



PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

PROJECT TYPE: MEDIUM-SIZED PROJECT
TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF TRUST FUND

PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	Closing the Gaps in Great Green Wall: Linking sectors and stakeholders for increased synergy and scaling-up		
Country(ies):	Regional (Great Green Wall Countries)	GEF Project ID:	5811
GEF Agency(ies):	UNEP	GEF Agency Project ID:	01286
Other Executing Partner(s):	IUCN	Re-submission Date:	13 May 2014
GEF Focal Area (s):	Land Degradation	Project Duration(Months)	36
Name of parent programme (if applicable):		Agency Fee (US\$):	164,008

A. INDICATIVE FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK:

Focal Area Objectives	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Financing (\$)	Indicative Co-financing (\$)
LD-4: Adaptive management and Learning (Outcome 4.2; Outputs 4.1 & 4.2)	GEF TF	1,726,400	7,250,000
Total project costs		1,726,400	7,250,000

B. INDICATIVE PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: Greater implementation of policies for sustainable land management in the Sahel (GGW countries) through enhanced investment, intersectoral coordination, and engagement of marginalised groups.

Project Component	Grant Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Co-financing (\$)
1. Adaptive management & Learning	TA	1.1. Improved goals and indicators for enhanced monitoring and more coordinated implementation (at local, national, regional and global levels)	1.1.1. Doubling in the number of public institutions (ministries, departments) engaged in SLM/GGW dialogue in participating countries, including representation from environment and agricultural-related ministries 1.1.2. Doubling of nongovernmental actors actively engaged in SLM/GGW dialogue at different levels	GEF TF	770,000	1,875,000

		<p>1.2. Improved knowledge and awareness of the developmental and environmental benefits of SLM and the synergy with other national strategic goals and targets</p>	<p>1.1.3. Framework of indicators and participatory approaches established by partners for greater understanding and monitoring of landscape system dynamics and the linkages between livelihood and conservation objectives</p> <p>1.2.1. 3 learning and awareness-raising publications developed through participatory process and disseminated to improve understanding and monitoring of landscape system dynamics and the linkages between livelihood and conservation objectives</p> <p>1.2.2. 500 Government and NGO representatives trained in the use and interpretation of appropriate tools, including Total Economic Valuation of ecosystem goods and services</p> <p>1.2.3. Publication by governments in at least 5 participating countries of guidelines for integrating environment and development</p>			
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2. Participation, diversity and equity	TA	<p>2.1. More active networking within and between countries to strengthen input to and ownership of local, national and regional policies and investments</p> <p>2.2. Increased engagement of marginalized groups in GGW dialogue and implementation, with cross-linkages to other development issues and sectors</p>	<p>2.1.1. 10 networks established or strengthened at national and regional level, integrating representatives from the environment, development and relief sectors and bridging linguistic divides</p> <p>2.1.2. Civil Society representatives identified in all participating countries to engage in government consultations and dialogue on the Great Green Wall and other SLM issues</p> <p>2.2.1. Representatives of principle marginalized groups (e.g. women, pastoralists etc.) participate regularly in national and regional networks and public dialogue on SLM, GGW and UNCCD</p> <p>2.1.2. At least 10 learning fora to address specific challenges related to engagement of marginalized groups in SLM</p>	GEF TF	452,900	3,100,000
3. Investment for Policy Implementation	TA	<p>3.1. Greater dialogue between stakeholders to identify broader consensus over investment priorities through more accountable local government planning and coordinated response</p> <p>3.2. Increased capacity of stakeholders to identify and attract appropriate private sector actors and “enabling investments” for implementation of SLM policies and scale</p>	<p>3.1.1. Local planning processes strengthened in 30 locations through better participation of different stakeholder groups and sectors and greater capacity of those groups to articulate SLM priorities and benefits</p> <p>3.1.2. 10 training workshops to strengthen capacity of government and nongovernment actors to identify and address policy implementation barriers related to the GGW</p> <p>3.2.1. Publication of one set of guidelines for improved private sector engagement, including recognition of the role of local land managers as private investors and identification of suitable</p>	GEF TF	400,000	1,550,000

		up of good practices	enabling and asset investments 3.2.2. 10 workshops with private sector representatives to validate Private Sector engagement publication, and to build awareness of SLM issues and opportunities			
Sub-Total					1,622,900	6,525,000
Project management cost				GEFTF	103,500	725,000
Total project costs					1,726,400	7,250,000

