\$ 50,000 to Outcome 2, and US\$ 150,000 to Outcome 3.

#### Indicators, risks and assumption

74. A range of indicators and monitoring parameters are identified in the project Logical framework and in the PDF-B study on the *State of the ecological and socio-economic environment and proposals for the establishment of a long term monitoring system*. These include both quantitative indicators (surface area restored, people and organisations trained in SLM techniques, trends in revenues, vegetation cover) and

qualitative indicators (Co-Management Agreement, installation of co-management and conflict resolution institutions).

75. Two risks appear as most important. The first is the willingness of the parties involved to collaborate effectively. Difficulties with clarifying the hierarchy of rights in the ATNNR and adjacent areas are bound to arise. Numerous texts apply (Decrees creating Nature Reserve, Forestry Code, Rural Code, Pastoral Code, Decentralisation Law) in the zone, The Land Commissions will have to reconcile these texts with Municipal and user group rights. The Municipalities have been called upon to assume a range of new responsibilities in the context of the Law on Decentralisation. Neither they nor the Land Commissions have the capabilities needed. The new roles also imply a change in attitude and functions by the State extension services.

76. The second risk is the need to mobilise funding in support of decentralised management of sustainable land management, the new responsibilities assigned to the Municipal level and local development. Budgets from national resources are insufficient when compared to the extent of the problems facing local government. Local resources are likely to remain limited, so international funding will be necessary given the scale of the investments required - in infrastructure, domestic energy and building, improving access to markets, to name but these areas - that will be necessary to keep a rapidly growing natural resource consumption to within levels that can be sustained by the ecosystem.

77. A third risk is intrinsic in the arid nature of the area. Resource availability fluctuates significantly in both space and time and environmental shocks such as prolonged drought, locust invasions and floods can have tremendous impacts on natural resources and landscapes, as well as on livelihoods.

78. COGERAT will have the significant challenge of assisting in the mobilisation of technical and financial resources in a difficult context.

#### *Expected national and global benefits*

79. It is expected that there will be substantial global benefits. These will include ensuring ecosystem and landscape integrity, stability, functions and services, soil conservation, maintenance of vegetation cover, conservation of internationally important wildlife and habitats, and improved understanding of viable co-management options in sparsely populated arid ecosystems.

80. 20 million hectares will be co-managed by State and Municipal authorities under a co-management agreement by 4 Municipalities and the Government of Niger. Some 55,000 ha of degraded land important for the pastoral and market gardening economy will be restored using techniques that will also improve water harvesting. An additional 100,000 ha will be under Municipal and user group management and soil stabilisation, water harvesting and soil protection measures implemented. 7 Land Commissions will function to provide a framework for conflict resolution and securing rights of rural producers. Illegal extraction of natural resources (wood, hay, wildlife) from the ATNNR and adjacent areas will diminish by 50% domestic consumption of wood in urban areas will be reduced by 15% thereby reversing the decline in soil cover and organic matter in the soil. Internationally important wildlife habitat will be protected and restored and wildlife protected through cooperation between State, rural communities and tourist industry.

81. Expected national benefits include poverty alleviation, improved natural resource management, reversal of land degradation, identification of transferable SLM approaches and methodologies that are responsive to social needs, reduced conflicts and therefore more propitious environment for generating tourism revenues.

Country ownership: Country Eligibility and Country Drivenness

The Government of Niger has ratified the following environmental management conventions:

<b>CONVENTION</b>	<b>DATE</b>
UNCCD	1996
UNFCCC	1995
Convention on Biological Diversity	1995
RAMSAR Convention	1987
Bonn Convention on Migratory Species	1980
World Heritage Convention	1974
CITES	1973
African Convention on the conservation of nature and natural resources	1970

82. The Niger national socio – economic policy is documented in the Strategy for the Reduction of Poverty (SRP) that is the main reference for national sustainable development. The SRP fully addresses the policies and priorities of the NEPAD global framework, by focusing on the important role of sustainable development for poverty alleviation. The National Plan for Environment and Sustainable Development (PNEDD) which is Niger’s national Agenda 21 is one of the components of this strategy. The PNEDD has six priority programs among which is the National Action Plan for Combating Desertification and Natural Resources Management (PAN/LCD-GRN). The PAN/LCD-GRN has five priority programs namely:

- Sub-program of land degradation restoration and conservation and surface water mobilisation and management;
- Sub-program of combating sand dune formation;
- Sub-program of community forestry and natural resources management;
- Sub-program capacity building of national institutions in charge of environment monitoring and observation of desertification and drought;
- Sub-program monitoring and evaluation of PAN/LCD-GRN.

The COGERAT project is directly in line with at least four of the five programs of the PAN/LCD-GRN.

83. The process of elaboration and finalization of the PAN/LCD-GRN is recognised as having been a model for West Africa and has been based on the following elements:

- PAN/LCD-GRN has been built on the national capacity and adapted to the national context.
- Ownership by different stakeholders at all level through a participatory approach;
- The creation of a national consultative body through a technical committee in charge of PAN/LCD-GRN elaboration;
- National, regional and sub-regional diagnoses of the environmental problems and issues;
- Preparation of complementary thematic studies (gender issues; poverty; etc.)
- Information and awareness of national and local stakeholders on the United Nation Convention for Combating Desertification through regional workshops;
- Elaboration and finalization of PAN/LCD-GRN document taking in to account the regional commentaries.

84. Under the auspices of the Ministry of Environment, Water resources and Combating Desertification, the National Directorate of Environment - DE (National Technical Focal Point for CCD) and the National Directorate of Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture (DFPP) have worked together and agreed to place the project under OP 15. The Executive Secretariat of the National Council of Environment for Sustainable Development (CNEDD), as the Political Focal Point of the three Conventions (CBD, CCD, CCNUCC), as well as that of the Ministry of Finance and the Economy (the GEF operational focal point), have agreed with the new orientation. The Government is pleased with this development, because it meets its felt priorities, as the first submission of the concept (1998) was in fact for a sustainable land management project, which at that time was not eligible for GEF funding. The Government sees this project as an opportunity to engage different sectors in joint (cross-sectoral) actions. The MH/E – LCD will preside the Steering Committee for COGERAT and the Directorate responsible for SLM will oversee project implementation on a day-to-day basis.

### *Sustainability and replicability*

85. The principal guarantee of the institutional sustainability of the project resides in the reinforcement of the capacities of the 4 Municipalities to conceive and implement joint SLM and SRM actions. The project will put in place a surveillance network, an InterMunicipal platform, a crisis early-warning and response mechanism and work to integrate SLM concepts and approaches into Municipal Development Plans. The legitimacy of Municipal undertakings in respect of the ATNNR will be guaranteed by the conclusion of a co-management agreement with the MH/E-LCD, which manages, on behalf of the State, the ATNNR and adjacent areas by virtue of their World Heritage and Man and Biosphere status. This agreement will clarify and allocated shared responsibilities and prerogatives for controlling access to and use of land and resources, and define shared management modalities. It will also provide a legal basis for the involvement of Municipalities in the management of the National Nature Reserve. The project aims to create conditions allowing sustainable land management within the complex by reinforcing the capacities of Municipalities, sedentary and nomadic user groups and government services and assisting in the installing of innovative and decentralised institutional mechanisms for planning development actions and resolving conflicts of interest.

86. The project will ensure that there is a major focus on financial sustainability of the SLM and SRM mechanisms in the long run. The project will support the 4 Municipalities and the relevant state bodies in devising a long-term financing mechanism to provide long-term support to both globally and locally relevant SLM actions in the region. Baseline activities will support the Municipalities in identifying ways and means of generating resources at the local level. Land restoration activities of the project will also indirectly contribute to increasing incomes by acting on production conditions (pasture rehabilitation, water harvesting and reduction of soil loss, protection and promotion of sustainable animal husbandry, rationalisation of oasis farming. The building of capacity within local communities will reinforce the basis for long-term sustainability.

87. Ecological sustainability will be improved through the restoration of degraded land, through a reduction in pressure on land and natural resources achieved through reduced urban consumption of ATNNR and adjacent area natural resources, and through the use of technologies and approaches that will not have adverse impacts on biodiversity, climate change or ecosystem integrity.

88. The setting up of a monitoring and evaluation system constitutes a guarantee for providing reliable data on the long-term evolution of socio-economic and ecological conditions in the area. It will also make it possible to orient the sustainable development activities that will be programmed, in order to monitor their impacts and to eventually propose re-orientations as necessary, in a framework of adaptive management. The M&E system will allow cross-project learning among similar projects in the GEF and IA portfolios, such as: the High Atlas Project in Morocco; the Senegal Integrated Ecosystem Management

project; and Chad's Moyen Chari project. Finally, the monitoring and evaluation strategy of the project will include drought monitoring, and this will be made sustainable (after project completion) through establishing a direct partnership for the use of the ROSELT framework to monitor drought phenomena in the area.

89. Another aspect of sustainability and of replication will be the close collaboration with the Ahaggar-Tassili project in Algeria (UNDP/GEF) as a result of its location (near the border) and the existing links with regards to ecosystems and nomadic herding. The Ahaggar project already includes trans-border activities and it is probable that this Aïr-Ténéré project will also develop mechanisms for trans-border cooperation and coordination.

90. Environmental and social sustainability are intimately linked insofar as the principal threats to the integrity of the ecosystem are human induced. The guarantee of sustainability is thus to be sought in the context of a reduction of external pressures (satisfaction of energy and construction requirements of urban centres, reduction in poaching, control and reduction of abusive over-exploitation of natural resources) and in the improvement of production systems (agriculture and livestock) and in the introduction of new sources of income (tourism) to alleviate dependence on the exploitation of natural resources. This project is among the rare projects that are directly committed to assisting pastoral and nomadic peoples in sustainable land management. This experience could serve as a model for the development of similar initiatives in other Sahelo-Saharan areas, such as Mauritania and Mali where the lessons learned will also be shared and applied.

### *PART III: Management arrangements*

91. COGERAT will be implemented under a Standard National Execution Agreement between the Ministry of hydraulics, environment and Desertification Control (MH/E-LCD) of the Republic of Niger and the United Nations Development Programme. The MH/E-LCD directorate responsible for SLM will assure, in the name of the MH/E-LCD, the day-to-day technical supervision of the project. A Steering Committee will be established to oversee and direct project implementation (see project organigramme in Section III, Part II).

92. In order to accord proper acknowledgement to GEF for providing funding, a GEF logo should appear on all relevant GEF project publications, including among others, project hardware and vehicles purchased with GEF funds. Any citation on publications regarding projects funded by GEF should also accord proper acknowledgment to GEF. The UNDP logo should be more prominent -- and separated from the GEF logo if possible, as UN visibility is important for security purposes.

