



GEF-6 REQUEST FOR PROJECT ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Project

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF Trust Fund

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PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Healthy Ecosystems for Rangeland Development (HERD): sustainable rangeland management strategies and practices			
Country(ies):	Jordan, Egypt	GEF Project ID: ¹	9407
GEF Agency(ies):	UNEP	GEF Agency Project ID:	01400
Other Executing Partner(s):	IUCN	Resubmission Date:	October 10, 2017
GEF Focal Area (s):	Land Degradation	Project Duration (Months)	48
Integrated Approach Pilot	IAP-Cities <input type="checkbox"/> IAP-Commodities <input type="checkbox"/> IAP-Food Security <input type="checkbox"/>	Corporate Program: SGP <input type="checkbox"/>	
Name of Parent Program	N/A	Agency Fee (\$)	334,018

A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK AND OTHER PROGRAM STRATEGIES²

Focal Area Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
			GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
LD1 – Agro-ecosystems - Prog.1: Agro-ecological intensification	<p>Outcome 1.1: Improved agricultural, rangeland and pastoral management</p> <p><i>Focal Area Indicator 1.1 Land area under effective agricultural, rangeland and pastoral management practices and/or supporting climate-smart agriculture – thus measured:</i></p> <p>Sustainable Rangeland Management (SRM) measures are applied in at least 525,563 ha of target landscapes (192,621 ha in Jordan and 332,942 ha in Egypt), departing from a baseline of 5,089 ha, corresponding to the surface of the Bani Hashim pilot site in Jordan, where some form of community-based SRM measure currently applies.</p> <p>[Refer to: (a) Project Results Framework indicator #1; (b) Question 1b PMAT Tracking Tool; and (c) UNEP ProDoc Table 8.]</p>	GEFTF	1,618,080	4,830,000
LD3 – Integrated Landscapes - Progr.4: Scaling-up SLM through Landscape Approach	<p>Outcome 3.2: Integrated landscape management practices adopted by local communities based on gender sensitive needs.</p> <p><i>Focal Area Indicator 3.2: Application of integrated natural resource management (INRM) practices in wider landscapes – thus measured:</i></p> <p>(i) At least 10 local community groups across all target landscapes in both countries, including Rangeland User Associations and Hima Communities, adhere in SRM management practices; and (ii) An inter-sectoral planning mechanism at governorate level is in place in each of the 4 target landscapes (3 in Jordan, 1 in Egypt), departing from a baseline where SRM management practices prevail in only one site in Jordan (Bani Hashem) and one nascent community association in Egypt is willing to engage in SRM.</p> <p>[Refer to Project Results Framework indicator #7.]</p>	GEFTF	1,897,902	7,397,000
Total project costs			3,515,982	12,227,000

¹ Project ID number remains the same as the assigned PIF number.

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

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Project Objective: To strengthen restoration and sustainable management of pastoral rangelands for the provision of ecosystem services and protection of biodiversity in Egypt and Jordan and catalyzing scale up regionally and globally.

Project Components / Programs	Type ³	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
					GEF Project Financing	Confirmed Co-financing
Component 1. Technical assistance for adaptive management and learning (evidence- based decision- making)	TA	<p>Outcome 1.1 Rangeland monitoring systems institutionalized nationally and regionally based on commonly agreed scale-dependent indicators appropriate for different end-user groups</p> <p>Outcome 1.2 Good practices and effective policies in sustainable rangeland management and rangeland rehabilitation identified and prioritized for implementation</p>	<p>1.1.1 Rangeland landscape assessments conducted at local, and national levels using agreed biophysical and socio-economic indicators and participatory approaches where applicable</p> <p>1.1.2 Development of Prototype National platforms for information sharing and exchange, including data on land degradation and good practices in Sustainable Rangelands</p> <p>1.2.1 Review of policies and laws, including relevant international agreements, related to sustainable rangeland management, identifying opportunities and barriers to policy implementation</p> <p>1.2.2 Cost-benefit analysis of sustainable rangeland management policies and practices using economic methodologies</p> <p>1.2.3 Good practices and policies in integrated rangeland management validated following agreed methodologies and indicators</p>	GEFTF	776,041	2,949,166
Component 2. Stronger institutions for rangeland governance	TA	<p>Outcome 2.1 Local organizations for rangeland management (community and government) engage in more inclusive dialogue for improved rangeland governance covering approximately 500,000 hectares</p> <p>Outcome 2.2 Participating communities use PRMP to guide the establishment of rules and regulations for</p>	<p>2.1.1 Capacity/needs assessment of local organizations, including community groups and local public service providers</p> <p>2.1.2 Stronger organizational capacities through appropriate training, including training of partner institutions in Participatory Sustainable Rangeland Management Planning (PRMP)</p> <p>2.2.1 PRMP implemented in all participating communities and updated annually</p> <p>2.2.2 Documentation of existing</p>	GEFTF	554,194	1,849,167

³ Financing type can be either investment or technical assistance.

Project Components / Programs	Type ³	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
					GEF Project Financing	Confirmed Co-financing
		improved rangelands management (in line with the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure)	community land use practices (rules and regulations over rangeland resource management: pasture, water, trees, wildlife, livestock corridors, etc.) 2.2.3 Local agreements between communities and between communities and state institutions (Hima agreements, local conventions, bylaws etc.) developed according to national legal opportunities			
Component 3. Identifying and up- scaling good practices in Sustainable rangeland Management, based on PRMPs	TA	Outcome 3.1 Local farmers / pastoralists adopt good practices in rangeland restoration and management and supporting services with support from local government agencies	3.1.1 Training and awareness raising in rangeland restoration and management innovations and adapting services for sustainable rangeland management 3.1.2 PRMP based sustainable rangeland management systems are piloted Activities are indicative and will be more closely determined according to results of the PRMPs and through partnership: <i>3.1.3 PRMP-based supporting activities are piloted .Activities are indicative and will be more closely determined according to results of the PRMPs:</i>	GEFTF	1,069,310	5,366,167
Component 4. Knowledge management to promote an enabling environment for regional scale up of sustainable rangeland management	TA	Outcome 4.1 Increased support for sustainable pastoralism in investments and public decision/policy-making, nationally, regionally and globally.	4.1.1 Lessons on the value of rangeland ecosystems and good practices in SRM are documented and communicated through a regional Communal Rangelands Leadership network (of scientists, pastoralists and Civil Society Organizations for South-South learning and cooperation) 4.1.2 Regional dialogue to influence the design and implementation of policies and investments for SRM, including coordinated influence of international agreements 4.1.3 Sustainable Rangeland Management initiatives are submitted (regionally and outside the region) for funding under the HERD umbrella, based on	GEFTF	786,300	1,912,500

Project Components / Programs	Type ³	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
					GEF Project Financing	Confirmed Co-financing
			“bankable” investment options and innovative financing strategies			
M&E		Adaptive management, oversight and evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular project oversight Periodic project monitoring and reporting Mid-term review and final evaluation (meeting IUCN, UNEP and GEF requirements) 	GEFTF	162,710	0
Subtotal					3,348,555	12,077,000
Project Management Cost (PMC) ⁴				GEFTF	167,427	150,000
Total project costs					3,515,982	12,227,000

C. CONFIRMED SOURCES OF Co-financing FOR THE PROJECT BY NAME AND BY TYPE

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

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Cofinancing	Amount (\$)
CSO	The Hashemite Fund for Development of Jordan Badia (HFDJB)	Grants	1,900,000
Donor Agency	GIZ - German International Cooperation Agency	Grant	100,000
CSO	Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe – CEDARE	Grant	300,000
CSO	Desert Research Centre (DRC), Egypt	Grants	6,527,000
Recipient Government	Ministry of Environment, Jordan	In-kind	2,000,000
CSO	The Hashemite Fund for Development of Jordan Badia (HFDJB)	In-kind	1,100,000
CSO	IUCN regional office for west Asia & global	Grants	300,000
Total Co-financing			12,227,000

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

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country Name/Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in \$)		
					GEF Project Financing (a)	Agency Fee ^{a)} (b) ²	Total (c)=a+b
UNEP	GEFTF	Jordan	Land Degradation	NA	1,324,201	125,799	1,450,000
UNEP	GEFTF	Egypt	Land Degradation	NA	1,324,201	125,799	1,450,000
UNEP	GEFTF	Global	Land Degradation	NA	867,580	82,420	950,000
Total Grant Resources					3,515,982	334,018	3,850,000

a) Refer to the Fee Policy for GEF Partner Agencies

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

E. PROJECT'S TARGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS⁵

Provide the expected project targets as appropriate.