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

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount (\$)
Bilateral Aid Agency	IUCN	Cash	450,000
Bilateral Aid Agency	IUCN	In-kind	6,500,000
GEF Agency	UNEP	In-kind	300,000
Total Co-financing			7,250,000

D. INDICATIVE TRUST FUND RESOURCES (\$) REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal area	Country Name/Global	Grant amount (\$) (a)	Agency Fee (\$) (b)	Total (\$) (a + b)
UNEP	GEF TF	Land Degradation	Regional	1,726,400	164,008	1,890,408
Total Grant Resources				1,726,400	164,008	1,890,408

E. PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

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

	Amount Requested (\$)	Agency Fee for PPG (\$)
• No PPG required		
• (up to) \$50k for projects up to and including \$1 million		
• (up to) \$100k for projects up to and including \$3 million	100,000	9,500
• (up to) \$150k for projects up to and including \$6 million		

PPG AMOUNT REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), FOCAL AREA(S) AND COUNTRY(IES) FOR MFA AND/OR MTF

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal area	Country Name/Global	(in \$)		
				PPG (a)	Agency Fee (b)	Total c = a + b
UNEP	GEF TF	Land Degradation	Regional	100,000	9,500	109,500
Total PPG Amount				100,000	9,500	109,500

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. PROJECT OVERVIEW

A.1. Project Description

The Great Green Wall is a pan-African initiative to restore and sustainably manage land in the Sahel-Saharan region in order to address both poverty and land degradation. First envisioned by the former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, in 2005 and strongly championed by President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal, the Initiative gained significant momentum in 2007 with adoption of African Union Declaration 137 VIII, approving the “Decision on the Implementation of the Green Wall for the Sahara Initiative”. In June 2010, Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Sudan signed a convention in Ndjamena, Chad, to create the Great Green Wall (GGW) Agency. In more recent years the vision has evolved into an integrated ecosystem management approach.

The combination of high level political support and steadily improving technical awareness of how best to combat desertification has encouraged a number of major donors to back the Great Green Wall Initiative. The Global Environmental Facility granted \$100.8 million to the GGW participating countries to expand sustainable land and water management and adaptation in targeted landscapes and in climate vulnerable areas in West African and Sahelian countries. Other major donors include the World Bank and the European Union.

The Great Green Wall initiative has revived interest in Sustainable Land Management in the Sahel and north of the Sahara and has galvanised action to implement the UNCCD. The GGW has helped to shed a spotlight on recent innovations in SLM in the region and at the same time has leveraged a high degree of political will and leadership from member States. In response public finance for SLM actions has increased and several donors have also mobilised substantial investments, offering opportunities for rapid progress. However, degradation in the region is often the outcome of past policy and investment failures and there are concerns in some quarters that current strategies may not depart significantly enough from past mistakes.

This project will address current gaps in the Great Green Wall by building links between different sectors and stakeholders in sustainable land management. The project will deliver greater synergy in implementation of the MEAs and improved scale-up of existing good practices through strengthening of mechanisms for coordination across sectors and stakeholder groups. The project will operate regionally with a combination of local, national, regional and global activities. The project will enable greater accountability of investments and policies for GGW implementation and greater participation in decision making at all levels and between multiple public sectors.

The project will strengthen adaptive management and learning by strengthening dialogue for enhanced goals and indicators and by developing knowledge and awareness of the developmental and environmental benefits of SLM and the synergy with other national strategic goals and targets. Enhanced goals and indicators will be developed at local, national, regional and global levels through engagement of a greater range of stakeholders with different, although complementary, priorities. This will include a greater diversity of public institutions, integrating targets in agricultural and economic development with targets in environment and natural resources and other sectors. Greater diversity will also be achieved in Civil Society engagement. In both cases this will be achieved through public awareness and outreach, for example through national consultative workshops, dissemination of published materials, and through participation in other public events. The project will also support development of a framework of indicators and participatory approaches by partners to take stock of, and to improve, understanding and monitoring of

landscape system dynamics and the linkages between livelihood and conservation objectives. This will be carried out through a combination of consultations through networks, and expert workshops.