93. At the regional (sub-national) level, the project will be coordinated and implemented by a Project Implementation Unit. This Unit will be led by a Coordinator seconded by: an Expert in social mobilisation and local development; an Expert agronomist specialised in natural resources management; an Expert in monitoring methodologies; an Administrative and Financial Officer; other support personnel to be determined.

94. The project will collaborate closely with government extension services, NGOs, private sector, projects and service providers, all of whom will provide advice / support in the implementation of COGERAT activities. A Forum of partners will meet each year in Agadez so that information on project activities and impacts can be shared and discussed and the potential contributions of partners coordinated. This Forum will have a key role to play in addressing the interaction between the Agadez Region and its urban centres, and the ATNNR and adjacent areas. The Project Management Unit will catalyse the work of this Forum, in order to address the mitigation of external impacts of the ATNNR and adjacent areas.

95. At the local level, COGERAT will support the constitution and functioning of an InterMunicipality platform the principal task of which will be to coordinate SLM priorities of the 4 Municipalities and to negotiate the Co-Management Agreement for the ATNNR and adjacent areas. In order to ensure a regular contact between the project and rural communities and user groups, the project will establish, with each Municipality, a COGERAT Unit. These units will facilitate the social mobilisation and organisation required for the implementation of COGERAT activities.

#### ***PART IV: Monitoring and evaluation plan and budget***

96. Ongoing project monitoring of the global FSP will be in accordance with established UNDP procedures and will be applied and complemented by GEF M&E procedures.

97. The principal purpose of the Monitoring and evaluation system is to contribute to the identification of methodological, technical and social mobilization models that can be replicated, in Phase III, in an evolving institutional and rights framework. In this sense it is expected that Phase III, by way of systematic replication and dissemination of appropriate methodologies, technologies and social mobilization models, will see a significant impact at a landscape level.

98. It is also noted that several aspects of the baseline situation (water flow, erosion, income, etc.) will be established in the first year so as to allow for measurement of project impacts and achievement of the benchmarks shown in the logical framework,

#### **Reporting**

The COGERAT Project Steering Committee will be responsible for the preparation and submission of the following reports:

##### ***(a) Inception Report (IR)***

99. The inception report is to be prepared by the National Coordinator with the assistance of project executing agency, stakeholders and other COGERAT committees as relevant. The IR will be prepared no later than three months after project start-up and will include a detailed work plan and budget for the first year of implementation, progress to date on project establishment and preparatory activities and any proposed amendments to project activities, logical framework, committee composition or approaches. The report will be circulated to all the parties through the COGERAT project discussion forum and additional channels. Project stakeholders will then be given a period of one calendar month in which to respond with comments or queries. The report will also be reviewed by the Executing Agency and UNDP/GEF to ensure consistency with the objectives and activities indicated in the Project Document.

##### ***(b) Annual Project Report (APR) and PIR***

100. The Annual Project Report (APR) is designed to obtain the independent views of the main stakeholders of a project on its relevance, performance and the likelihood of its success. The APR aims to: a) provide a rating and textual assessment of the progress of a project in achieving its objectives; b) present stakeholders' insights into issues affecting the implementation of a project and their proposals for addressing those issues; and c) serve as a source of inputs to the Tripartite Review (TPR).

101. The APRs will be prepared every six months by the National Coordinator during the first year of the project, and then annually. The APRs will detail activities undertaken since the last APR, milestones reached, key results and achievements, problems encountered, potential risks and any other issues that need to be highlighted. The APR will use the format of the Streamlined APR/PIR provided by UNDP-GEF, and will be reviewed by the executing agency and UNDP-GEF.



### ***(c) Periodic Status Reports***

102. As and when called for by the Project Steering Committee, the National Coordinator will prepare Status Reports, focusing on specific thematic issues or areas of activity as stipulated by the client. The request for a Status Report will be in written form, and will clearly state the issue or activities, which need to be reported on. These reports can be used as a form of specific oversight in key areas, or as troubleshooting exercises to evaluate and overcome obstacles and difficulties encountered. The Project Steering Committee is requested to minimize their request for Status Reports, and when such are necessary will allow reasonable timeframes for the preparation of these Reports.

### ***(d) Technical / Synthesis Reports***

103. Technical Reports are detailed documents covering specific areas of analysis, discipline or scientific specializations within the overall project. As part of the Inception Report, the Project Steering Committee in association with the Scientific Advisory Committee will prepare a draft Reports List, detailing the technical reports that are anticipated on key areas of activity during the course of the Project, and tentative due dates. Where necessary this Reports List will be revised and updated, and included in subsequent APRs. Technical Reports may also be prepared by external consultants as Final Reports for their technical inputs, and should be comprehensive, specialized analyses of clearly-defined areas of research within the framework of the project and its sites.

### ***Project Publications***

104. Project Publications will form a key method of crystallizing and disseminating the results and achievements of the Project. These publications will be scientific or informational texts on the activities and achievements of the Project, in the form of books, journal articles, manuals, multimedia publications or other innovative tools. These Publications can be based on Technical Reports, depending upon the relevance, scientific worth, etc. of these Reports, or may be summaries or compilations of a series of Technical Reports and other research. The Scientific Advisory Committee will determine if specific Technical Reports merit formal publication / dissemination, and will also (in consultation the other project committees and with the help of external specialists where necessary) plan and produce these Publications in a consistent and recognizable format and identity. These Publications will form the most visible public output of the Project, and as such should be prepared and presented to the highest scientific and technical standards.

### ***Project Terminal Report***

105. During the last three months of the project, the National Coordinator will prepare the Project Terminal Report. This comprehensive report will summarize all activities, milestones, achievements and outputs of the Project, lessons learnt, objectives met and missed, structures, risks incurred and systems implemented, etc. and will be the definitive statement of the Project's activities over the three-year duration. It will also lay out recommendations for any further steps / actions that may need to be taken to ensure sustainability and replicability of the Project's activities.

### ***Scientific Advisory Committee Reports***

106. As per TOR deliverables, this will constitute the following series of reports:

- a) Annual reports to *Advisory and Partners Committee*, coordinated by the Chair
- b) A final report, coordinated by the Chair, delivered 3 months prior to the completion of the project.
- c) Synthesis reports on each subject/discipline by each responsible member

### **Monitoring & Evaluation**

#### ***Tripartite Review (TPR)***

107. The tripartite review (TPR) is the highest policy-level meeting of the parties directly involved in the implementation of a project. The project will be subject to Tripartite Review (TPR) at least once every twelve months by representatives of the Project Steering Committee.

108. The APR/PIR will be used as one of the basic documents for discussions in the TPR meeting. The APR must be ready two weeks prior to the TPR. The National Coordinator will present the APR to the TPR, highlighting policy issues and recommendations for the decision of the TPR participants. The National Coordinator also informs the participants of any agreement reached by stakeholders during the APR preparation on how to resolve operational issues.

#### ***Terminal Tripartite Review (TTR)***

109. The terminal tripartite review is held in the last month of project operations. The National Coordinator is responsible for preparing the Terminal Report, and to submit to it UNDP. It shall be prepared in draft sufficiently in advance to allow review and technical clearance by the executing agency at least two months prior to the terminal tripartite review. The Terminal Report will serve as the basis for discussions in the TTR. The terminal tripartite review considers the implementation of the project as a whole, paying particular attention to whether the project has achieved its immediate objectives and contributed to the broader objective, and decides whether any follow-up actions are still necessary.

### **PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW (PIR)**

110. A major tool for monitoring the GEF portfolio and extracting lessons is the annual GEF Project Implementation Review (PIR). The PIR has become an essential management and monitoring tool and offers the main vehicle for extracting lessons from ongoing projects.

#### ***Mid-term Evaluation***

111. An independent Mid-Term Evaluation will be undertaken at the end of the third year of implementation in close consultation with the CGERAT Steering Committee. The Mid-Term Evaluation will focus on the effectiveness, efficiency and timeliness of project implementation; will highlight issues requiring decisions and actions; and will present initial lessons learned about project design, implementation and management. Findings of this review will be incorporated as recommendations for enhanced implementation during the final half of the project's term.

#### ***Final Evaluation***

112. An independent Final Independent Evaluation will take place three months prior to the terminal tripartite review meeting, and will focus on the same issues as the mid-term evaluation. The final evaluation will also look at early signs of potential impact and sustainability of results, including the contribution to capacity development and the achievement of global environmental goals. The Final Evaluation should also provide recommendations for follow-up activities. The organization, terms of

reference and timing of the final evaluation will be decided after consultation between the parties to the project document.

### ***Regular Monitoring and Evaluation***

113. The project will also be closely monitored by UNDP and the Executing institution through quarterly meetings or more frequently as deemed necessary by the Project Steering Committee. This will allow stocktaking and to trouble shoot of any problems pertaining to the project quickly to ensure smooth implementation of project activities and to review whether the project is living up to expectation.

<b>Type of Monitoring – Evaluation Action</b>	<b>Responsible party</b>	<b>Budget US\$ (Not counting UNDP or project staff time)</b>	<b>Timing</b>
Inception Works hop	Project Coordinator UNDP Niger UNDP/GEF MH/E-LCD CNEDD	20,000	Within three months of start of project
Inception report	Project team UNDP Niger MH/E-LCD	None	Immediately after Inception workshop
Measure of the means of verification of the project indicators	Project Coordinator will supervise the conduct of specific studies and will delegate execution to members of his team	To be finalised during inception workshop	Begin, mi-term and end of project
Measure of the means of verification of the advancement and project performance (Measured on an annual basis)	Supervision Steering Committee and Scientific Committee; Project Coordinator and project teams	To be determined in the context of annual workplan preparation	Each year, before the progress report and review of progress and before preparation of annual workplans
Annual Progress reports and review reports	Project Coordinator UNDP Niger UNDP/GEF CNEDD	None	Each year
Steering Committee and reports of Steering Committee	MH/E-LCD Concerned Ministries UNDP Niger Project team UNDP – GEF CNEDD	None	Each year, after receipt of annual progress report
Periodic reports	Project team	5,000	To be decided by project Team and UNDP Niger
Technical reports	Project Team	15,000	To be decided by

	Consultants if necessary		project Team and UNDP Niger
Mid-term evaluation	Project Coordinator MH/E-LCD UNDP Niger UNDP/GEF External consultants (evaluation team)	20000	Mid-term (end 3rd year)
Final external evaluation	Project Coordinator MH/E-LCD UNDP Niger UNDP/GEF External consultants (evaluation team)	30,000	End of Phase (6th year)
Termination report	Project team UNDP Niger	None	At least one month before the end of the Phase
Publications on project lessons learned	Project Team UNDP-GEF	18,000 (Average 3,000 per year)	Each year
Audit	UNDP Niger Project Team	60,000	Each year
Site visits (UNDP personnel travel costs to be charged to EA costs)	UNDP Niger UNDP GEF Government representatives	15,000 (average one visit per year)	Each year
TOTAL Indicative costs (excluding the costs of project team and UNDP and their travel costs)		250,000	Total Phase

### ***PART V: Legal context***

114. This Project Document shall be the instrument referred to as such in Article I of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Niger and the United Nations Development Programme, signed by the parties. The host country-implementing agency shall, for the purpose of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement, refer to the government co-operating agency described in that Agreement.