Corporate Results	Replenishment Targets	Project Targets
2. Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)	120 million hectares under sustainable land management	500,000 hectares

F. DOES THE PROJECT INCLUDE A "NON-GRANT" INSTRUMENT? No.

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

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. DESCRIBE ANY CHANGES IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE PROJECT DESIGN WITH THE ORIGINAL PIF⁶

A.1. Project Description.

Overview of What Changed since PIF Stage

Topic	At PIF Stage	At CEO Endorsement Stage
Project Title	<p>The Project Title had the following formulation:</p> <p><i>"Healthy Ecosystems for Rangeland Development (HERD): sustainable rangeland management for biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation"</i></p>	<p>The title changed slightly after a proposal for change was tabled during the Inception Workshop. The change was validated by key project stakeholders, including the GEF Agency UNEP. The current title now read as follows:</p> <p><i>"Healthy Ecosystems for Rangeland Development (HERD): sustainable rangeland management strategies and practices"</i></p> <p>The following is the justification for change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The words <i>"biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation"</i> were removed from the title because their inclusion without the mention of land degradation or ecosystem services could be misleading vis-à-vis the project's actual focus.• The changes were meant to bring clarity and relevance. Stakeholders agreed to the inclusion of 'strategies and practices' in the title (in lieu of <i>"biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation"</i>) – and UNEP vetted it – given that this aspects are highly central to the HERD Concept and had been were missing. <p>IMPORTANT: IUCN and UNEP requests the GEF Secretariat to accept this change and update the project's records accordingly.</p> <p>On a related note, there was no change, to the project's objective, even though it mentions the <i>"protection of biodiversity"</i> as a goal. This was not considered misleading in terms of the project focus, because <i>"the provision of ecosystem services"</i> is mentioned before <i>"the protection of biodiversity"</i> in project's objective.</p>

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

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

Topic	At PIF Stage	At CEO Endorsement Stage
Focal Area Strategy Framework	<p>At PIF stage, the following was the LD Focal Area fit (PIF Part I, Table A):</p> <p>LD1 – Agro-ecosystems Program 1: Agro-ecological intensification</p> <p>LD2 – Forest Landscapes Program 3: Land Management and Restoration</p> <p>LD3 – Integrated Landscapes Program 4: Scaling-up Sustainable Land Management through Landscape Approach</p> <p>Table F, Part I, included targets for the following:</p> <p>Corporate Result #2. Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes): 100,000 ha</p> <p>Corporate Result #4. Support to transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path: 1800 metric tons of CO₂e mitigated (including both direct and indirect)</p>	<p>The project's focal area fit remains within LD, but LD2 as a GEF Strategic Objective was dropped. This is because project proponents and designers reached the conclusion that the project had very little to do with 'forest restoration'.</p> <p>As with the changes to the project title, this change was also meant as way to be more precise and focused about the project will actually deliver.</p> <p><u>More specifically</u>, LD1 was seen as more closely related to Component 1 and LD 3 to Component 3, while Components 1 and 2 where considered to relate to both LD1 and LD3 in an equal manner.</p> <p>Both the GEF budget and the co-financing were then divided according to the above logic, resulting in the following percentages for GEF funds and co-financing, respectively: 46% and 40% for LD1, and 54% and 60% for LD3.</p> <p>The GEF Focal Area Outcomes have been defined and the measurement against the applicable GEF corporate indicators are shown both in Tables A and Table F in Part I of this document.</p> <p>For Table F on the project's target contributions to Global Environmental Benefits, the following changed:</p> <p>Corporate Result #2 increased to 500,000 ha, with reference to the results from site-level assessment, captured in the project's Tracking Tool (PMAT), and where target landscapes at CEO Endorsement stage were assessed to cover 525,563 ha (192,621 ha in Jordan and 332,942 ha in Egypt). The number was rounded off to 500,000 ha.</p> <p>Corporate Result #4 was dropped, as it was not considered practical or feasible to measure carbon stocks and flows across the landscapes in a meaningful way during the PPG phase. In addition, it was considered that the results of these measurements would not add much value vis-à-vis the project's objective. In connection with LDN indicators (and with reference to Results Framework Indicator #4), the usefulness of carbon measurements may be reassessed and measurements carried out, but only to the extent that it adds value to the project and its beneficiaries.</p>
Project Outcomes and Outputs	<p>The PIF included a set of six results-oriented project Outcomes, grouped under four Components.</p> <p><u>Outcome 2.1</u> had the following formulation: <i>"Local organizations for rangeland management (community and government) engage in more inclusive dialogue for improved rangeland governance covering 100,000 hectares"</i>.</p> <p>The following Outputs had the following formulation at PIF stage:</p>	<p>At CEO Endorsement stage, Project Outcomes and Outputs remained largely unchanged, with a few exceptions:</p> <p><u>Outcome 2.1</u> remained unchanged, except for the mention of 500,00 ha, due to the same rationale explained further up for Table F, Corporate Result #2. The modest target proposed at PIF stage of 100,000 ha for improved rangeland governance increased by a 5 fold-measure after PPG consultations were completed and once the Tracking Tool was applied to project landscapes.</p>

Topic	At PIF Stage	At CEO Endorsement Stage
	<p><u>Output 1.2.1</u> Review of policies and laws, including relevant international agreements, related to sustainable rangeland management, identifying opportunities and barriers policy implementation</p> <p><u>Output 3.1.2</u> PRMP based sustainable rangeland management systems are piloted (Indicative field activities: natural regeneration through pasture zoning or exclosures, selective re-introduction of native species, catchment- scale strategic water interventions, demarcation of rangelands and seasonal reserves, demarcation of livestock corridors, establishment of Community Conserved Areas)</p> <p><u>Output 3.1.3</u> Indicative supporting activities: strengthening markets for rangeland goods and services (including livestock and non-timber forest products), market information systems, ecotourism training and support, pilot PES schemes, pilot grassland carbon payments, connecting pastoralists to financial services, connecting pastoralists with supporting public services (e.g. veterinary services, health, education, legal services)</p> <p><u>Output 4.1.1</u> Lessons on the value of rangeland ecosystems and good practices in SRM are documented and communicated through a regional Communal Rangelands Leadership network of scientists, pastoralists and Civil Society Organizations for South-South learning and cooperation</p>	<p><u>Output 1.2.1:</u> Cosmetic changes to the formulations were performed to include a preposition that was missing. It now reads: Review of policies and laws, including relevant international agreements, related to sustainable rangeland management, identifying opportunities and barriers <u>to</u> policy implementation.</p> <p>Text was shortened in output 3.1.2. The activities previously listed are provided in Section 3.3 Project components and expected results. no significant change was made in its purpose and content.</p> <p><u>Output 3.1.2</u> PRMP based sustainable rangeland management systems are piloted.</p> <p>Text in output 3.1.3 was simplified and changed to show that this output relates to the PRMP. It now reads: Output 3.1.3 PRMP-based supporting activities are piloted</p> <p>Output 4.1.1, a cosmetic change was performed, where excessive text is now placed into parenthesis in view of simplification. It now reads: Lessons on the value of rangeland ecosystems and good practices in SRM are documented and communicated through a regional Communal Rangelands Leadership network (of scientists, pastoralists and Civil Society Organizations for South-South learning and cooperation)</p> <p>Refer to Part I, Table B of this document for a reference to current formulations of Outcomes and Outputs.</p>
Project Strategy	The PIF represented the initial development of the HERD Concept and the Project Strategy .	<p>The project's overall strategy is now fully developed and the HERD Concept consolidated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project has now complete descriptions of Outcomes, Outputs and Activities. This was based on a reconstruction of the project's Theory of Change, where Root Causes of land degradation were studied, analysed, including at site level. The SRM Solutions and the Barriers to this solution described. The project Outputs were then seen in a slightly new light and appropriately described. • The Tracking Tool Assessment (PMAT) served to define