Adaptive management and learning will also be strengthened through publication and dissemination of key works to improve understanding and monitoring of landscape system dynamics and the linkages between livelihood and conservation objectives. This will focus on lessons learned within the project region, enriched with experiences and lessons globally. Tools for improved SLM analysis and integration, particularly Total Economic Valuation of ecosystem goods and services, will be shared with partners through training workshops and other public platforms to strengthen capacity to use and to interpret key data. Additionally in at least 5 participating countries the project will support publication of guidelines for integrating environment and development issues as priorities for policy and investment.

Participation, diversity and equity in implementation of the Great Green Wall and other SLM priorities will be strengthened through support for more active and better targeted networking within countries and between countries. This will be achieved through IUCN's unique capacity for convening dialogue between government and nongovernmental organisations and between sectors. It will also be achieved through improved exchange of experiences, particularly between actors with shared goals but divergent approaches. Networks will be established in some cases, but in most cases emphasis will be on strengthening both the reach and the capacity of existing networks. Financial support will be used to enable some civil society actors to participate in public consultations and particular emphasis will be placed on enabling marginalised groups to participate – both through availability of resources, creation of opportunities and strengthening of capacity through targeted training at learning fora.

The project will strengthen networks and networking in participating countries and at regional level through organization of public fora, awareness raising, and through capacity building activities with partners already active in GGW and UNCCD implementation. This work will include existing networks such as RESAD and RADD0 along with other emerging groups. The initiative will bring new actors into these networks including those in the conservation sector and those in both the development and the relief sector; actors whose work has significant implications for sustainable land management. Furthermore, IUCN will work through state members to strengthen links between government sectors and to enable focal points to UNCCD and the GGW to better understand the state of activity and progress in their countries; this element responds directly to concerns raised by GGW focal points at the BRICKS inception meeting (March 2014). IUCN will strengthen links with marginalized groups in networks and dialogue on SLM through existing structures including the World Initiative for Sustainable Pastoralism and the World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous Peoples. Through IUCN members in non-francophone countries this initiative will improve links between GGW members, strengthening exchange of experiences as well as the effectiveness of regional policies. Specific activities will target women as natural resource managers who increasingly play a leading role as men take on more off-farm (off-land) roles.

Specific capacity building exercises will be oriented towards enabling government and nongovernmental actors to address policy and policy implementation barriers and opportunities for UNCCD and GGW implementation. This will include awareness raising on recent advances in sustainable land use systems such as mobile pastoralism and innovations in landscape and ecosystem management approaches such as forest landscape restoration and integrated land and water management. Through capacity building exercises GGW partners will be supported to present evidence of progress at UNCCD and other global fora to strengthen recognition of the value of SLM as a platform for multiple environmental, economic and social benefits.

Through stronger networks and national dialogue this project will enable improved evidence sharing and evidence collection across multiple sectors and based on the actions of multiple actors. This will include improvements in understanding local land management objectives and practices and local indicators of progress as well as generation of evidence on the multiple benefits and costs of different approaches. This evidence will strengthen national reporting and will enable SLM coordinating institutions to improve targeting of finance and technical support. The evidence will be used to improve the analysis of enabling investments for sustainable land management and to foster dialogue with appropriate elements of the private sector. In particular the analysis will provide improved tools for analysing the most appropriate investments for locally-controlled land and natural resources and for adding value to the significant investments already made—for example in labour and social capital—by local land managers.