115. UNDP acts in this Project as Implementing Agency of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and all rights and privileges pertaining to UNDP as per the terms of the SBAA shall be extended mutatis mutandis to GEF.

116. The UNDP Resident Representative in Niger is authorized to effect in writing the following types of revision to this Project Document, provided that he/she has verified the agreement thereto by the UNDP-GEF Unit and is assured that the other signatories to the Project Document have no objection to the proposed changes:

a) Revision of, or addition to, any of the annexes to the Project Document;

b) Revisions which do not involve significant changes in the immediate objectives, outputs or activities of the project, but are caused by the rearrangement of the inputs already agreed to or by cost increases due to inflation;

c) Mandatory annual revisions which re-phase the delivery of agreed project inputs or increased expert or other costs due to inflation or take into account agency expenditure flexibility; and

*Inclusion of additional annexes and attachments only as set out here in this Project Document*

## **SECTION II : STRATEGIC RESULTS FRAMEWORK AND GEF INCREMENT**

### *PART I : Incremental Costs Analysis*

#### **Context and general objective of development**

117. The population of Niger lives for the most part (85%) in rural areas and is occupied in agropastoral activities the performance of which is directly related to the condition of natural resources. According to official figures, poverty affects 62 to 63% of the population and rural dwellers are the hardest hit (86% of poor). For this reason, poverty alleviation is the principal preoccupation of the Government that has elaborated a Poverty Reduction Strategy paper that now constitutes the main reference for economic and social policies of the country. According to Government analyses, the causes of poverty are multiple. The degradation of natural resources and the environment is one of the principal causes.

118. The main objective of the government is to reduce poverty to a level below 50%. The strategic orientations to achieve this reduction give priority to the management of natural resources, desertification control and environmental protection.

119. The preservation of the different natural complexes of the country forms a part of rural development policies and of the poverty reduction strategy. For these reasons, the ATNNR complex, consisting of the Air and Ténéré National Nature Reserve (8 million hectares) and its adjacent areas (for a total of 20 million hectares) has been the subject of special attention. Indeed, the plant and animal life of this region represents an important capital for the country: more than 300 plant species are represented and the fauna is equally rich with rare animals such as the addax, the dama gazelle, Barbary sheep, the droguera baboon, the patas monkey and over 90 species of bird (41% resident and 59% migratory) of which the red necked ostrich and the Nubian bustard. This ecosystem has been made more fragile by repeated droughts and increasing human pressures. These pressures persist due to the absence of a local system to ensure the sustainable management of lands and natural resources. In addition, economic imperatives and the prevalence of poverty constitute permanent threats weighing on the management of this vast complex.

120. In the guiding principles for poverty reduction, the government assigns a major role to the participation of the population, of civil society and decentralised governance structures in all initiatives as this is seen as a guarantee for the sustainability of initiatives.

121. It is in this context that a new initiative to co-manage the ATNNR and adjacent areas is proposed with a view to reversing land degradation and conserving this Saharan ecosystem of Northern Niger through a process of combining local development and decentralisation and respect for local traditions. This initiative will capitalise on previous experiences such as the PAGRNAT that was able to initiate a dynamic of community organisation. The initiative is also in keeping with the process of decentralisation that gives Municipalities more responsibilities for the management of natural resources and the environment.

#### **Baseline scenario**

122. The baseline scenario concerns actions taking place in the ATNNR region. Most of these can be construed as contributing indirectly to the project Goal in that they cumulatively will reduce poverty, improve livelihoods and governance, and thereby reduce pressures on natural resources and improve governance and management of the environment. Projects and programmes likely to be implemented during the next 6 years have been identified. They are financed by the State budget, international donors and development partners, Municipalities, NGOs and Associations and concern such areas as education, health, production systems, energy, infrastructure development, legislation and institutional development, and administrative organisation.

123. Amongst these initiatives under way or planned that will concern (directly or indirectly) the ATNNR and adjacent areas are the following:

- Policies and decentralisation: Decentralisation represents a major option for Niger and all regions, including the Agadez region, are concerned, Numerous actions have been launched to initiate and reinforce this process in the Agadez region. These initiatives are supported by several development partners (European Union, GTZ, French Cooperation), the State (several actions foreseen in the context of the Poverty Reduction Strategy as well as in the normal functioning of various Ministries) and support decentralised institutions which heretofore are to have key responsibilities for the management of natural resources and the environment with their sphere of geographical competence.
- Management of natural resources and desertification control: Two important projects presently cover the Agadez Region (PNN – Northern Niger project and PAFN – Project to manage natural forests) supported by GTZ financing in collaboration with KFW and FAD/BAD. They target mainly the management of natural resources; The Government of Niger has also programmed numerous similar actions in the context of the Poverty Reduction Strategy. Indeed, management of natural resources and desertification control are key objectives of the government.
- Food security: Two food security projects are underway in the Agadez region. These are the programmes for Basic integrated services (P/SBI) funded by UNICEF and a project of the NGO AFRICARE financed by USAID. Food Security is also a major preoccupation of the national government which has taken numerous initiatives to address food security,
- Livestock raising: Livestock raising is the principal source of income for the population of the Agadez region (46% of cash income). Several partners as well and the State support the development of this sector in the region. The village water supply project funded by KFW, the Special programme of the President of the Republic finances (with PTTE funding) pastoral wells, veterinary health outposts and the purchase of milk cows, and the project for Support to Animal health of the French Cooperation. The State, through the programmes of the Ministry of Animal Resources provides diverse support to the sector in the region.
- Tourism: Tourism is an important activity in the Agadez region; it is mainly operated by the private sector in collaboration with the local population. The State participates through the Tourism Ministry as well as through the inscription of tourism as an important sector in the Poverty Reduction Strategy. The actors involved in tourism are organised in professional associations and contribute to local development by way of socio-economic initiatives in favour of the local population.

124. In general, the interventions of the State are all contributing to the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) and in one way or another are seen as contributing to poverty reduction. The PRS is already established for the 2001 – 2005 period, and is presently being revised for the 2006 – 2009 period. It is likely that the main orientations will remain the same, though allocations involved may increase slightly. State contributions to COGERAT would concern mainly co-management and monitoring aspects.

125. The Municipalities have budgets that are likely to increase as a result of decentralisation. Their participation in the COGERAT initiatives could reach some 3% of their budgets and would relate primarily the InterMunicipal aspects, co-management agreements and adaptive learning. Communal (and other local) initiatives that will be financed by existing investment funds (LUCOP etc.) in the region require that the project proponent put up 10% of the total cost of the investment.

126. Contributions from international development partners would be more substantial and could contribute to sustainable land management and restoration actions, capacity development of Municipalities, Monitoring and Adaptive learning. SDC has participated in funding of Phase I and will be approached for further funding on the basis of this document. ROSELT wishes to cooperate in the context of long-term monitoring, while the PAC and LUCOP projects, already present in the ATNNR and adjacent areas are expected to cooperate with COGERAT with respect to Municipal reinforcement and sustainable land management activities.

### **Global Environment Benefits**

127. It is expected that there will be substantial global benefits. These will include ensuring ecosystem and landscape integrity, stability, functions and services, soil conservation, maintenance of vegetation cover, conservation of internationally important wildlife and habitats, and improved understanding of viable co-management options in sparsely populated arid ecosystems.

128. 20 million hectares will be co-managed by State and Municipal authorities under a co-management agreement by 4 Municipalities and the Government of Niger. Some 55,000 ha of degraded land important for the pastoral and market gardening economy will be restored using techniques that will also improve water harvesting. An additional 100,000 ha will be under Municipal and user group management and soil stabilisation, water harvesting and soil protection measures implemented. 7 Land Commissions will function to provide a framework for conflict resolution and securing rights of rural producers. Illegal extraction of natural resources (wood, hay, wildlife) from the ATNNR and adjacent areas will diminish by 50% domestic consumption of wood in urban areas will be reduced by 15% thereby reversing the decline in soil cover and organic matter in the soil. Internationally important wildlife habitat will be protected and restored and wildlife protected through cooperation between State, rural communities and tourist industry.

129. Expected national benefits include poverty alleviation, improved natural resource management, reversal of land degradation, identification of transferable SLM approaches and methodologies that are responsive to social needs, reduced conflicts and therefore more propitious environment for generating tourism revenues. COGERAT will contribute to sustainable land management and the conservation of ecosystems in Northern Niger through the integration of the decentralisation and local development processes.

### **The GEF alternative scenario**

130. COGERAT will contribute to sustainable land management and the conservation of ecosystems in Northern Niger through the integration of the decentralisation and local development processes.

131. National actions are not sufficient to ensure the protection and conservation of lands, natural resources and internationally significant biodiversity in the ATNNR and adjacent areas. Additional actions are necessary and imply additional costs for Niger.

132. The objective of the GEF alternative is to permit the establishment of a concerted and decentralised system for sustainable land management in the ATNNR and adjacent areas which will reverse trends towards land degradation, preserve the integrity of the ecosystem, conserve internationally important biodiversity and improve livelihoods through an approach involving 4 Municipalities in an ecosystem level partnership with the State and the private sector.

133. The COGERAT project will facilitate the organisation of stakeholders at an ecosystem level working through emerging governance structures at the local level and existing regional and national structures responsible for sustainable land management (Land Commissions and technical Ministries responsible for natural resources and local development). It will facilitate the conjunction of efforts



and finding synergies between existing projects in the region at the level of the ATNNR and adjacent areas.

134. This will result in concrete co-management measures and investments for sustainable land management, for protection of soils and natural resources, for the improvement of livelihoods, the preservation of globally important biodiversity. Indirectly the project will contribute to the Man and Biosphere programme and the maintenance of the World heritage values of the complex.