Topic	At PIF Stage	At CEO Endorsement Stage
		<p>landscapes and engage project stakeholders in the subject matter of the project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities have been detailed and costed, with flexibility allowed for an adaptive management approach during project implementation. • A thorough Stakeholder Analysis was carried out and a Stakeholder Engagement Strategy developed, including with accent on gender aspects. • A Baseline Assessment and an Incremental Cost Analysis were carried, including with financial figures. • Partnerships for implementation were consolidated and new ones forged. This is currently reflected in the project's management and implementation arrangements. • A thorough Results Framework for the project with indicators, their baseline, targets and means of measurement have been developed. • The project's M&E Framework has been made fully explicit and costed. • The Project Budget has been detailed and the GEF budget's allocations per component changed slightly. • Project Risks have been reassessed and updated. • Safeguards on social and environmental aspects have been considered through the applicable UNEP screening. The project is not expected to have major social and environmental risks or impacts that cannot otherwise be managed through its current strategy as designed.
Co-financing	Was indicatively \$9 million.	Effectively, \$12.2 million were mobilized at CEO Endorsement stage, at least 30% higher than at PIF stage, with letters making this explicit, including how much of the co-financing comes from baseline, how much had been leveraged by the project, as well as the break-down between cash/grant co-financing and in-kind.

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

Reference to the UNEP PRODOC for the above topic:

SECTIONS IN THE ProDOC AND REFERENCE TO THEIR CONTENT	PAGE REFERENCE
<p>Section 2.1 is the complete description of the Project’s Background and Context.</p> <p>This includes the ‘core problem that the project is addressing’ (reproduced further down), including a discussion on the regional context and specific sub-sections with background country analyses for Jordan and Egypt.</p>	ProDoc, pp. 10 – 19
<p>ProDoc Annex 1a - Sections 2 and 3 contain respectively the PPG Country Reports for Jordan and Egypt providing detailed background information from PPG baseline assessments.</p>	ProDoc Annex 1a, PDF inserts

SECTIONS IN THE PRODOC AND REFERENCE TO THEIR CONTENT	PAGE REFERENCE
ProDoc Annex 1a - Section 1 (Additional Context and Background) includes a sub-section titled ‘ 2) The economics of rangeland degradation in Jordan and Egypt ’, which discusses more broadly how land degradation affects national economies, (with reference to rural poverty and food insecurity and how it slows down the development of countries). It also provides estimates of the impacts of grassland degradation on livestock productivity at the global level. The economic impact of rangeland degradation in Jordan and Egypt are also briefly presented with available evidence and cross-references.	ProDoc Annex 1a, pp. –167-169
Section 2.2 contains a thorough description of its Global Significance .	ProDoc, pp. 19 - 21
Section 2.3 refers to Threats, root causes and barrier analysis .	ProDoc, pp. 22 – 26
ProDoc Annex 1a includes both further justification and data on the threats and root causes , but also the complete Barrier Analysis , which is much more thorough and concrete at CEO Endorsement stage than at PIF stage.	ProDoc Annex 1a, pp. 13 - 18
Section 3.4 includes a discussion of the Intervention logic and key assumptions behind the project. Among other elements, the site selection is made explicit and the rationale for their selection explained. The implications of the proposed long-term solution for the project and its scope are also discussed in that section.	ProDoc, pp. 66 – 77
Additionally, the ‘ HERD Concept and Hima ’ are explained in ProDoc Annex 1a - Section 1 (Additional Context and Background) , point #1.	ProDoc Annex 1a, pp. – 167-179
Overall, Annex 1a to the UNEP ProDoc contains a wealth of background information and data, including PPG Reports for both Jordan and Egypt, maps, tables and figures.	ProDoc Annex has 220+ pages in total.

A summary analysis is herein reproduced with excerpts from the UNEP ProDoc and Appendices of the ProDoc:

The core problem that the project is addressing

Land degradation is one of the world’s most pressing environmental challenges, although estimates of its global extent vary considerably. A recent analysis of long-term trends in land degradation, with a scope of 25 year and using an inter-annual vegetation index as an indicator of biomass production, found that land degradation hotspots cover about 29% of global land area and occur in all agro-ecologies and land cover types. While it is widely accepted that rangelands are susceptible to land degradation, the global extent of this degradation is contested. Le *et al.* (2014) find “Land degradation is especially massive in grasslands”, whereas Bai *et al.* (2008) find that only 20-25% of degrading land is rangeland, and of the 16% of land that is improving globally, 43% is rangeland.

Rangelands have been characterized in the literature as a one of the most degraded biomes in the world, with one author mentioning that 73% of world’s rangelands are degraded, which represents almost 20% of global pasture.⁷ Grazing biomes are especially important for the world’s livestock production and their degradation causes a serious threat to the global livestock productivity. Pastoralism plays a key role in preserving the livelihoods of poor, rural households, therefore livestock has not only economic, but also social functions.

It is therefore important to understand and consider the long-term trends and conditions that affect the productivity of rangelands for identifying the best management intervention in any given point in time and in the different locations. This also implies taking into account the policy and economic drivers that influence land use in rangelands, as well as the impact of natural and anthropogenic climatic drivers.

Most importantly, what is manageable is **societies’ response to these drivers** – i.e. how adaptive land-use practices and land tenure policies are in the face of challenges. In Jordan and Egypt, which are the focus of this GEF intervention, climatic variability and land stewardship practices are the most relevant factors influencing the sustainability of rangeland management. These conclusions are

⁷ Ibid.

backed by country analysis and surveys carried out during the PPG phase, which have oriented the development of the project strategy.⁸

In this light, addressing barriers to **sustainable rangeland management (SRM)** linked land use governance mechanisms, which both influence the prevailing land stewardship practices and shape land users' response to edaphoclimatic conditions, is the core focus of the project.

The Concept of HERD and the Long Term Solution envisaged

HERD stands for Healthy Ecosystems for Rangeland Development. Rangeland health is linked to the persistence of ecosystem function and, in general terms, healthy rangelands are those where their ecosystem services continue to produce the optimal range of benefits to society. However, it is recognized that different parties may value ecosystem services differently and the optimal use of rangelands is something that needs ongoing negotiation. For this reason, governance is at the heart of this initiative.

This project, with both a sub-regional and global perspectives, has selected Jordan and Egypt as focus countries to showcase management strategies for strengthening the restoration and sustainable management of pastoral rangelands for the provision of ecosystem services and protection of biodiversity.

The long-term solution sought by the project is to strengthen restoration and sustainable management of pastoral rangelands for the provision of ecosystem services and protection of biodiversity. This will be done through this GEF intervention in Egypt and Jordan. The project will also contribute significantly to catalyzing the scale up of SRM, both regionally and globally.

The selection of these two countries is both timely and useful. One of the main environmental problems facing the Arab Region is land degradation and desertification which has become a serious socio-economic and health issue. We can expect that these problems will be exacerbated by climate change.

Additionally, when we consider land-use governance, the gender disparity that often characterizes societal relationships in the Arab Region needs to be taken into account, when solutions for sustainable rangeland management (SRM) are being sought.