The project will contribute to strengthening investment for policy implementation through awareness of policy and investment options and improved analysis of suitable investor groups. The project will help reach consensus over investment priorities through improved dialogue between stakeholders and by strengthening the accountability of local government planning processes. Local planning processes will be strengthened using established participatory planning tools—including community mapping and visioning exercises—and by building awareness of opportunities to engage in local government planning through devolved or decentralised public institutions. This will be reinforced with training of government and nongovernment actors to identify and address policy implementation barriers related to the GGW. The project will build capacity for engagement with the private sector and will help identify sub-sectors of the private sector that can actively invest in appropriate SLM practices. Training will be used to raise awareness of the role of government in providing “enabling” investments and the options for the private sector to provide “asset” investments. Experiences will be further shared through publication of regional guidelines for improved private sector engagement, including recognition of the role of local land managers as private investors and identification of suitable enabling and asset investments. As part of this publication process the project will engage members of the private sector to fine-tune recommendations and to further raise their awareness of investment opportunities in SLM.

A.1.1 The Global environment problems, root causes and barriers

Land degradation contributes to loss of biodiversity, to climate change, and to poverty and food insecurity. It is a global problem and its ramifications are felt far beyond the boundaries of the degraded lands. Significantly more carbon is stored in soils worldwide than the combined total of atmosphere or biomass (Lal, 2008) and land degradation both releases huge quantities of greenhouse gases and diminishes the capacity of land to continue sequestering carbon. Land degradation also has a major impact on hydrological cycles, reducing infiltration and increasing run-off that contribute to cycles of flood and drought. Vegetation cover and soil organisms play vital roles in water infiltration and therefore in maintaining soil moisture and aquifer recharge. As a consequence of land degradation, groundwater resources and especially those of the shallow unconfined aquifers can be seriously affected (FAO, 1993). Additionally, as land degrades and declines its relative value rises, driving speculation and accumulation of land in the hands of a few, with inevitable consequences for the poorest people and the poorest countries. The outcome has been a rise in the phenomenon of ‘land grabbing’: following the 2008 food crisis between 15 and 20 million hectares of farmland in developing countries had changed hands (von Braun and Meinze-Dick, 2009). Around the world, some 50 million people may be displaced within the next 10 years as a result of desertification (UNCCD, nd.).

The root causes of land degradation are diverse and complex and proposed solutions are often overly simplistic and fail to reflect the complexity of the system they are addressing. Governments often fail to consult local land managers, whose local knowledge and experience is usually essential for sustainable resource management. Instead local resource rights are often weak and land often changes hands, away from those who know how to use it and into the hands of those who are either less capable of sustainable management or who are less motivated for it. Land degradation is the outcome of many factors and not

only agricultural practices. As a result it can be a direct or indirect result of investments in many sectors. Public institutions face particular challenges in aligning sectoral approaches and ensuring they contribute to overarching sustainable development or environmental targets.

Barriers to sustainable land management therefore come in various forms. They include barriers to local consultation, particularly in the case of marginalised groups like women or indigenous peoples. They include barriers to local governance and decision making, as much through institutional weaknesses as through capacity constraints. They also include barriers to investment in both the public and the private sector. Long-term low investment has created a legacy of low human capital and physical infrastructure which hold back development efforts and there is particular need for enabling investments that will support land managers to operate more sustainably.

A.1.2 The baseline scenario and associated projects

SLM tends to be seen as the concern of the Agricultural sector yet is equally important to other sectors such as water, forest and wildlife. Furthermore, sectors such as education and security play critical roles in enabling SLM, whilst the private sector in all its diversity is a major actor—for good or bad—in sustainability. Constraints to coordination both create a risk of harmful interventions and leave positive interventions under-reported and under-invested. Investments in the water sector for example can play a leading role in enabling SLM, but in many cases poor land-water planning leads to inappropriate selection or location of infrastructure that is a major cause of degradation. There are many interventions in SLM conducted by the public sector, by NGOs and by private investors (including farmers and pastoralists) that go unreported and therefore do not attract the policy and investment support they require.

There is little doubt that investments are needed to increase progress in SLM and to address the significant poverty in the region's drylands. However, current approaches tend to favour the interests of large-scale investors over the investments of land users and government priority setting is poorly informed of local land management and risk-management strategies that determine the goals and practices of land users. Public institutions are not well-equipped for multi-sectoral, multi-scale and multiagency approaches, which are required for effective ecosystem management. They also tend to lack both the capacity and the local trust to strengthen local governance, to empower local communities and to build on local knowledge and institutions in order to make science more responsive to local practices and priorities. Government, even at the local level, often has one-sided relationships with those local Civil Society Organisations that demonstrate effective practices for sustainable land management.