### **Systems boundary**

135. The geographical boundary of the project is the Air and Tenere Complex (20 million hectares). All project activities will occur in this zone, although some of the awareness raising and replication activities may extend to the national scale. The incremental cost analysis covers a period of 6 years and covers the Air and Tenere Complex. However, the COGERAT has a longer term vision that goes beyond the life of the GEF Alternative, and includes not only replication of successful results, but also consolidation of development gains and monitoring/evaluation of impacts.

### **Incremental costs**

136. The logic of GEF interventions is that it will finance only incremental costs, that is to say costs which will permit the achievement of global environmental benefits. In the case of COGERAT the principal global benefit is the preservation of the integrity of the Air and Tenere Complex. Other benefits at a national level will be funded by ongoing, baseline activities. The global benefits will be achieved from both GEF and co-financing incremental funding. GEF financing will aim to lift key barriers to sustainable land management that are more directly related to land degradation and biodiversity issues, the most important being:

- The decentralization policy has resulted in fragmented and uncoordinated actions by the four municipalities, who are thus unable to address ecosystem connectivity and landscape level issues, or to cope with droughts
- Information at the landscape level either does not exist, or is not regularly updated in order to provide input into decision making on SLM and SRM
- New and innovative methods for SLM in valleys and for environmentally sustainable ecosystem restoration are not tested nor understood
- Livelihood improvement projects emanating from local communities do not focus on SLM or SRM
- Traditional SRM techniques are breaking down as a result of uncoordinated action between municipalities
- Surveillance of natural resource extraction is not effectively done at the landscape level
- Best practices in developing incentives for SLM are not known (e.g. eco-tourism strategy; species reintroduction linked to income benefits)
- Top down approach of government extension agents is not commensurate with decentralization policy, and at the least in the fields of SLM and SRM requires capacity building in co-management
- Baseline donors functioning in a fragmented and ad hoc fashion
- Typical project management continues to be inflexible and not responsive to lessons learnt nor to the unpredictable (dryland) nature of the ecosystem

137. Complementary co-financing will concern the following threats and barriers:

- Incentives for sustainable land management may exist, but are affected by root causes such as insecurity, drought, land degradation and poverty / population pressure
- Awareness concerning the conservation of natural resources is limited

- Donor funding for livelihood security focuses on short term gains, not long term sustainability
  - Lack of financing to implement co-management agreements and long term monitoring and evaluation system
  - Regional and international shared learning and knowledge management does not occur enough
- 138. The division of GEF to co-financing for the individual outcomes therefore is commensurate with these categories of barriers. The GEF increment is additional to both the baseline and the co-finance and does not entail any substitutional activities.

### **Incremental cost Summary**

139. The GEF Alternative will build on a strong baseline that has been calculated to represent \$25,295,635. The GEF Alternative is \$34,536,957, where the Baseline is \$25,295,635, and the total increment is \$9,241,322 (without the PDF B), of which GEF is \$4,000,000 and co-finance is \$5,241,322. As the project progresses, other financing may be sought for additional activities to reinforce the impacts of the project.

### **Incremental costs matrix**

Please see Annex A of the Executive Summary

### ***PART II: Logical Framework***

Please see Annex B of the Executive Summary

**SECTION III: TOTAL BUDGET AND WORKPLAN**

Award Title: PIMS 2294 – LD – FSP - Air Tenere

**Title of the project:** Co-Management of Resources in the Air and Tenere National Nature Reserve and adjacent areas

GEF Outcome/Atlas Activity**	Responsible Party	Source of Funds	Amount (USD) Year 1	Amount (USD) Year 2	Amount (USD) Year 3	Amount (USD) Year 4	Amount (USD) Year 5	Amount (USD) Year 6	Total (USD) All Years
<b>Outcome 1: Strong enabling framework for stakeholders to implement shared management of natural resources at the landscape level</b>	MHE/LCD	ASS	5,000	0	0	0	0	0	<b>5,000</b>
		LUCOF	73,270	73,260	73,250	73,265	73,265	73,260	<b>439,570</b>
		PNN	18,690	18,690	18,690	18,690	18,688	18,688	<b>112,136</b>
		PADDEN	34,203	0	0	0	0	0	<b>34,203</b>
		PMR-NN	224,276	224,276	224,276	0	0	0	<b>672,828</b>
		PNUD	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	<b>60,000</b>
		Others (UNESCO, DCC, DANIDA)	83,335	83,333	83,333	83,333	83,333	83,333	<b>500,000</b>
		GEF	120,000	90,000	90,000	120,000	90,000	90,000	<b>600,000</b>
		Municipalities and communities	31,540	31,540	31,540	31,535	31,545	31,540	<b>189,240</b>
		Niger Government	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	<b>150,000</b>
<b>Sub-total1</b>			<b>625,314</b>	<b>556,099</b>	<b>556,089</b>	<b>361,823</b>	<b>331,831</b>	<b>331,821</b>	<b>2,762,977</b>
<b>Outcome 2: Improved livelihoods and ecosystem integrity are improved through the implementation of SLM and SRM</b>	MHE/LCD	ROSELT	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
		ASS	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
		LUCOF	18,315	18,315	18,315	18,315	18,315	18,315	<b>109,890</b>
		PNN	18,690	18,690	18,690	18,690	18,690	18,690	<b>112,140</b>
		PADDEN	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>

<b>Outcome 3: Enhanced sustainability of co-management arrangements</b>	MHE/LCD	PMR-NN	56,069	56,069	56,069	0	0	0	<b>168,207</b>	
		Others (UNESCO, DCC, DANIDA)	83,335	83,333	83,333	83,333	83,333	83,333		
										<b>500,000</b>
		GEF	200,000	150,000	150,000	200,000	150,000	150,000	<b>1,000,000</b>	
		Municipalities and communities	9,145	9,145	9,145	9,145	9,145	9,145		
										<b>54,870</b>
		Niger Government	8,335	8,333	8,333	8,333	8,333	8,333		
										<b>50,000</b>
		<b>sub-total 2</b>	<b>393889</b>	<b>343885</b>	<b>343885</b>	<b>337816</b>	<b>287816</b>	<b>287,816</b>		<b>1,995,107</b>
		ROSELT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
		ASS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
		LUCOF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
		PNN	56,069	56,069	56,069	56,069	56,069	56,069	56,069	<b>336,414</b>
		PADDEN								
		Others (UNESCO, DCC, DANIDA)	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	
										<b>450,000</b>
		GEF	120,000	90,000	90,000	120,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	<b>600,000</b>
		Municipalities and communities	5,607	5,607	5,607	5,607	5,607	5,605	5,605	
										<b>33,640</b>
		Niger Government	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	
								<b>150,000</b>		
<b>sub-total 3</b>	<b>281676</b>	<b>251676</b>	<b>251676</b>	<b>281676</b>	<b>251676</b>	<b>251,674</b>		<b>1,570,054</b>		

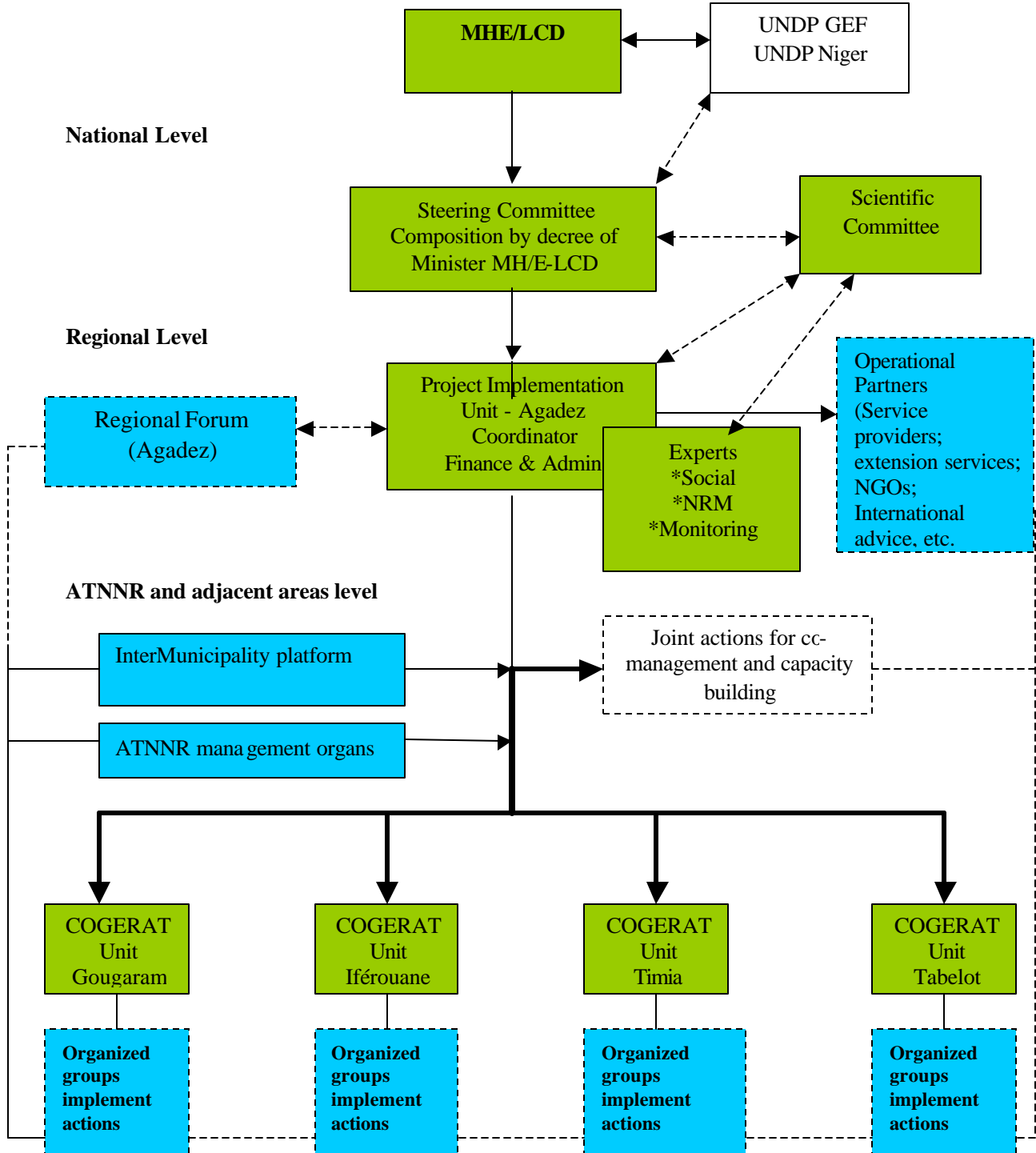
<b>Outcome 4: A participatory monitoring system based on local knowledge and scientific methods provides necessary information on the ecological and socio-economic situation</b>	MHE/LCD	Roselt	10,000	15,000	15,000	0	0	0	<b>40,000</b>	
		ASS	5,000	5,000	5,000	0	0	0	<b>15,000</b>	
		Others (UNESCO, DCC, DANIDA)	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000		<b>300,000</b>
		GEF	80,000	60,000	60,000	80,000	60,000	60,000		<b>400,000</b>
		Niger Government	0	0	0	0	0	0		<b>0</b>
		<b>Sub-total 4</b>	<b>145,000</b>	<b>130,000</b>	<b>130,000</b>	<b>130,000</b>	<b>110,000</b>	<b>110,000</b>		<b>755,000</b>
<b>Outcome 5: Learning, evaluation and adaptive management improved</b>	MHE/LCD	Roselt	10,000	15,000	15,000				<b>40,000</b>	
		Others (UNESCO, DCC, DANIDA)	58,335	58,333	58,333	58,333	58,333	58,333		<b>350,000</b>
		GEF	280,000	210,000	210,000	280,000	210,000	210,000		<b>1,400,000</b>
		Municipalities and communities	36,364	36,364	36,364	36,364	36,364	36,364		<b>218,184</b>
		Niger Government	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000		<b>150,000</b>
		<b>Sub-total 5</b>	<b>409,699</b>	<b>344,697</b>	<b>344,697</b>	<b>399,697</b>	<b>329,697</b>	<b>329,697</b>		<b>2,158,184</b>
<b>TOTAL GENERAL</b>			<b>1,855,578</b>	<b>1,626,357</b>	<b>1,626,347</b>	<b>1,511,012</b>	<b>1,311,020</b>	<b>1,311,008</b>	<b>9,241,322</b>	