The differences and commonalities between the rangeland management strategies that predominate in Jordan and Egypt respectively provide a good sample for mutual learning and for catalyzing the process of scaling-up sustainable practices, both regionally and globally. The same also applies to the governance frameworks that influence land use and the economics and rangeland management. There is also regional convergence on the matter, e.g. as seen the most recent Hima Forum held in October 2016, when several countries committed to taking into consideration the usefulness of Hima land governance frameworks in the management of rangelands and in the promotion of sustainable development for the people who protect them (see ProDoc Annex 1a for a description of the HERD Concept and Hima). Besides Hima, the project will also explore other forms of customary land use governance to strengthen SRM, including through its regional and global perspective.

Root causes and barriers behind the degradation of rangelands

A seminal study from 2002 on rangeland degradation analyzed the problem from a global perspective and pointed out to **cultivation and overgrazing** as the main direct causes of this process in the (semi-)arid regions in developing countries.⁹ Both apply to Jordan and Egypt and both relate to human and animal population pressure, which challenges the land's carrying and recovery capacity. Firewood collection further denudes rangelands. Yet, both in Egypt and Jordan, it is assumed that the heart of rangelands is not very affected by woody biomass collection because the energy matrix in these countries makes limited use of fuelwood for cooking and heating.

Specifically for the rangelands of Jordan and Egypt, the following are the direct causes of Land Degradation of relevance for this project: **(i)** Increased stocking and overgrazing; **(ii)** Expansion of the agricultural frontier and associated practices and policies; **(iii)** Natural phenomena and climate change; **(iv)** Emerging threats.

The threat profile in project countries, and according to **project sites**, can be summarized in **ProDoc Table 1**, reproduced further down. See also **ProDoc Appendix 15** for the project's **Tracking Tool (PMAT)**, showing how land degradation was measured at project level to sub-section '**Project sites**', under Section 3.4, for a description of these.

⁸ See PPG studies in the [ProDoc Annex 1a](#). See also IUCN (2011) and Davis et al. (2015).

⁹ *Ibid.*

ProDoc Table 8, based on the PMAT and also reproduced further down, provides a **Characterization of the area in which project is located & the Land Degradation Problem**.

Based on threat profile and contextual analysis contained in the background section and country reports, the barrier analysis was developed. Four barriers impede the realization of the solution envisaged by the project, as follows:

- Barrier #1) Gaps in specific knowledge and data for management
- Barrier #2) Policy failures and institutional capacity constraints
- Barrier #3) Limited practical experience with addressing the SRM challenges
- Barrier #4) Learning is needed but not sufficiently promoted

Refer to ProDoc Annex 1a, Section 1, Point #4 for a thorough analysis of the above-listed barriers.

ProDoc Table 1) Intensity of and profile of land degradation in the project areas

Type of threat	Cause of LD	(1) Jordan, Sura and Bani Hashim (Middle and Northern Badia)*	(2) Jordan, Southern Badia*	(3) Jordan Al Hazeem (Northern Badia)	(4) Egypt, Abou-Mazhoud-El Zewaid*	(5) Egypt, Gaioin*	How land degradation manifests itself in the project areas:
General	Biodiversity loss	2	1	1	3	3-4	Loss of natural habitats due to disturbance, introduction of alien species and/or overharvesting of (e.g. of medicinal plants)
	Soil quality reduction	2	1	1	1	2-3	Soil is mostly sandy and increasing losing fertility; reduction of wetlands (in Hazeem-Azraq-Qattafi e.g.) due to fast capillary rise; soil and water degradation; soil chemical pollution is affecting all three sites
	Human Pressure	2	1	1	2	3-4	Increased pressure on water resources, increasing water deficits
	Animal Pressure	3	2	2	2	3-4	Increased pressure on natural pasture leading to overgrazing
	Water Erosion	3	1	2	1	1	Increased soil erosion, top soil washed away, formation of gullies and even canyons near steep slopes; loss of water regulation function
	Eolic Erosion	3	1	2	1	3-4	Increased soil erosion; reduced productivity & water regulation
Specific	Fire	0	0	0	0	0	Loss of ecosystem goods; changing soil composition.
	Agriculture expansion	1	0	1	0	0	Loss of vegetation; increased water demand for irrigation; water and soil contamination from excessive fertilizer use
	Overgrazing	2	2	1	2	3-4	Alterations in plant composition and productivity of natural pasture; increasing exposure and erosion of soil
	Irrigation	1	0	0	0	0	Increased salinization; increase water deficits; high indices of inefficient soil-water-plant management (36% efficiency)
	Mining (rocks; lime; gold; oil)	2	0	0	0	0	Increased soil alkalization and salinization; decreased quality and quantity of water, groundwater contamination.
Emerging	Climate change	2	2	2	2	2	Increase in extreme events; increased water and soil erosion and loss of fertility

* Location of sites (refer also to ProDoc Atlas in Annex):

(1) The landscapes of Sura and Bani Hashim are located in a close distance from each other in Northern and Middle Badia respectively.

(2) The landscape of Al Manshyah is located in the Southern Badia.

(3) The landscape of Al Hazeem is located in Northern Badia.

(4) & (5) Landscapes of Abou-Mazhoud-El Zewaid and Gaioin in North Western Coast, Governate of Matruh, Egypt

* Guiding legend for the overall intensity of land degradation in the different locations.

1. Light: The terrain has somewhat reduced agricultural suitability, but is suitable for use in local farming systems. Restoration to full productivity is possible by modifications of the management system. Original biotic functions are still largely intact.

2. Moderate: The terrain has greatly reduced agricultural productivity, but is still suitable for use in local farming systems. Major improvements are required to restore productivity. Original biotic functions are partially destroyed.

3. Strong: The terrain is non reclaimable at farm level. Major engineering works are required for terrain restoration. Original biotic functions are largely destroyed.

4. Extreme: The terrain is unreclaimable and beyond restoration. Original biotic functions are fully destroyed.

ProDoc Table 8) Project Landscapes: Agro-ecological contex (based on the Tracking Tool)

Ref. to TT Questions and Notes		Overall PROJECT	Site 1 (Abou-Mazhoud-El Zewaid)	Site 2 (Gaioin)	Egypt	Site 1 Bani Hashim	Site 2 SURA	Site 3 Hazeem	Site 6 Jafir-AIManshyah	Jordan	% of Productive Landscape
	OVERALL ("Outer") Landscape (in hectares)	566,337	208,426	124,516	332,942	6,058	12,767	193,641	20,929	233,395	100%
1.a	Agroecological zone(s) is the project situated	Arid	Arid	Arid	Arid	Arid	Arid	Arid	Arid	Arid	-
1.b	Production systems targeted by project target	<i>Rangeland and mixed systems</i>	<i>Rangeland and mixed systems</i>			<i>Rangeland</i>					-
[a]	Productive Landscape/ Project target in hectares	525,563	208,426	124,516	332,942	5,089	12,767	169,742	5,023	192,621	100%
	i. Agriculture (including food crop, tree crop, and crop-livestock)	3,869	0	0	0	545	2,936	387	0	3,869	1%
[b]	ii. Rangeland	349,009	139,645	24,903	164,549	1,636	9,703	169,355	3,767	184,461	66%
	iii. Pastoral	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
	iv. Forestry	4,291	0	0	0	2,908	128	0	1,256	4,291	1%
[c]	v. Mixed Systems	168,393	68,781	99,613	168,393	0	0	0	0	0	32%
	TOTAL area of production systems targeted	525,563	208,426	124,516	332,942	5,089	12,767	169,742	5,023	192,621	100%
	Other and non-productive Landscape	40,774	0	0	0	969	0	23,899	15,906	40,774	0
	Urban	969	0	0	0	969	0	0	0	969	
	Bare rocks	20,774	0	0	0	0	0	4,868	15,906	20,774	
	Protected Areas	19,031	0	0	0	0	0	19,031	0	19,031	
1.c	Extent of land degradation within the project boundary										% of land use category
	i. Agriculture (including food crop, tree crop, and crop-livestock)	773	0	0	0	147	587	39	0	773	20%
	ii. Rangeland	182,324	90,770	22,413	113,182	491	2,911	61,973	3,767	69,142	52%
	iii. Pastoral	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
	iv. Forestry	0	0	0	0	no data	no data	0	no data	0	0%
	v. Mixed Systems	151,554	61,903	89,652	151,554	0	0	0	0	0	90%
Extent of land degradation within productive landscapes (ha)		334,651	152,672	112,064	264,736	638	3,498	62,012	3,767	69,915	-
Extent of land degradation (% of productive landscapes)		64%	73%	90%	80%	13%	27%	37%	75%	36%	-