A few initiatives have tried to strengthen the engagement of Civil Society in government processes and these initiatives are of value and will be invited to partner in the current initiative. These include RADD0, RESAD and DRYNET as well as local CSO networks (SPONG etc. – elaborate). These initiatives are strengthening the voice of certain Civil Society actors to influence government policy and to strengthen adoption of good practices on the ground. However, these initiatives struggle to gain the confidence of government and to work across multiple public sectors to ensure a more coordinated or integrated response. These initiatives, along with many other Civil Society actors and a few representatives from government, participated in an e-dialogue in 2013, organised by IUCN, in which some of these shortcomings were identified and prioritised for urgent action. IUCN is the only organisation that operates with the necessary diversity to address these gaps, being a union of both government and civil society, working in the sectors of conservation and sustainable development, and focusing on both the application of science and the promotion of justice and human rights. The Baseline Scenario for Civil Society engagement is one of fragmented approaches that encompass a limited number of countries, with significant geographic gaps, critical Civil Society groups disengaged, and with limited access to government decision making processes.

A.1.3 The proposed alternative scenario

In our alternative scenario we see Sustainable Land Management being approached from a landscape perspective, in which the complexity of ecosystems is reflected in the breadth of planning and the effort invested in ensuring that multiple actors buy into the same plan for concerted action. We see the Great Green Wall implemented as a mosaic of land uses and SLM practices through the Sahel and adopted as a model for integrated Natural Resource Management beyond the region. We see SLM as the anchor for a human-centred sustainable development approach in which agricultural production is integrated with other aspects of human development and the social and environmental elements of sustainability are given equal weight to the economic dimension.

This scenario requires the establishment and institutionalisation of mechanisms that allow land managers to lead the SLM process. Following the principles of devolution the scenario sees decision making devolved to the lowest practical level, with land managers responsible for determining local land management goals and practices, and more responsive institutions at higher levels coordinating actions that have an impact at the ecosystem level or above. At each level capacities are stronger for multi-sectoral integration, and land managers are better equipped to take advantage of opportunities in the private sector, including better access to finance and to markets, in order to pursue their preferred land management practices.

This project will build capacity for improved implementation of Sustainable Land Management, create opportunities for greater intersectoral collaboration for sustainable ecosystem management, and connect marginalised groups to decision making and planning processes in order to strengthen equity and ensure greater buy-in to investments and policies. A greater rangeland of stakeholders will be engaged in the GGW process, including competing resource users, public and private sector, and communities and their representatives. Awareness will be raised on the value of sustainable land management and the costs—environmental, social and economic—of desertification, leading to greater mobilisation of public and private resources. Resource mobilisation will be better led by participatory processes to ensure that communities directly influence key decisions and also contribute to development plans. The process will be informed by improved knowledge management, including sharing of good practices and effective policies, validation of local and indigenous knowledge, and with particular emphasis on building understanding of mobilising private capital. By demonstrating how sustainable land management contributes to a wide range of environmental and development goals we will see increase public investment and prioritisation in national and local planning. With improved monitoring we will see greater support for integrated ecosystem management and stronger linkages being fostered between livelihood and conservation objectives.

A.1.4 The incremental cost reasoning and expected baseline contributions

Substantial investments are already being made in the GGW and it is already evident that there are policies and practices that have contributed to land degradation that continue to be implemented under the new efforts. Many stakeholders remain on the periphery of GGW implementation and their land use systems or management practices are overlooked in GGW strategies. Reporting on progress tends to be limited to a few direct interventions led by a few government agencies and many relevant examples of progress go unreported; indeed, some governments raised their concern that GGW agencies are not even aware of relevant investments in other government ministries, let alone the work of nongovernmental organisations and the private sector. The GGW is explicitly an integrated approach to capture the economic, social and environmental benefits of sustainable land management, just as the UNCCD is explicitly a convention that spans the development and environment sectors. However, in practice policy and practice remain fragmented and the environmental benefits of SLM are under-reported or completely overlooked. Opportunities for synergy between the 3 Rio MEAs are poorly exploited and the multiple benefits of SLM are routinely under-reported.