***PART I: Other agreements***

**PART II: Organigram of the Project**

Key:  Organs of the project;  Actions and means;  Partners

—> Hierarchical and contractual relations; —> joint decisions;  
 - - - - - Coordination, support, monitoring and information relations



### The Organisation of COGERAT

140. The Project COGERAT will be implemented in the framework of an agreement between the Ministry of Hydraulics, Environment and the Combat against Desertification (MH/E-LCD) of the Republic of Niger and the United National Development Programme. The Directorate responsible for land degradation will assure day-to-day supervision in the name of the MH/E-LCD.

141. UNDP will be involved in the project first as the GEF Implementing Agency. UNDP Niger will be the coordinating office and will ensure overall supervision of the project. UNDP-GEF will assure technical supervision of the implementation of Phase II, UNDP-GEF will notably give no-objection opinions on the following questions: selection of the Coordinator, Head of the Project Implementation Unit; annual budgets and workplans; and periodic reports.

#### *The Steering Committee (SC)*

142. The direction and implementation of the project will be supervised by a Steering Committee chaired by the MH/E-LCD. The Directorate responsible for land degradation and a representative of the Mayors of the 4 concerned Municipalities will assume roles of 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chairpersons respectively. The Minister MH/E-LCD will designate the other members of the Steering Committee.

143. At the start of the project, the Steering Committee will meet to approve the nomination of the Project Coordinator, head of the project Implementation Unit and a second time to approve the report of the inception workshop to be prepared by the Coordinator within three months of taking up his/her post. Thereafter, the Steering Committee will meet at least once a year, and more often if necessary and a meeting called by the Chairperson.

144. The Chair of the Steering Committee may invite any resource person or institution to participate in the SC deliberations, without voting right. Decisions of the SC will be taken by consensus. The Project Coordinator will assure the organisation and secretariat of SC meetings under the direction of the Chair.

#### *The Scientific Committee*

145. A Scientific Committee will be established at the national level. The members of the Scientific Committee will be appointed by the Steering Committee at the suggestion of the Project Coordinator. The Scientific Committee will furnish scientific and technical advice at the request of the Project Implementation Unit or of the Steering Committee. In particular the Scientific Committee will contribute to the conception and establishment of the monitoring and diagnostic system foreseen in the COGERAT project.

#### *The Project Implementation Unit (PIU)*

146. A COGERAT Project Implementation Unit will be established in Agadez, within space made available by the Regional Environment Directorate. The Unit will be led by a National Coordinator of the COGERAT project, head of the project Implementation Unit. The Coordinator will be recruited nationally on the basis of standard UNDP rules and procedures, and appointed on the basis of merit and correspondence to the requisite profile.

#### *Project Coordinator / Head of the PIU*

147. The Coordinator will be responsible for the technical and financial implementation of the project. His/her supervision will be assured by the Steering Committee and by delegation, by the Director responsible for land degradation issues. The Coordinator will submit reports twice yearly (by 15 July) and annual reports (by 30 January) to the Steering Committee.



148. The Coordinator will be supported by an Administrative and Financial Officer, recruited on the basis of a national recruitment and appointed on the basis of merit and correspondence to the requisite profile, and a locally recruited accountant. The Coordinator will ensure the proper management of all funds made available through a bank account in Agadez. An annual financial audit will be conducted.

149. Aside from the overall direction of the project and supervision of project staff the Coordinator will take special care to maintain effective and open relations with relevant partners at regional and local levels, and direct the implementation of the communications, information and education strategy of the project.

150. The Coordinator will organise regular meetings with project partners, At least once a year the Coordinator will convene a meeting of all the main stakeholders and partners of the project at the regional level (Partners' Forum) and present, on this occasion, a full report on project implementation.

*Expert in social mobilisation and local development*

151. As concerns relations with the Municipalities and local communities, the Coordinator will be seconded by an Expert in social mobilisation and local development, recruited on the basis of an international recruitment and appointed on the basis of merit and correspondence to the requisite profile. This expert will be responsible for the maintenance of an ongoing dialogue with the Municipalities and partners of the project at the local level, and will train the COGERAT Units to be set up in the 4 Municipalities with a view to ensuring the effective participation of local communities in the conception, planning and implementation of project activities.

*Expert agronomist, specialised in natural resources management*

152. As concerns technical and scientific issues, the Coordinator will be seconded by an Expert agronomist, specialised in natural resources management, recruited on the basis of an international recruitment and appointed on the basis of merit and correspondence to the requisite profile. This expert will ensure the planning and coordination of technical support and scientific advice required in the context of project implementation.

*Expert Monitoring*

153. Monitoring of the evolution of the ecological and socio-economic environment represents one of the major challenges of the COGERAT project. The monitoring of trends and of impacts of project actions should, by the end of the Phase, constitute an important decentralised decision-making tool. The establishment of scientific and local knowledge based monitoring methods constitutes therefore one of the major outcomes of the project. The Expert Monitoring will in the context be responsible for the organisation and functioning of the Scientific Committee.

*Scientific and Technical Assistance*

154. The Project Implementation Unit will have a budget allowing it to make recourse, as needed, to external consultations relative to capacity building needs, ecological and socio-economic monitoring and methodological and technical support.

*COGERAT Units in the Municipalities*

155. By agreement with the Municipalities, the project will establish, in each of the 4 Municipalities, a COGERAT Unit. To the extent possible these Units will be composed of persons from the local communities having already some training or experience in social mobilisation. These persons will be judged able to conduct a constructive dialogue with all local stakeholders. They will be literate, speak read and write French. These Units (size and modalities still to be worked out) will constitute the daily link between the COGERAT project and local communities and will facilitate the organisation

and mobilisation of the local communities required for the implementation of project activities. These persons will receive additional training as required by their tasks and competencies.

*Air Ténéré National Nature Reserve Unit*

156. In the framework of a reinforcement of the management of the ATNNR, the project (co-financing) will support the re-establishment of a permanent presence of the ATNNR Conservator in the forestry outpost in Iférouane. A relatively modest level of co-financing support will allow the Conservator (presently based in Arlit) to resume activities within the Reserve. It will allow the Conservator to participate effectively in the elaboration of co-management, surveillance, protection and monitoring arrangements concerning the ATNNR with the 4 Municipalities and local communities. The Conservator will collaborate closely with COGERAT but will not fall within the COGERAT organigram.

***PART III: Terms of Reference of key project personnel and principal sub-contractors***

**This part will be added after the GEF has approved the project and before requesting CEO endorsement**

***PART IV: Stakeholder Involvement Plan***

**Local Level**

<b>Category/Unit</b>	<b>Function</b>	<b>Represented by</b>	<b>Participation</b>
Municipalities	Management of soil / land and natural resources in the ATNNR and adjacent areas	Mayors and Municipal Councils	Main stakeholder in framework of COGERAT and co-management of ATNNR and adjacent areas. Mayors preside Communal Land Commissions
Users, socio-professional groups (pastoralists, farmers, cooperatives, pastoral associations, wood and hay traders, artisans and travel guides)	Main partners of project and Municipalities	To be determined during implementation of COGERAT (possibly Cooperative Unions, pastoral associations)	Main COGERAT partners for development of co-management modalities and implementation of SLM and SRM actions. Members of Municipal Land Commissions
Municipal Land Commissions	Management of: conflicts; shared infrastructure; public works; common heritage	Themselves (local stakeholders)	Essential role in elaboration of co-management agreements; management and maintenance of infrastructure improvements
Traditional Chiefs	Main partners of project and	Themselves	Members of Land Commissions

	Municipalities		
ATNNR Management organ	Essential partner of project and Municipalities	ATNNR Conservator	Main COGERAT partners for development of co-management modalities and implementation of surveillance and monitoring of ATNNR
Forestry Posts in Iférouane, Timia, Tabelot et Gougaram	Protection of natural resources in Municipalities	Heads of Forestry Posts	Partners of Municipalities in matters of RN surveillance and control Participate in Municipal Land Commissions
NGOs (ONAT, GAGE, Hed Tamat, ONEE, TAKKAYAT, etc.)	NGOs emanating from communities within ATNNR and adjacent areas and active in fields of local development and SRM	Personnel of the NGOs	Participate in social mobilisation, awareness raising, training and implementation of SLM and SRM actions

### Regional/ Zone Level

Category/Unit	Function	Represented by	Participation
Regional Environment Directorate Agadez	Main partners of COGERAT	Regional Environment Director Agadez	Main partner of COGERAT Coordinator; Support and supervision of ATNNR Conservator; coordination and support of forestry posts in ATNNR and adjacent areas; Participation in Land Commissions
Governor's Office; Prefectures	Territorial administration	Governor, Prefects	Regular briefings by project Coordinator; Participation in Agadez Regional Forum
Travel Agencies and Regional Tourism Administration	Important partners in the context of co-management of ATNNR and adjacent areas	Travel agents and Tourism administration	Participants in the elaboration of Tourism Strategy for ATNNR and adjacent areas and Co-management Agreement; Participation in Agadez Regional Forum
Extension services: Water, animal resources, education and training, local	Support to local development; implementation of national priorities	Extension services personnel	Technical support and advice, service provision to Municipalities ;

development and rural engineering			Participation in Agadez Regional Forum
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### National Level