Notes:

[a] The **Productive Landscape** or the Project target ("project boundaries" as referred to in the Tracking Tool) includes the following land use categories: rangeland, agriculture, pastoral, forest and bare soil that is part of the of range. Although the target of management will be '*rangelands*' in Egypt and '*rangelands and mixed systems*' in Jordan, there is a small portion of the productive landscapes (2%) that are under agriculture and forestry in Jordan sites (unless otherwise decided during project inception). Because the areas are small, they will be considered for the purposes of target area calculation, part of the object of management within the target landscapes. The following land use feature have been excluded from the project target: protected areas, urban areas, industrial/mining sites and bare rocks.

[b] Rangelands comprise 96% of the surface of target landscapes in Jordan, but only 49% in Egypt, where a gradient that includes mixed systems to open rangelands have been included as part of the target landscapes.

[c] Four agro-ecological zones are distinguished in the project area. (i) a narrow coastal strip, about 5 km inland, which has good alluvial soils and horticulture is the main farming activity, with livestock and barley; (ii) a mixed production strip, 5-15 km inland, of lower rainfall and soil quality, and a mixed small ruminants-barley farming system prevails with orchards grown in the wadis; (iii) a rangeland strip, 15-50 km inland, of semi-nomadic population, largely used for small ruminants grazing, with scattered barley cultivation in land depressions; and (iv) an open-range area lies beyond 50-km inland, where a nomadic population are living on animal production, mainly camels.

2) The baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects

3) The proposed alternative scenario, GEF Focal Area Strategies, with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project

4) Incremental cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEF TF and co-financing

5) Global environmental benefits (GEFTF)

Reference to the UNEP PRODOC for the above topics:

SECTIONS IN THE PRODOC AND REFERENCE TO THEIR CONTENT	PAGE REFERENCE
<p>Section 2.6 contains the Baseline analysis and gaps, which has expanded significantly since the PIF stage, along with other sections. Section 2.6 includes both the ‘Summary of the rangeland management status quo’ and the ‘project’s financial baseline’, where the methods for financial baseline assessment is presented.</p> <p>ProdDoc Table 11 (reproduced further down), contains the key elements in the baseline analysis.</p> <p>The Project’s Financial Baseline is summarized in ProdDoc Table 3 (also reproduced further down). It contains the key elements of not just the incremental cost reasoning, but also the incremental cost financial analysis, building further from the data in ProdDoc Table 11, and the assessment of the baseline’s finance to the project’s co-financing. The Global Environmental Benefits are outlined in ProdDoc Table 11</p>	ProDoc, pp. 31 – 35
ProDoc Appendices 2 and 11 provide more details on the co-financing by source and project components , and for the actual co-financing commitment letters from project partners.	ProDoc, p. 91 ProDoc, pp. 118 – 125
ProDoc Annex 1a - Section 1 (Additional Context and Background) includes a sub-section titled ‘ 5) Baseline Finance Details ’, which provides the full background for the mentioned ProdDoc Table 3 .	ProDoc Annex 1a, pp. 21 - 26
Section 3.3 contains a through description of expected outcomes and components of the project , along with the set of Activities that have developed during the PPG in connection with them. A summary of these elements are reproduced further down.	ProDoc, pp. 44 - 53

ProdDoc Table 3. Financial Baseline Summary Overview

#	Baseline Finance Interventions (selected programs, projects and initiatives, plus governmental and non-governmental budgets / programs of work)	Responsible entity	Relevance to HERD Components	TOTAL (\$ million)	Contribution to HERD co-financing
1	IUCN The World Initiative for Sustainable Pastoralism (WISP), Global	IUCN	1, 3	\$0.6	IUCN co-financing to the project is leveraged, not part of baseline.

#	Baseline Finance Interventions (selected programs, projects and initiatives, plus governmental and non-governmental budgets / programs of work)	Responsible entity	Relevance to HERD Components	TOTAL (\$ million)	Contribution to HERD co-financing
2	ICARDA's Projects (The International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas)	ICARDA and partners	1, 2, 4	\$6.0	-
3	FAO Led Pastoralist Knowledge Hub - network initiative, Global	FAO and partners	1, 2	\$1.8	-
4	Joint EU Rural Development Program (ENPARD approach) - Egypt, Algeria, Jordan	Centre International de Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes - Institut Agronomique Méditerranéen de Montpellier (CIHEAM-IAMM)	2, 4	\$10.6	-
5	Environmental programs of League of Arab States (LAS) and Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe – CEDARE	LAS and CEDARE	1, 3, 4	\$3.6	-
6	WANA Institute's Program of Work, Regional	WANA Institute (Jordan based NGO with regional outreach)	1, 4	\$0.2	-
7	WB Water Sector Reform DPL, Jordan	Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC)	1, 3	\$25.0	-
8	WB Project MSME Development Project for Inclusive Growth, Jordan	Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Central Government	2, 3	\$3.5	-
9	Sustainable Use of Ecosystem Services in Jordan, GIZ and partners	GIZ	1, 2, 3	\$1.8	Yes
10	Program of Work of the Hashemite Fund for Development of the Jordan Badia (HFDB), including the Badia Restoration Program (BRP), Jordan	HFDB - Hashemite Fund for Development of the Jordan Baadia	1, 2, 3	\$1.0	Yes, refer to co-financing letter dated 10 Jan 2017, where baseline is mentioned
11	RBG CBRR: Community-based Rangeland Rehabilitation Program of the Royal Botanic Garden (RBG) / Royal Society for Conservation of Nature (RSCN) - Jordan	RBG / RSCN, Jordan	1, 2, 3	\$0.6	-
12	Program of Work of the Desert Research Centre (DRC), Egypt	DRC, Egypt	1, 2, 3, 4	\$7.0	Yes
13	WB EG-Enhanced Water Resources Management	EG-Enhanced Water Resources Management	1, 3	\$1.7	
14	Egypt Network for Integrated Development (ENID) - Multi-donor	UNDP and Government of Egypt	1, 2, 3	\$1.5	
16	UNDP Mine Clearing and Agricultural Development, Matrouh, Phases I and II	UNDP and Government of Egypt	1, 2, 3	\$1.3	

#	Baseline Finance Interventions (selected programs, projects and initiatives, plus governmental and non-governmental budgets / programs of work)	Responsible entity	Relevance to HERD Components	TOTAL (\$ million)	Contribution to HERD co-financing
17	WB Regional Coordination for Improved Water Resources Mgt. & Capacity	Regional Coordination for Improved Water Resources Mgt. & Capacity	1, 3	\$0.2	
Total baseline (B)				\$66.3	

Refer to ProDoc Annex 1a, Section 1, Point #5 for details on the baseline finance.

Project components and expected results

Component 1

Technical assistance for adaptive management and learning (evidence-based decision-making)

Under this first Component, the project will institutionalize rangeland monitoring systems using scale-dependent indicators appropriate for different end-user groups, linking monitoring at regional, national and community levels. This will improve identification of cost-effective good practices and policies in SRM and rangeland rehabilitation using agreed methodologies such as Total Economic Valuation and tools such as the “Minimum Standards in Sustainable Pastoralist Development”.¹⁰

This Component will also provide insights into the desired rangeland ecological communities to enable appropriate forest and rangeland mosaics are restored and to protect high-value components like wetlands within dryland ecosystems. The project will strengthen knowledge and capacity for implementing policies in support of SRM, using tools like the Pastoralism Learning Forum (www.iucn.org/wisp), as well as the Arabian Pastoralist Communities Network, mentioned in the Stakeholder Matrix (See ProDoc and Section further down).