With the incremental financing from GEF, the proposed intervention will add value to current investments and policies, ensure that appropriate investments are more effectively monitored and that more safeguards

are put in place to avoid the risk of malpractices. By enabling investors—public and private—to be more responsive to local land users the incremental finance will ensure greater local ownership and greater harnessing of local knowledge, experiences and institutions. Investments in multiple sectors will be better coordinated, both safeguarding against negative outcomes and promoting synergies between sectors. Using appropriate tools the incremental finance will help identify high-value-for-money options for combined environmentally and economically sustainable development in the long term.

A.1.5. Global environmental benefits

This project will strengthen the effectiveness of SLM interventions on the ground and in policy and will improve synergy between multiple sustainable development targets and MEAs. The project will link stakeholders to improve recognition of and support for the multiple benefits of SLM including poverty reduction and food security, conservation of biodiversity, and protection of ecosystem services, which include water sheds and hydrological cycles as well as soil carbon sequestration and mitigation of climate change. These multiple benefits will be better measured and understood leading to more favourable broad-based enabling investments.

A.1.6. Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up

At the heart of this project is an approach that is eminently scalable and could have a major impact on overall support for SLM; recognizing and investing in the multiple benefits of sustainable land management. Whilst it is relatively easy to demonstrate that there are many benefits to SLM, translating this into appropriate support—both policies and investments—is more challenging. The project will show the value of multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approaches for delivering these synergies. The approach has appeal in any context of land degradation and is therefore relevant for scale-up worldwide. The real innovation of this project is in going beyond good practices—which have been quite well documented already in the region—and focusing on policy implementation for scale up and investment. Whilst policy barriers are also expected, in many cases there are a range of overlapping and poorly implemented policies that offer scope for immediate progress. This project will tackle the challenge of creating the capacity, awareness and motivation for implementation.

A.2. Stakeholders

As this is a multi-stakeholder project the intention is to target the full range of stakeholders at different levels, although the degree of representativeness of individual from different stakeholder groups is a challenge that the project must tackle. Stakeholders in the project include Civil Society Organizations, Indigenous Peoples, gender groups (and specifically a focus on women and women's organisations), and different language groups in the GGW. Stakeholders will also include a cross-section of the public sector. Specific activities will be organised to identify critical private sector actors and to engage them also in dialogue.

This project builds on an electronic forum for non-governmental and government participants convened by IUCN in July 2013 and drawing both from IUCN's membership and from further afield. The forum discussed progress towards the objective of the Great Green Wall (GGW) and the challenges for different stakeholders and sectors to engage in the GGW process. Also in 2013 IUCN signed an agreement with the World Bank GEF to execute elements of the BRICKS project, in support of the GGW. The proposed intervention builds on both these experiences; on the recommendations of participants at the e-conference and on gaps identified by GGW countries during the recent BRICKS inception meeting.

Priorities of Mobile Indigenous Peoples have been developed through an elaborate process of consultation and mobilisation led by the World Initiative for Sustainable Pastoralism (WISP) and the World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous Peoples (WAMIP). The most recent consultations were the Kiserian Gathering organised in Kenya, 2013, drawing pastoralist representatives from 50 countries to discuss pastoralism in

relation to the Global Green Economy. Recommendations from that consultation will inform implementation of this initiative. WISP is a global initiative that supports the empowerment of pastoralists to sustainably manage drylands resources will be one of the main partner of the project through IUCN. WISP is a catalyst for fostering partnership between pastoralists, governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), international organizations and the private sector. The World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous Peoples (WAMIP) is a membership-based organisation that is largely focused on Mobile Pastoralism and has representation from all populated regions of the world.