Category/Unit	Function	Represented by	Participation
Ministry of Water, Environment and Combat against Desertification	GEF Partner Chair of the Steering Committee	Secretary General of MH/E-LCD	Steering Committee meetings; overall supervision and direction of project
MH/E-LCD: Directorate responsible for sustainable land management	Participation in Steering Committee Supervision of Regional Environment Directorate land local Forestry Posts	Director responsible for SLM	Steering Committee meetings; overall supervision and field visits
MH/E – LCD: Direction of Studies and Programming	Programming of MH/E-LCD contributions	Director DEP	Contribution to elaboration of monitoring system ; participation in external evaluations ;
UNDP Niger	Partner of MH/E-LCD Participation in Steering Committee	UNDP Niger personnel	Steering Committee meetings ; overall supervision and direction of project participation in external evaluations
Permanent Secretariat of the Rural Code	Advice and support to the establishment of Land Commissions	Personnel of the Secretariat of the Rural Code	Meetings of Regional Forum ; Advice and support to the establishment of Land Commissions
High Commission for Decentralisation	Create conditions favourable to the effective establishment of Municipal governments	Personnel of HCD	Advice and support to the establishment of Municipalities; budgetary support
World Bank, GEF: Communal Action Programme (PAC)	Poverty reduction and support to local government	PAC Personnel	Capacity building and implementation of micro-projects in productive and social fields (roads, water) at Municipal and user group levels
GTZ: LUCOP	Poverty reduction programme	LUCOP personnel	Support to decentralisation, access to financing, institutional support and investments
European Union	Northern Niger micro-projects Programme (PMR-NN)	PMR-NN Personnel	Diversification of economic activities; capacity building for local development;

			institutional support; investments
Other development partners potentially interested by ATNNR and adjacent areas (DDC ; DANIDA)		Offices in Niamey	To be determined

### **International Level**

<b>Category/Unit</b>	<b>Function</b>	<b>Represented by</b>	<b>Participation</b>
UNDP-GEF	Partner of MH/E-LCD Participation in Steering Committee	UNDP GEF personnel	Steering Committee meetings ; overall supervision and direction of project participation in external evaluations
IUCN / BRAO	Implementation unit for PDF-B ;	IUCN Regional Office for West Africa	Technical support in SLM, SRM and monitoring
ROSELT	Long term ecological monitoring	ROSELT - Niger	Technical support and advice establishment of monitoring system

### *Mechanisms and strategies for the promotion of stakeholder participation*

157. Participatory planning procedures put in place during the PDF-B will provide a basis for continued efforts to involve stakeholders in the implementation of the project.

Participation will be sought at several levels:

158. At the local level COGERAT will establish a Unit in each Municipality with the main task of supporting local government (Municipalities) and identifying (or supporting the emergence of) user and social groups able to participate in the identification and implementation of activities, as well as in the establishment of participatory surveillance and mentoring systems.

159. With respect to Municipalities, the project will support the establishment of an InterMunicipal Platform with the principal objective of negotiating a Co-Management Agreement with the State covering the ATNNR and adjacent areas. Through the InterMunicipal Platform all questions relative to SLM and to the management of the landscape as a whole will be addressed. In this way, the Municipalities will initiate collaboration with a view to, by the end of the Phase II, assuming shared responsibilities for the management of the ATNNR and adjacent areas on the basis of a partnership with the State.

160. The establishment of Land Commissions will represent a vital contribution in terms of participation. The Land Commissions bring together all users and local decision-makers responsible for access to and use of land and natural resources, the management of built public infrastructure, and conflict management. Land Commissions are the meeting place where users, local governance structures and national policies come together.

161. At the Regional level, the PIU of COGERAT will maintain a permanent dialogue with administrative and technical authorities. These actors will play a key role within COGERAT by way of their contributions to the elaboration of the Co-Management Agreement covering the ATNNR and

adjacent areas, as well as through the provision of advice and support to the Municipalities and local user groups in the implementation of governance, SLM and SRM measures.

162. Also at a regional level, the COGERAT will facilitate the Regional Forum. This forum will bring together on an annual basis all project partners to take note of the report of the Coordinator and to discuss progress and impacts achieved. Results of the Forum will be integrated into project reports and brought to the notice of the Steering Committee.

163. At the National level, a representative of the 4 Mayors concerned will be nominated to the Steering Committee. This nomination will ensure that the local level participates fully in the supervision and direction of the project as a whole.

***PART V: Problems, causes and barriers***

<b>Problems</b>	<b>Threats</b>	<b>Causes</b>	<b>Barriers</b>	<b>Solutions</b>
<b>Land degradation</b>				
Erosion, water and wind borne, in the form of growing ravines that uproot plants and trees and threaten gardens and accelerate the flow and loss of surface water and accelerate dune movements	Loss of land useful for pastures and gardening, the two principal economic activities in the ATNNR and adjacent areas; loss of wildlife habitat; soil compression	Growing human impact on the environment due to demographic growth and pressures from urban centres; the effects of increasing heavy traffic which cut into the soil and increase the density and strength of water flow	Degraded land covers areas the size of which exceeds the organisational and technical capacities of local communities; Lack of adapted social organisation; absence of functioning control systems	Soil and water conservation and restoration works; Monitoring and control and management tools; Promotion of sustainable oasis agriculture in Timia, Tabelot, Iférouane, and Gougaram
Soil fertility is diminishing	In the medium-term could threaten the viability of agricultural and pastoral economy which form the basis for livelihoods in the ATNNR and adjacent areas	Water and wind erosion; lack of seed reserves in the soil	Lack of seed conservation system and system for re-seeding lands	Support local initiatives for conservation of seeds and re-seeding lands
<b>Over-exploitation of wood and fodder resources (hay)</b>				
Over-exploitation for energy and handicrafts, construction and small-scale intensive livestock farming in urban centres in Agadez region	Loss of vegetation cover in terms of vegetation and organic matter rendering land more and more vulnerable to wind and water erosion	The demand from urban centres (Agadez, Tchirozérine et Arlit) for fuel and building wood and hay for homestead livestock farming has increased substantially in the last 15 years	The lack of alternatives in urban centres for domestic energy, construction and stall feeding for small livestock	Organise regional level process to identify viable alternatives; increase control of illegal extraction and act on price to induce the emergence of economically competitive alternatives that are less threatening to the environment
<b>Vegetation</b>				
Diminishing regeneration due to excessive mortality of young plants	Degradation of the resources underpinning the pastoral economy; Erosion; loss of plant diversity;	Excessive human pressure; overgrazing	Poverty of people; absence of capacity to implement organised regeneration measures	Planned and joint management of herds and access to pastoral lands; public conservation and restoration works

Lack of available seeds	Decrease in available forage	Localised over-grazing	Absence of system to collect and distribute	Support to local seed bank and production initiatives
Excessive propagation of <i>Prosopis juliflora</i> , introduced and invasive species competing with local species	Reduction of plant diversity; reduction of options in periods of drought; poisoning and sickness of livestock	Regression and disappearance of useful vegetation, especially in sedentary areas and competition for access to underground water	Lack of concerted strategy between local communities and forestry services for the control of the propagation of this introduced species	Adoption of a strategy in the ATNNR and adjacent areas for the control of <i>Prosopis juliflora</i>
Extraction and cutting of live trees for the satisfaction of wood and pastoral needs	Increasing mortality of trees and destabilisation of soils	Pastoral pressure and needs of urban areas for fire and construction wood	Lack of surveillance and control of ATNNR and adjacent areas	Establishment of a control and surveillance system based on cooperation between forestry services and rural communities Implementation of alternative strategies for satisfaction of urban requirements
<b>Over-exploitation of water resources</b>				
Uncertain evolution of water tables in the ATNNR and adjacent areas and uncertain long-term viability of economic activity of market gardening	Market gardening in ATNNR and adjacent areas could be threatened; increased poverty and vulnerability of rural communities	Increase in number of gardens these last 15 years; increased utilisation of motorised pumps increased water consumption	Lack of reliable information on the capacities of water tables and absence of system for managing off take	Establishment, at valley level, of community based system to gather and analyse information concerning underground water availability and replenishment
Fluctuating character of precipitations	Vulnerability of agricultural areas (variability of water tables)	Lack of upkeep or absence of works to slow and retain water in sedentary valleys	Poverty of rural communities and insufficient technical expertise to plan and implement water control works	Implement training programme and technical and material support to rural communities to allow them to participate in the implementation and maintenance of water control works Elaboration of drought response strategy
<b>Theft of cultural heritage</b>				



Pillage of historic, archaeological and paleontological sites (dinosaur cemetery in Gadafawa, Tizerzek)	The attraction of the ATNNR for tourists and researchers could diminish, thus affecting 4000 jobs. Loss of important world cultural and historic heritage. Illegal collection and commercialisation of prehistoric and objects of interest to palaeontology	Uncontrolled access to historic and scientific sites; Reticence of all local stakeholders to effectively protect cultural resources	Means of control, based entirely on State resources, are insufficient	Increase means allocated to control at borders and inside the country; Implement surveillance scheme based on cooperation between the State, the tourist industry and rural communities: Opt for tourism that is respectful of cultural and natural heritage and contributes to their preservation
<b>Wildlife</b>				
Loss of species of regional and international significance	Loss of species adapted to arid conditions; diminishing of attractivity for tourism and research in the ATNNR and adjacent areas	Poaching and private extractions at large scale; poisoning from use of strychnine for predator control; lack of control in the nature reserve and disturbance by tourists and nomads	Means of control, based entirely on State resources, are insufficient	Increase means allocated to control and surveillance based on cooperation between the State, the tourist industry and rural communities; awareness raising concerning the importance of threatened wildlife in the ATNNR and adjacent areas to induce behavioural change; income incentives through co-management to protect wildlife resources
Quasi-disappearance of the red-necked ostrich <i>Struthio camelus camelus</i> , and of the dama gazelle ( <i>Gazella dama</i> ) and of the addax ( <i>Addax nasomaculatus</i> ) from the ATNNR and adjacent areas	Definitive loss of these species for the ATNNR and adjacent areas reduction of tourist and scientific interest in the ATNNR	Poaching and private extractions at large scale; disturbance of wildlife by visitors; commercialisation of wildlife products	Means of control, based entirely on State resources, are insufficient; Lack of knowledge and means at local level to permit raising or reintroduction of species;	Bring together international experience and knowledge, national will and local capacities to devise and implement control and reintroduction measures; develop ecologically and economically viable methods for community based reintroduction
<b>Livelihoods</b>				
Vulnerability of livelihood systems and local economy	Pauperisation Emigration of residents	Economic activity essentially based on exploitation of	Lack of ability of producers to adjust to annual climatic and	Organisation of producers; increase availability of information