Component 2

Stronger institutions for rangeland governance

Under the second Component, the project will draw on the IUCN-authored Technical Guide for implementing the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT) in Pastoral Lands.¹¹ The project will strengthen local organizations for communal range management (e.g. Hima Communities) according to national legislation and preferences of stakeholders.

This will entail capacity assessment and capacity building at different scales. Participatory Rangeland Management Planning (PRMP) will be institutionalized in community rangeland groups and including women groups local government through training of trainers. National or local laws that strengthen community rangelands resource rights will be identified and better-implemented in line with the VGGT. This will entail documenting existing rules and regulations (government and community) and developing appropriate mechanisms to strengthen their enforcement, including by-laws and local conventions. Component 2 will pay particular attention to the resource rights and governance capabilities of women pastoralists and will ensure space for women’s representation and participation in all decision-making processes and public fora. The role of women groups in advocacy and policy dialogues will also be considered. From past projects, it has been shown that women participation is more effective when they are in groups. The project will therefore work with women groups to ensure their participation in in decision making processes. In cases where these groups are not in place, the project will facilitate their formation and ensure women are adequately represented in decision making discussions. Women champions / role models from the communities will also be incorporated in the capacity building initiatives to ensure the women from the community are able to freely contribute to discussions. (see Box 2 in ProDoc on the VGGT in Pastoral Lands and relevant for the HERD Project).

Component 3

Identifying and up- scaling good practices in Sustainable Rangeland Management, based on Rangeland Management Planning

¹⁰ IUCN, 2011

¹¹ FAO, 2015

For the third Component, the project will focus on work that will bring SRM results to scale. This be based on PRMPs and will support activities in rangeland rehabilitation and sustainable integrated landscape management, such as (but not limited to) managed natural regeneration, integrated land and water resource management, social- fencing, exclosures for short-term rangeland regeneration, demarcation of rangelands and livestock corridors, and establishment of Community Conserved Areas. In the establishment of community conserved areas, the role of women will be taken into consideration for instance in the collection and drying of medicinal herbs and processing them for marketing.

The project will strengthen supporting services for SRM, including markets for rangeland goods and services (including livestock and non-livestock products), market information systems, ecotourism training and support, pilot PES schemes, pilot grassland carbon payments, livestock disease surveillance and control, and support for access basic social services for rangeland communities. Women groups will be specifically targeted under this component for the identified income generating activities. In cases where there are no women groups, the project will support their formation to ensure women participation is integrated in the project. By drawing on the PRMPs, Comp 2 will explicitly address priorities identified by women pastoralists.

Component 4

Knowledge management to promote an enabling environment for regional scale-up of Sustainable Rangeland Management

Component 4 will stimulate learning and dialogue for the adoption of regional decisions in relation to pastoralism, for implementation of international agreements to which a substantial number of countries have signed up, and for coordinated input to those global institutions. This includes regional actions to promote implementation of Land Degradation Neutrality, following a meeting convened by the League of Arab States (Cairo, February 28th, 2016) where it was proposed that the current project would support the development of an “Initiative to Support LDN Implementation in the Arab Countries”.

Component 4 will also support the region to demonstrate its global leadership in this field, supporting engagement of experts and pastoralist representatives in international fora, exchange of experiences worldwide, and technical support from regional experts to initiatives on pastoralism and rangelands outside of the region.

This also includes establishing a regional Communal Rangelands Leadership network of scientists, pastoralists and Civil Society Organizations to improve South-South learning and cooperation and to engage regional experts in global dialogue on pastoralism. This network will combine electronic networking with public events at international fora and participation of experts in the development of comparable initiatives in other regions.

More specifically, the project will contribute to development of a global initiative on scaling up communal rangelands management (under the umbrella of “HERD”), which will be spearheaded by Jordan and Egypt, and the LAS region more widely, providing South-South collaboration, knowledge sharing, capacity building and inspiration. The network will initially be based in IUCN Jordan and the project will explore options for establishing the network within a regional center of excellence, through dialogue with the LAS members.

Lessons for experience sharing will be drawn from Jordan and Egypt as well as key champions of communal rangelands management in the region, such as Lebanon and Morocco.

Finally, Component 4 will strengthen regional and global dialogue to improve awareness of the values of rangeland ecosystems, including global dialogue to generate recognition of rangeland ecosystem services in international policy. This will be used to encourage additional countries worldwide to develop initiatives under the HERD umbrella and prioritization is not appropriate at the start, but countries that have already expressed an interest include Iraq, Lebanon, Sudan, Mauritania and Kuwait within the LAS region, as well as Chad and Senegal and others informally.

The project components outcomes, expected outputs and associated activities are presented in detail in the UNEP ProDoc.

The Project’s Baseline, its Alternative and the Global Environmental Benefits that it is expected to produce are summarized in ProDoc Table 11 (below).

ProDoc Table 11. Incremental Cost Reasoning and Analysis

Baseline (B)	Alternative (A)	Global Environmental Benefits (A - B)
<p><i>At the global and regional levels:</i></p> <p>The state of knowledge about rangelands is generally weak. There is little consensus over: the desirable state of rangelands management and gaps in specific knowledge and data for the management of rangeland. The costs of restoring rangelands are variable and highly contextual, and so are the techniques that may be prescribed for recuperating land productivity in each case. This has significant implications for investments in these areas.</p> <p>Within the MENA Region, many countries have weak capacity in the field of rangeland ecology to be able to explore the benefits of “big data” for SRM. Hence, it is difficult to translate the results of assessments into cost-effective SRM interventions. The potential role of pastoralism in sustainable development remains marginal.</p> <p>In terms of policies and institutional capacities at both the global and regional levels, there has been progress in the agenda for discussing the governance of rangeland tenure, considering that rangelands are a major ‘global common’, but this yet to revert the long-term trend towards the marginalization of pastoralists – the principal managers of rangelands – and to influence global financial flows that will favor rangeland restoration and sustainable management. Until then, the common denominator that the VGGT represent in this respect will remain underexplored and without resonance among countries through practical applications.</p> <p>Throughout the MENA region there is a tension between the aims of the agricultural sector to maximize food output and how this can be reconciled with the goals of sustainable development, given the constraints the imposed by the natural climatic and soil conditions to food production. Land degradation and anthropogenic climate change pose additional constraints. At the same time, experience from the MENA region has shown that investments in communal tenure and natural resource governance are among the most effective in delivering SRM at scale, and that in the long run</p>	<p><i>In the Alternative</i></p> <p>The project will strengthen restoration and sustainable management of pastoral rangelands for the provision of ecosystem services and protection of biodiversity in Egypt and Jordan and catalyzing scale up Regionally and globally.</p> <p>It will contribute to improving the flow of agro-ecosystem services to sustain food production and livelihoods in Egypt and Jordan, while also catalyzing the dissemination of sustainable practices in other countries, where pastoralist systems prevail.</p> <p><i>Under Component 1</i></p> <p>Rangeland monitoring systems will be institutionalized both nationally and regionally, based on commonly agreed scale-dependent indicators appropriate for different end-user groups. There will be a wide range of beneficiaries to activities foreseen. A robust monitoring system with a focus on rangelands' health will be established and sustained by the project.</p> <p>A suite of good practices and effective policies in sustainable rangeland management and rangeland rehabilitation will be identified and prioritized for implementation.</p> <p>The core focus of the project's Component 1 will be on the technical assistance for adaptive management and learning, also termed as 'evidence- based decision-making'.</p> <p><i>Under Component 2:</i></p> <p>The project will focus on strengthening institutions for rangeland governance.</p> <p>Local organizations for rangeland management (community and government) engage in more inclusive dialogue for improved rangeland governance covering at least 500,000 hectares.</p> <p>Participatory Rangeland Management Planning (PRMP) will be a key tool used to achieve these goals.</p> <p>Participating communities will be trained in using PRMP to guide the establishment of rules and regulations for improved rangelands management. Much of this work will focus on</p>	<p><i>GEBs to be generated by the project:</i></p> <p>The project will generate global environmental benefits both at the site level covering at least 350,000 ha of rangelands (the approximate surface coverage within the project’s target landscapes).</p> <p>The project will reduce the extent of land degradation in sites by at least 10%. It will also revert the trend of degradation in these sites, by instituting systems, which will in the long run put rangelands back on a sustainable management path.</p> <p>Through the influence that the project will exert on countries and regional bodies to adopt policies and practices that are consistent with HERD with the ultimate intention of arresting the process of rangeland degradation through SRM.</p> <p>Policies and practices infused by the project will promote biomass growth, conservation of biodiversity and the maintenance of a suit of ecosystem services linked to water, soil and carbon – increasing thereby rangelands’ potential for food production in a sustainable way.</p> <p>SRM contributes to combating desertification by increasing rangeland vegetation cover and particularly perennial species that protect soils and reduce soil erosion. Well-managed rangelands have a higher capacity to trap and store water and nutrients, including soil organic carbon, sustaining primary productivity. Pastoralism based on carefully managed herd mobility, it can stimulate pasture growth, improve rangeland mulching, reduce invasive</p>