A.3. Risks

Risk	Risk	Mitigation measure
Inadequate access to government partners and decision making processes in some countries and this may constrain efforts towards multistakeholder dialogue.	Low	IUCN's role as a convenor will be used in countries that are IUCN state members to counter this. This will ensure access to government partners and hence strengthen the multi stakeholder dialogues. In countries that are less disposed towards Civil Society engagement avenues will be used to profile the importance of local accountability and local knowledge and experience and the project will be used to illustrate the role Civil Society can play in partnership with government.
Some marginal groups might not be accepted in networks. Particularly in countries with a history of conflict between pastoralists and cultivators there are challenges with building a concerted voice.	Low	The project will be flexible enough to address potential concerns that arise in this regard. Where the voice of women is not well respected the project will demonstrate the value of women's knowledge and highlight their role as natural resource managers in order to build acceptance.
Convincing some Civil Society actors of the value of the GGW and UNCCD processes and this risks undermining efforts to improve collaboration and partnership	Medium	The project will use appropriate awareness-raising materials, and ensure effective communication of evidence of progress/change, both within countries and regionally/globally
Significant environmental hazards that derail other policy discourse and focus all attention on emergency response. The response to such events is often detrimental to sustainable development goals	Medium	The project will factor in explicit activities to engage the relief sector in dialogue over potential risks and consequences of emergency interventions. The project will also work with the emergency response partners and try to mainstream some of its activities within their work. This will ensure sustainability in the work of the relief organizations.

A.4. Coordination

This initiative will work closely within the official structures of the Great Green Wall in order to enable coordination between actors, including GEF and non-GEF actions. The project will work particularly closely with the GEF-WB initiative SAWAP: Sahel and West Africa Programme in Support of the Great Green Wall Initiative to strengthen integration of environmental and development issues, engage multiple sectors and actors and to support governments in linking with civil society organizations and local communities. IUCN will use its role in BRICKS—a project supporting SAWAP implementation—to

engage more strongly with the range of actors working on the GGW. This includes international development partners, intergovernmental bodies such as CILSS, state actors and civil society organisations.

The principle networking initiatives related to the GGW and UNCCD implementation—such as RESAD, RADD0, Fleuve and DRYNET—will be invited as partners in this project and activities will be aligned and complementary. IUCN has already engaged closely with these networks in the Civil Society dialogue in 2013 and is committed to enabling networking-of-networks, particularly helping the existing networks to reach out to absent countries and stakeholder groups.

B. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:

B.1. National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions, if applicable, i.e. NAPAs, NAPs, NBSAPs, National Communications, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, Biennial Update Reports, etc: (1)

This project is oriented towards implementation of national action plans for implementation of the Great Green Wall, which are in turn closely aligned with National Action Programmes to combat desertification and the 10-Year Strategy of the UNCCD. The strategy highlights a number of important issues that arise in this project: insufficient advocacy and awareness among various constituencies, institutional weaknesses, difficulties in reaching consensus among parties, exclusion of local populations, particularly women and youth, and engagement of civil society organizations. The project will also contribute to synergies between the Rio conventions and will highlight low-cost options for simultaneously addressing concerns of land degradation, biodiversity conservation and climate change.

The project will seek to involve all key-actors, from local communities to governments, including civil society organizations. In every country, the project will build on the already existing multi-stakeholder dialogues that are taking place in addressing the NAPs to ensure country ownership and to align the project with the challenges faced on the ground. The project will also seek to incorporate the environment, and particularly the natural capital, across the development agenda. This will be through dialogue and sharing of best practices by multiple stakeholders and it will ensure strengthening of natural assets and improve resilience to climate change. The aim of this project is to build on on-going work in addressing the GGW and issues of land degradation and desertification. The project will therefore aim to build on ongoing government and other partner initiatives to deliver concrete outcomes both at local and national levels.

The project will be oriented to strengthening NAPs, NAPAs and NBSAPs—as well as national strategies for the great Green Wall—in order to take sustainable land management issues better into consideration, recognizing the multiple benefits of SLM. Action plans will be strengthened through dialogue between stakeholders and multiple sectors. Implementation of these action plans will also be strengthened through greater ownership across a range of stakeholders and greater awareness of national priorities. Through capacity building and networking the project will strengthen partnerships for concerted action in order to not only strengthen national action plans but to scale up their implementation. The project will emphasize the synergy between multiple international agreements, including the MEAs, and will promote harmonized approaches that demonstrate the efficiency of tackling multiple objectives simultaneously. As a result the project will demonstrate the value of SLM as a low-cost strategy for delivering on multiple targets.