	towards urban centres Diminishing natural resource availability; political and social instability	natural resources; important annual variations in location and availability of natural resources; Price fluctuations of products; lack of economic diversification	price variations; Lack of technical capacities to diversify or add value locally; paucity of infrastructures (roads, markets, communications)	regarding price, markets; development of economic alternatives; increasing locally added-value; improving infrastructure
Vulnerability of rural communities	Pauperisation Political and social instability	Rural communities are marginalised from decision-making	Low levels of investment in the area; lack of participation in decision making; difficulty of getting reliable information into and around the area	Organise and train rural communities along with State extension services to plan and implement livelihood improvement initiatives
Communities are granted new rights under Decentralisation but lack the capacities to assume these	Degradation of natural resources continues despite the increased responsibilities given to rural Communities (Municipalities)	For the moment it remains unclear exactly how the re-allocation of prerogatives and rights concerning land and natural resources management defined by decentralisation and the rural code will play out.	Lack of means and technical capabilities in the Municipalities and extension services Roles and responsibilities (populations, Municipalities, extension services) still require additional definition; Lack of consultation and exchange for better definition of roles	Increase capabilities of Municipalities to plan and implement development actions and to manage natural resources with local communities: Increase means available to Municipalities and rural communities for common development and natural resources management actions; Establish and make functional the Land Commissions
Weak capabilities within user groups to effectively practice sustainable land management and land restoration	Continuation and intensification of over exploitation of natural resources	Low levels of training; lack of information available to users; lack of structures able to mobilise resources to support SLM actions	Lack of water and soil conservation / restoration capabilities at the local level; Lack of community based mechanisms to address SLM issues	Implementation of awareness raising campaigns and reinforcement of SLM technical competencies at local level

***PART VI: Detailed analysis of the Baseline***

<b>Source of funds</b>	<b>Name of project / Action plan</b>	<b>Objective</b>	<b>Coverage</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Budget total \$</b>
PRS	Local governance	Bring the administration closer to the citizens; reinforce grass-roots democracy; reduce disparities between regions.	National	2001-2005 and beyond	
France	Programme to accompany the launching of decentralisation in Niger (PADDEN)	Information, training and capacity building of elected officials, personnel of local administration; traditional chieftaincies; political parties, civil society, national institutions and state extension services	All Municipalities	2004-2006	
WB, IDA, GEF	Community Action Programme (PAC)	Poverty reduction and governance improvement at local level; reinforcement of capabilities and implementation of micro-projects in productive and social sectors (roads, health, education, water supply) at Municipal and village level	National	2003-2007	
GTZ, DED, KFW	Programme to reduce poverty (LUCOP), provisional programme	Poverty reduction, with a component to support decentralisation, a component to facilitate access of Municipalities to financial resources (FICOD) Institutional support and investments	Tahoua, Tillaberi, Agadez	2003-2015	
Belgium	Support for the implementation of the 10-year Plan for the development of Education	Infrastructures, training, equipment, female schooling, schooling in nomadic areas	National	2004-2008	
PRS	Improvement of production systems	Improve mastery and understanding of productive potential, conservation and values of genetic resources; improvement of factors and means of production; diversification of agricultural strategies and activities	National	2001-2005 and beyond	
PRS	Promotion of irrigated agriculture	Identification and construction of irrigation systems; improvements of the supply of agricultural production requirements	National	2001-2005 and beyond	
PRS	Improvement of capabilities to trade agricultural products	Development of infrastructure needed for access of products to markets	National	2001-2005 and beyond	

PRS	Increase revenues by developing new agro product lines	Establish market observation to identify potential products	National	2001-2005 and beyond	
PRS	Improve food crisis prevention and mitigation measures	Development of a prevention system based on observation of markets, production systems and capacity building at local level	National	2001-2005 and beyond	
PRS	Environmental Protection	Protection and restoration of the environment (infrastructures and biodiversity conservation)	National	2001-2005 and beyond	
PRS	Income generating activities	Increase agricultural means of production and revenues (Establishment of Agricultural Chambers, rehabilitation of deep water wells, organisation of rural credit, literacy)	National	2001-2005 and beyond	
PRS	Handicrafts	Improve the institutional and regulatory framework of the sector, increase production and revenues; promote exports, promote the activities of women in the sector, encourage private initiatives and small enterprises	National	2001-2005 and beyond	
PRS	Tourism	Tourism development and promotion; diversification and consolidation of tourism products, develop tourism in marginal areas; rehabilitate, protect and maintain tourist sites; promote sustainable tourism; promote the destination Niger through the tourism promotion organisation; improvement and normalisation of standards	National	2001-2005 and beyond	
National Budget / Law on Finance	Agricultural Development	Normal functioning of the Ministry at regional level	Agadez	Annual	
National Budget / Law on Finance	Animal Resources	Normal functioning of the Ministry at regional level	Agadez	Annual	
National Budget / Law on Finance	Environment, Water and LCD	Normal functioning of the Ministry at regional level	Agadez	Annual	
National Budget / Law on Finance	Tourism	Normal functioning of the Ministry at regional level	Agadez	Annual	

Private / tourism	Private sector tourism	Normal functioning of the Ministry at regional level	Agadez	Annual	
EU	Northern Niger micro-projects Programme (PMR-NN)	Consolidation and diversification of economic activities; reinforcement of local management for local development; institutional support and investments	Tahoua, Agadez	2005-2008	
UNICEF	Integrated basic services Programme	Education, health, nutrition, communication and food security	Agadez	1995-2007	
USAID	Africare (food security)	Food security	Agadez	2000-2005	
France	Project to manage animal health	Animal health	Tahoua, Agadez	2004-2005	
GTZ, KFW	Northern Niger Project (PNN)	Management of natural resources; infrastructure, roads in collaboration with rural communities, civil society; villages, tribes, hamlets and groups	Tahoua, Agadez	2006-2011	
FAD/BAD	Natural Forests maintenance project	Information, communication, awareness raising, support to village development funds; development of natural forests; creation of wood markets; creation of Ron palm leaf exchanges; regeneration of forest species; maintenance of water ponds	National except Niamey and Dosso	2001-2005	
Municipal budgets	Municipal budgets	Reinforcement of joint Municipal initiatives	ATNNR and adjacent areas		
PRS	Securing land rights	Support communities in the establishment of tenure management structures (Land Commissions)	National	2001-2005 et plus	
<b>TOTAL BASELINE FUNDING</b>					

## ***PART VII: Detailed description of the Site***

### Description

164. The reserve comprises two geomorphic units: the Air mountains, nine roughly circular rugged massifs rising above a rocky plateau, and the sand dunes and plain of the Ténéré to its east.

165. The bedrock is an ancient, heavily eroded Cambrian metamorphic plateau dramatically punctuated by a chain of isolated flat-topped **mountains**. Those in the reserve are, from north to south: Adrar Bous, Fadei, Greboun, Tamgak (1988m), Chirriet, Taghmert, Agueraguer, Takaloukouzet, and Goundai. These are granite intrusions except for the largely conglomerate Takaloukouzet massif. Tertiary and Quaternary volcanic features include the extinct caldera of Arakao and one of the largest ring-dike systems in the world. Other features are the marble Blue Mountains at Izouzaone in the Sanctuary, and white marble hills in the lower Zagado valley. The massifs and plateaux are deeply dissected by ancient canyons and seasonal wadis. Soils are sparse, mainly coarse sands, although in wadis and inundation zones there are often thick water-borne clay and silt deposits.

166. The eastern three-fifths of the reserve is in the Ténéré **desert**, one of the largest sand seas in the Sahara, which completely covers the underlying bedrock plate. Several sand dune fields (*erg*) occur: the Ergs of Bréard, Brusset and Capot-Rey. The *ergs* piled against the massifs by the prevailing northeasterly winds are some of the highest sand dunes in the Sahara, reaching ~300m at Arakao and Temet. South of the *ergs* are extensive flat plains (*reg*) of coarse sand, gravel and stones. There are also fields of small mobile *rif* and barkhan dunes.

167. Except for a few rivulets and pools (*guelta*) in the massifs, there is no permanent water though the mountains are essential to recharging the groundwater supply of northern Niger. Wadis flow for a few hours after heavy rain. Seven drain east from the massifs into the sands of the Ténéré. Several end in temporary inundation pans that can be thickly vegetated and are important to the ecology of the desert margin. Three main wadis drain to the south and five to the west, ending in the plains of Talek and Tamesna. In the distant past these wadis reached the River Niger.

168. With 100mm / year rainfall in the south and less than 40mm / year in the north the complex is unquestionably arid. However the high mountains form a natural barrier to winds from the east, resulting in relatively high rainfall considering the latitude. Water is quickly concentrated due to the hills and concentrates in depressions which stock humidity and provide a range of habitats. This is the steppe region with *Acacia erhenbengiana*, *Acacia raddiana*, *Balanites aegyptiaca*, *Maerua crassifolia* and on the ground *Panicum turgidum*, *Stipagrostis vulnerans*. In larger valleys where water accumulations in alluvial reservoirs can be significant, specific habitats have developed which associate a dense woody strata with Ron palms (*Hyphaene thebaica*), date palms (*Phoenix dactylifera*), *Acacia nilotica*, *Acacia raddiana*, *Boscia senegalensis*, *Salvadora persica*, and a herbaceous carpet with among others *Stipagrostis vulnerans*,

169. These habitats, exceptional for these latitudes are home to no less remarkable fauna with the Dorcas Gazelle (*Gazella dorcas dorcas*) present in most areas, the Dama Gazelle (*Gazella dama dama*) much more rare and localised along the Air and Ténéré contact zone. The Barbary sheep (*Ammotragus lervia*) shares mountain habitats with the baboon (*Papio cynocephalus anubis*) and the patas monkey (*Erythrocebus patas patas*). The mountain fauna escaped largely intact from the period of the rebellion. The ostrich (*Struthio camelus camelus*) population was decimated with practically all individuals ( $\pm$  1600 in 1992) killed. The Nubian Bustard (*Neotis nuba*) is still present. The Addax (*Addax nasomaculatus*) remains elusive, even in the confines of the integral reserve, in a desert habitat only it can roam. Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) have recently been observed (a female and her

baby) in the north of the Reserve. The Air Mountains are also a transit zone for a large number of afro-tropical and Palaearctic migratory birds (more than 100 species).

170. The cultural heritage of the ATNNR and adjacent areas covers a period from - 90,000 years to the present day. From Palaeolithic times (Acheulian at Adrar Bous, first carved tools, shingles) to the ancient mosques and historic settlements (mosque at Afis, town of Assodé.), through the Neolithic period (possibly the oldest ceramics in the world at Tagalal, Neolithic industry of the Ténéréen at Adrar Bous), the stone carvings (Koris Tagueï, Anakom) and the post-Neolithic funeral monuments. This cultural ensemble is remarkable and in part still unexploited scientifically.

171. In the confines of the ATNNR and adjacent areas, the population is estimated at some 10,000 people of whom most are agriculturalists with some 4000 agro-pastoralists. The former live almost exclusively from agriculture while the latter mix agriculture with pastoralism and trade. These residents are not the only users of the ATNNR and adjacent areas as it is estimated that some 18,000 non-resident users live in the periphery of the ATNNR and adjacent areas. Of these, some 3,500 enter the complex with their herds.

172. The agro-pastoral population is located in agricultural centres (irrigated agriculture) Iférouane, Tin Telloust, within the confines of the ATNNR; Timia and Tabelot in the adjacent areas. Pastoralists are mobile and move with the three seasons (rainy season, hot season, cold season) in a space marked out by the hills and mountains.

173. The ATNNR and adjacent areas were studied in detail (notably anthropological, social and ecological aspects) and their international importance of the area established and reflected in the World heritage and Man and Biosphere status of the area.

174. The ATNNR was the location of an assistance programme funded by SDC and DANIDA during the 1980s and 1990s conducted with the technical expertise of UNEP, WWF and IUCN.

#### Map showing project area



## ***PART IX: Lessons learnt and applied to project design***

175. The COGERAT project is an important initiative that builds upon a number of SLM activities already underway in the region and in the world. Amongst these is the Desert Margins programme that will furnish lessons and best practices concerning the participation of communities in arid regions. The COGERAT will also benefit from the WISP programme (World Initiative for Sustainable Pastoralism) that was recently approved by the GEF Council. COGERAT will also exchange experiences at a regional level with the Liptako-Gourma project, with the GEF cross-border project involving Niger and Nigeria, the GEF project for the Authority of the Niger River Basin, the GEF project on the Lake Chad Basin, the GEF cross-border project involving Senegal and Mauritania, the GEF Nazinga Ranch project in Burkina Faso and the GEF Maghreb oasis project.

176. The UNDP Country programme for Niger, on the basis of the UNDAF and of the PRSP, is based on three priorities that are taken account of in this project. These are: (i) the Framework Programme for poverty Alleviation (PCLCP), (ii) support to the National Action plan for the environment and sustainable development, and (iii) the reinforcement of capacities for economic management, the promotion of the private sector and good governance. Especially relevant are the programmes that focus on the promotion of food security and micro-enterprises, the improvement of decentralised services and civil society, sustainable land, water and natural resources management and desertification control.

177. COGERAT, with the Dunes project in Gouré and Maïna Soroa, will serve to capitalise experiences on sustainable land management and to inform the development of national SLM and poverty reduction policies through, notably, the TerrAfrica initiative on SLM and the Country Partnership Programme. In addition, COGERAT will provide opportunities to contribute to the national self-assessment; COGERAT will also cooperate with NAPA in the context of strategies for adaptation to vulnerability.

178. A project financed by Switzerland and Denmark and implemented by the World Wildlife Fund and the and the Directorate for Wildlife, Fishing and Aquaculture (the DFPP) was able to mobilize significant financial resources between 1979 and 1990. At the beginning, emphasis was placed on preliminary studies and on the official classification of the Reserve. This is how it was classified as a Nature Reserve in 1988. A system of protection and surveillance of the ecological complex was initiated in order to pinpoint the mechanisms of local environmental degradation. This project financed anti-poaching activities as well as investments in infrastructure and a series of studies on the physical and biological environment. The project also carried out local development activities through micro-projects such as wells, gardens and health.

179. In 1990, the implementation of this project was transferred from the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), however, there was recognition that the approach employed previously was a failure. The most important cause of the failure of the first WWF initiative was the complete absence of participation and ownership by the local community. The approach was very conservation-oriented and the needs and interests of the local communities were not taken into account.

180. The lessons learned during the preceding phase indicated that the previous approach had been too oriented towards protection and restoration. Following consultations with the local communities on the management system of the ecological complex to be put in place, it was decided to set up a system of community management based on the local development of the zone. A new approach was conceived that would be based on complete liability of the local community for local development through land use management. Local community capacity building would be reinforced to make them the real implementing actors.



181. Unfortunately, the new approach was not given the time needed to prove itself. Hostilities broke out in the area and necessitated the withdrawal of the project team in 1992. This situation favoured the development of anarchic exploitation of natural resources. During this difficult period the population of the Air created a “Provisional Committee” with the idea of representing their interests to the outside world. Through this Committee, small activities were undertaken in the area, during the rebellion, on rural development including village water supply and rural health. Furthermore, the ALAM (NGO-led) project continued to develop the awareness of school students on the environmental problems of the Reserve. Periodic missions between 1995 and 2000 carried out in the field by consultants and government officers confirmed the importance of these initiatives and of the high level of local motivation to participate. In this interim period, the remainder of the funds of the WWF and the Danish and Swiss cooperation were used to continue certain activities of the Provisional Committee through the IUCN Office in Niger.

182. In 1998, the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) organized a workshop in Djerba (Tunisia) in order to adopt an action plan for the conservation of six of the most threatened species of Sahelo-Saharan Antelopes. This action plan included the Air-Ténéré Reserve among its priority sites. Missions undertaken by officials of the Government of Niger, of IUCN, of UNESCO (the International Committee on the World Heritage Convention) and of the World Bank confirmed that the return of security in the area provided the opportunity to take up restoration activities and the sustainable management of this ecological complex.

183. In 1999, the Danish and Swiss cooperation (DANIDA and the DDC) reactivated their financing on the basis of policy orientations initiated in 1990, through the Natural Resources Management Project of the Air-Ténéré (known by the abbreviation PGRNAT). In 1999-2002, the project supported the organization of local communities around zones of transhumance called « pasturage zones ». These pasture zones were to serve as the basis for the responsibilities by local communities in activities related to land resources and ecosystem management and the conservation of biological diversity (20 pasturage zones were delimited and 4 local committees were formed). However, these institutions were established only on paper, and in December 2002, the project was closed because the World Bank-GEF proposal that was approved at that time did not materialize. Since 1999, the government, IUCN, UNDP and Swiss government have been discussing how to re-energize a project in the area. With the advent of the Land Degradation Focal Area, the partners have decided to resubmit this proposal under OP15, in recognition of the fact that the main barriers to natural resource management are related to conflicts over land use systems, and that investment in sustainable land management with the Tuareg communities will effectively address the problems of land degradation and ecosystem integrity and their root causes. Lessons have been learnt from the previous decade of interventions in the area, especially in terms of (a) integrated approaches to ecosystem restoration (and not just biodiversity conservation), and (ii) need for searching for compromises and win-win solutions between the needs and aspirations of the local communities, and that of other stakeholders (e.g. conservationists; government plans for political and economic stability; etc.).

#### ***List of annexes provided***

- A. Incremental cost analysis matrix
- B. Logical Framework Analysis
- C. Co-financing Letters (Government of Niger, UNDP and OSS)
- D. Letter of Endorsement

**SIGNATURE PAGE**

Country: Niger

**UNDAF Outcome(s)/Indicator(s)**

- 1.1 Adequate Institutional framework for the complementation of food security policies notably for vulnerable groups.
  - 1.2 Rural population production and income diversified and increased notably for vulnerable groups.
- Better protected environment and improved natural resource management  
(Link to UNDAF outcome., If no UNDAF, leave blank)

**Expected Outcome(s)/Indicator (s)**

- 1. higher performance environment management institutions
- 2. natural resources managed in a sustainable way by communities (levels of productivity and ecosystem biological diversity).

**Expected Output(s)/Indicator(s):**

- 1. A decentralised capability for sustainable management of the Aïr and Ténéré National Nature Reserve and adjacent areas..
- 2. 20 million hectares will be co-managed under a co-management agreement by 4 Municipalities and the Government of Niger..
- 3. Some 55,000 ha of degraded land important for the pastoral and market gardening economy will be restored using techniques that will also improve water harvesting.
- 4. An additional 100,000 ha will be under Municipal and user group management and soil stabilisation, water harvesting and soil protection measures implemented.
- 5. 7 Land Commissions will function to provide a framework for conflict resolution and securing rights of rural producers.
- 6. Illegal extraction of natural resources (wood, hay, wildlife) from the ATNNR and adjacent areas will diminish by 50%.
- 7. Domestic consumption of wood in urban areas will be reduced by 15% thereby reversing the decline in soil cover and organic matter in the soil..
- 8. Internationally important wildlife habitat will be protected and restored.
- 9. Wildlife protected through cooperation between State, rural communities and tourist industry

Implementing partner:

Ministry of Hydraulic, Environment and Desertification Control

(designated institution/Executing agency)

Other Partners:

<p><b>Programme Period:</b> 2004 - 2007  <b>Programme Component:</b> Energy and Environment  <b>Project Title:</b> Co-Management of Resources in the Aïr and Ténéré National Nature Reserve and adjacent areas (COGERAT)  <b>Project ID:</b> PIMS 2294  <b>Management Arrangement:</b> NEX</p>	<table> <tr> <td>Total budget:</td> <td align="right">9,241,322 US\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Allocated resources:</td> <td align="right">9,241,322 US\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>GEF:</td> <td align="right">4,000,000 US\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Government (estimated)</td> <td align="right">500,000 US\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bilateral:</td> <td align="right">4,165,388 US\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td>UNDP</td> <td align="right">60,000 US\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Others</td> <td align="right">515,934 US\$</td> </tr> </table>	Total budget:	9,241,322 US\$	Allocated resources:	9,241,322 US\$	 		GEF:	4,000,000 US\$	Government (estimated)	500,000 US\$	Bilateral:	4,165,388 US\$	UNDP	60,000 US\$	Others	515,934 US\$
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**Approved in the name of:**

**Signature**

**Name/Title**

Niger Government: \_\_\_\_\_

Madame Aïchatou Mindaoudou  
Ministre des Affaires Etrangères et de la Coopération

UNDP NIGER: \_\_\_\_\_

Monsieur Michele Falavigna  
Représentant Résident