The project responds to all of the key recommendations in the Bonn Ministerial Declaration (February, 2011) including:

1. taking advantage of existing work and lessons learned in the region;
2. addressing the land degradation and climate change challenges with an holistic approach;
3. considering the pastoralist issues in the Sahel;
4. the need for political and legislative framework to facilitate mainstreaming of successful interventions;
5. following an integrated ecosystem management approach; and, the need for integration of interventions

at regional scale

B.2. GEF Focal area and/or fund(s) strategies, eligibility criteria and priorities:

The project is consistent with the GEF Land Degradation focal area strategy and particularly LD-4: Adaptive management and Learning (Outcome 4.2; Outputs 4.1 & 4.2) and LD-1: Agriculture and Rangeland Systems (Outputs 1.1. and 1.4).

B.3. The GEF Agency’s comparative advantage for implementing this project:

UNEP’s comparative advantage derives from its mandate to coordinate UN activities with regard to the environment, including its convening power, its ability to engage with different stakeholders to develop innovative solutions and its capacity to transform these into policy- and implementation-relevant tools. UNEP’s comparative advantages in the GEF are also aligned with its mandate, functions and Medium Term Strategy and its biennial Programme of Work (2015- 2016). The proposed project is consistent with the Ecosystem management thematic priorities. Specifically, it will contribute to the achievement of Expected Accomplishment EA (a): Use of the ecosystem approach in countries to maintain ecosystem services and sustainable productivity of terrestrial and aquatic systems is increased by (2): Tools, technical support and partnerships to improve food security and sustainable productivity in agricultural landscapes through the integration of the ecosystem approach.

UNEP’s science and technical focus will bring comparative advantages as summarized in the following table:

Areas of UNEP comparative advantage in the GEF (all Focal Areas)		UNEP Thematic Priority Areas (subprograms)					
		Climate change	Disasters & conflicts	Ecosystems management	Environmental governance	Harmful substances & hazardous wastes	Resource efficiency
1. Sound science for national, regional and global decision-makers	Early warning and emerging issues			x			
	Science to Policy linkages			xx			
	Environmental monitoring and assessment			xx			
	Norms, standards, and guidelines			xxx			
	Enabling Activities for MEAs and synergies						
2. Cooperation, coordination and	Trans-boundary cooperation			xx			

partnerships (regional or international)	Regional, or South-South cooperation						
	Global transformative actions						
3. Technical assistance and capacity building at country level (contribution to Bali Strategic Plan)	Technology assessment, demonstration, and innovation						
	Capacity building			xxx			
	Lifting barriers to market transformation						
4. Knowledge management, awareness raising and advocacy			xx				

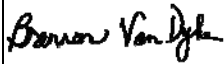
PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) AND GEF AGENCY(IES)

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

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/DD/YYYY)

B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF policies and procedures and meets the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF criteria for project identification and preparation.

Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Brennan Dan Dyke, Director, GEF Coordination Office		May 13, 2014	Mohamed Sessay Portfolio Manager, GEF BD/LD/BS	+254 20 762 4294	Mohamed.sessay@ unep.org

Annex 1: GEF-CSO/GGW proposal: indicative co-finance

Project	Donor	Year	Fund	Currency	Funds (USD)	Direct
Accroissement de la capacité adaptative des communautés locales au Changement climatique	SIDA	2012-2015	1500000	Eur	1,800,000	180,000
Strengthening Local Climate Change Adaptation Strategies in West Africa (EPIC)	BMU	2013-2018	380000	Eur	456,000	45,600
Programme de Développement Durable du Delta Intérieur du Niger (PDD-DIN) (under negotiation with the Malian Ministry of Environment)	SIDA	2014-2016	1500000	Eur	1,800,000	180,000
Partenariat pour la Gouvernance environnementale en Afrique de l'Ouest	SIDA	2014-2018	2700000	Eur	3,240,000	324,000
Total					7,296,000	729,600