Baseline (B)	Alternative (A)	Global Environmental Benefits (A - B)
<p>these investments are low cost. Yet, there seems to be a tendency towards prioritizing long-term change in attitudes and practices over short term delivery of physical investments.</p> <p>Finally, in terms of lifting lessons from several interventions (that is projects, programs and initiatives) in the areas of rangeland management, pastoralism, rural development and land use policies, the following can be said: The globalization of the discourse on sustainable pastoralism has created new learning opportunities, for example the World Initiative for Sustainable Pastoralism (WISP) and the FAO Pastoral Knowledge Hub. The challenge is to ensure greater emphasis on developing partnerships for innovation between strong community institutions (e.g. pastoral associations), scientists and the state.</p> <p><i>At the national level</i></p> <p>Neither Jordan nor Egypt have formally established mechanisms or methodologies for monitoring rangeland health. Remote sensing technologies offer new possibilities but insufficient work has been carried out to ground-truth data, but this is just one tool to solving a problem that has many facets.</p> <p>Rangelands development, in both Jordan and Egypt, suffers from lack of agreement over the objectives for rangeland management, even though progress was made recently in Jordan through the adoption of the 2014 National Rangelands Policy.</p> <p>Still, in both countries, pastoralists are not always adequately consulted in key planning processes that affect their access to rangelands or their potential stewardship function vis-à-vis these areas.</p> <p>Additionally, and to different degrees in the two countries, there are inconsistencies in rangeland, livestock and other related policies, which generally results in negative impacts to rangelands. ProDoc Annex 1a, Section 1, point 3 (Causes of land degradation and drivers behind them) provides an overview of how this manifests itself.</p> <p><i>The status quo of rangelands' health</i></p>	<p>aligning practices and principles with the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure - VGGT.</p> <p>PRMP will implemented in all participating communities, reaching some 30,000 local community members in both Jordan and Egypt, of which 45% are women. Plans will be updated annually.</p> <p>Local agreements between communities and between communities and state institutions will be developed. These may unclude Hima agreements, local conventions, bylaws etc., all according to national legal opportunities and possibilities.</p> <p>The gender equality aspects will always be taken into account in the governance of tenure and in the sharing of benefits from SRM, by not just recognizing women's privileged role in sustainably managing rangelands and its special resources, among them water sources, medicinal plants, polination services among others.</p> <p><i>Under Component 3:</i></p> <p>The project will identify and up- scale a suite of good practices in RSRM, based on PRMP. The implementation of plans, based on assessments and evidence- based decision-making will come to fruition through focused activities slated to realize the multiple benefits from SRM.</p> <p>Both training and on-the-ground rangeland restoration actions will be part of the SRM packages to be realized by the projec through partnerships with local stakeholders.</p> <p>The excellent results from baseline activities, e.g. the Bani Hashim experience from Jordan will be up-scaled and replicated according to local conditions and context in a suite of other sites. Wide landscapes of “approx. 500,000 ha” will benefit from SRM measures with the potential for multiplying the techniques into other areas by example and dissemination through project supported networks.</p> <p><i>Under Component 4</i></p> <p>The global and regional aspect of the project will be realized more specifically.</p> <p>This includes a focus on knowledge management to promote an enabling environment for regional scale up of sustainable</p>	<p>species and improve mineral and water cycling.</p> <p>SRM also contributes to conserving biodiversity by maintaining a diversity of vegetation cover, protecting habitats and maintaining landscape connectivity through livestock/wildlife corridors. Pastoral rangelands possess significant biodiversity, and sustainable pastoralism depends on this diversity and which the project will help sustain by promoting SRM.</p> <p>Rangelands can play a role in mitigating climate change. The restoration of rangelands contributes to carbon sequestration, and protecting rangelands from conversion to other land uses maintains significant carbon stores. Many rangelands are dominated by C4 grasses which are among the most efficient sequesters of atmospheric carbon. The majority of rangeland biomass is sub-surface, where it has a high degree of permanence, so long as those lands are not ploughed. It has been estimated that there is scope globally to rehabilitate 5000 Mha of rangeland which would sequester an additional 1300-2000 MtCO₂.</p> <p>Pastoralism is a highly adaptive system and has evolved in unpredictable climates as a way of managing uncertainty and seasonal variability. Resilient rangeland ecosystems and more sustainable management of rangeland resources contribute to adaptive capacity and enable rangeland systems to remain vibrant in the face of climate change in areas where alternative land uses would succumb.</p> <p>SRM restores important ecosystem services linked to water: it improves hydrological cycles by improving infiltration of water,</p>

Baseline (B)	Alternative (A)	Global Environmental Benefits (A - B)
<p>Widespread land degradation, characterized by loss of top soil, decreased availability of water, the shrinking of essential habitats, resulting in loss of biodiversity, a reduction in available biomass within the landscape – and therefore of associated carbon, both in the soil and in the vegetation, where net primary production is a key indicator of it. This culminates with marked decline the productivity of land. With both biotic and abiotic cycles involved, land degradation relates to the loss of ecosystem services that sustain life and economic activities.</p> <p>Project sites display a degradation level that range from 13% in Bani Hasheem (Jordan) to 90% in Gaion (Egypt) – see ProDoc Table 5 on the ‘<i>State of rangelands’ degradation in project sites (preliminary PPG assessment)</i>’</p>	<p>rangeland management.</p> <p>The project will increased its support for sustainable pastoralism both in investments and in public decision/policy- making on a three-tier scale: nationally, regionally and globally.</p> <p>Lessons on the value of rangeland ecosystems and good practices in SRM will be documented and communicated through e.g. the Regional Communal Rangelands Leadership network, the WISP and others.</p> <p>Overall:</p> <p>The various actions foreseen under the project, the HERD Concept will be bound to become an 'umbrella' for SRM, based on “bankable” investment options and innovative financing strategies.</p>	<p>improving water holding capacity, reducing evaporation and run off. These contribute to more stable transboundary water flows and reduced risks of flooding and landslides, which are projected to become a greater risk due to climate change and the increase in severe storm events.</p> <p>In Sum</p> <p>Ecosystem services that healthy rangelands can render to humanity: pasture, habitats for rare biodiversity, soil, nutrient and carbon fixation, and the cyclical availability of water for renewing life and grazing grounds in some of the world’s most harsh environments.</p>
<p>Total financial baseline estimates (B)*</p> <p>Component 1 \$20.3 million</p> <p>Component 2 \$12.4 million</p> <p>Component 3 \$16.5 million</p> <p>Component 4 \$9.2 million</p> <p>[* excludes baseline that contributes to co-financing]</p>	<p>Total estimates for the Alternative (A)</p> <p>Component 1 \$24.065 million</p> <p>Component 2 \$14.831 million</p> <p>Component 3 \$23.140 million</p> <p>Component 4 \$11.639 million</p> <p>Project Mgt \$0.167 million</p>	<p>Total costs for the generating GEBs (A-B)</p> <p>Component 1 \$3.765 million</p> <p>Component 2 \$2.431 million</p> <p>Component 3 \$6.640 million</p> <p>Component 4 \$2.439 million</p> <p>Project Mgt \$0.167 million</p>
<p>TOTAL \$58.4 million</p>	<p>TOTAL \$73.68 million</p>	<p>TOTAL \$15.443 million</p>

6) Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

Reference to the UNEP PRODOC:

SECTIONS IN THE PRODOC AND REFERENCE TO THEIR CONTENT	PAGE REFERENCE
Section 3.8 refers to Sustainability and Innovation . It includes a discussion of the new sustainable practices' adoption, uptake and spread. The text from the ProDoc is reproduced further down. There are improvement to the content, vis-à-vis the same content as presented in the PIF.	ProDoc, pp. 73 – 74
Section 3.9 refers to Replication of the project model, its approach and results, including the uniqueness of HIMA but also the potential for scaling up the HERD model.	ProDoc, p. 72

Sustainability, Innovation and Replication

New Sustainable Practices' Adoption, Uptake and Spread

This project will use innovative approaches to community rangeland management that deliver significant improvement in ecosystem services in response to low-cost investments in communal governance and decision-making. These approaches demand a high level of skill but relatively low investment in physical infrastructure and will draw on IUCN's established training and capacity development approaches. The advantage of this human-centered approach is that it is highly sustainable and knowledge/skill transfer is at the core of the methodology. In addition, use of participatory tools allows for innovative outputs and promotion of proactive resilient behaviors among targeted local communities. Such tools build the capacities of pastoral communities which will provide basis for informed negotiation with governments regarding the most appropriate interventions to restore rangelands and stop land degradation. Accordingly, this will help in transforming policies and future interventions in land degradation. Innovative methodologies will also be deployed to measure the ecosystem service benefits of rangeland management and the cost-benefit analysis of these investments.

Institution building, particularly at the community level, is a relatively new focus in rangeland development, especially in targeted countries. Institution building helps focus rangeland development on the rangeland user groups, enabling them to assume their responsibilities over sustainable rangeland management. Effective institution building focuses both on the rules and regulations of communal rangeland management and on the operational effectiveness of community groups.

Component 2 emphasizes strengthening community and local government organizations to coordinate and to institutionalize participatory rangeland management planning. Sustainability is addressed through the process of capacity building and also through support for national governments to institutionalize PRMP. In Jordan, this is already in process through the adoption of the revised National Rangelands Strategy which was led by IUCN based on the PRMP process that is central to HERD. The project will support further policy dialogue to ensure policy support in Egypt and implementation of policy in both countries.

Ecosystem-scale rangeland management is also an innovative approach that establishes new processes (e.g. investment planning at the suitable scale) and mechanisms (e.g. intersectoral coordination bodies) for integrated resource planning. The approach uses multi-stakeholder dialogue to secure buy-in, coordinate investments across sectors and actors, and ensure equity. An important tool in this process is Participatory Rangeland Management Planning (PRMP), which has been implemented widely by IUCN and by a number of participating countries. PRMP provides practical outputs in terms of improved management of communal resources and provides a foundation on which improved local institutions are built. PRMP is designed to be embedded in community rangeland institutions and local government as a standard, low cost operational approach that routinely influences rangeland monitoring and planning.

Rangeland Management has much in common with Forest Landscape Restoration and indeed many rangelands overlap significantly with forests. Woodland patches and individual trees within grassland landscapes are critically important for overall ecosystem function. They also have exceptionally high value in rangeland production systems, providing seasonal fodder, food, shade, fuel, building materials and much more. This project will demonstrate these linkages and will provide evidence and guidance for integrating rangelands strongly in global FLR and related initiatives, such as the Bonn Challenge and UN Targets on Forest and Landscape Restoration.

The emphasis on local governance for SRM creates opportunity for innovation, for example in adaptive planning of herd movements or community rehabilitation of resources. The approach is flexible and can be adjusted to the policy context of each country, benefitting from policies or laws related to Community Based Natural Resource Management, devolved decision-making, communal tenure etc. The emphasis on improved monitoring to validate good practice and building skills and knowledge to enable implementation of existing policy in support of good practice offers an innovative approach to partnership-based sustainable

development. Moreover, building on widely accepted concepts in the region (like the concept of Hima due to its historical significance) will facilitate encourage more investments in rangeland movement and facilitate scaling up.

Sustainability

Sustainability in the project is addressed through the identification and marketing of environmental benefits, improving income and pastoralists livelihood, and building capacities and development of relationships and institutions for SRM. Sustainability will be validated through improved monitoring and better-defined indicators and goal-setting. Sustainability of the project interventions will be delivered through emphasis on capacities and institution building. Improved rangeland management revolves around stronger local decision-making for collective action (e.g. through PRMP), which depends on the capacity for informed dialogue at local level (both the community and local service providers), and on the opportunity for equitable dialogue between stakeholders. To secure the sustainability of his approach requires working closely with local government and communities to secure their buy-in to the overall goals and process, and to provide them with the necessary skills and institutional support.

Replication: The Uniqueness of HIMA

The LAS region is uniquely placed to champion SRM and community-based approaches like Hima, which enjoys unrivalled social and political acceptance in several Arab countries. Hima allows communities to negotiate opportunities with government for improved management of communal rangelands. By demonstrating and validating progress this project can help to raise the confidence of many governments towards pastoral management of rangelands.

Analogues to Hima are found in most traditional pastoralist societies and in recent years there has been growing interest in reviving traditional practices and institutions for sustainable pastoralism. Promoting communal rangelands management through strengthening of local organizations is an innovative approach that is gradually gaining traction (for example in Mongolia, Morocco and Spain). It has been pioneered in Jordan and Egypt by IUCN and others, showing how progress can be achieved by combining field-level actions with close government partnership and focusing on policy implementation. HERD is designed to become a global initiative that is led by the LAS region, where current political momentum is favorable, with the intention of inspiring multiple countries worldwide to join the initiative in the long term. HERD will evolve on the basis of a new understanding of sustainable pastoralism: as a dual economic-environmental management system; as a system of rangeland stewardship based on managed herd mobility; and as a system of communal governance based on vibrant local institutions and effective governance arrangements between communities and the State.

Scaling up

Explicit within the project is the identification of good practices for scale up and establishment of condition to enable rangelands users to adopt proven approaches. The critical area of scale-up is related to scaling-out the institution-building processes, which requires both policy support and capacity amongst government actors. The project contributes through training of trainers in PRMP and institution building, and through emphasis on implementation of existing policies that support scale up. Activities under component 2 and 3 will increase the awareness of rangeland sectors and users and establish the institutions that will drive demand for sustainable rangeland management practices.

A.2. Child Project?

If this is a child project under a program, describe how the components contribute to the overall program impact.

-- Not Applicable --

A.3. Stakeholders.

Elaborate on how the key stakeholders engagement, particularly with regard to civil society organizations and indigenous peoples, is incorporated in the preparation and implementation of the project.

Reproduced from UNEP ProDoc Table 2

Stakeholder Analysis Overview

Stakeholder	Context and expected role in the project
Globally	
UNEP	UNEP is the Implementing agency for this project, providing quality assurance, oversight, and support. It may also facilitate linkages to other relevant programs and projects, access to data and specialized

Stakeholder	Context and expected role in the project
	technical advisory services. UNEP will also be responsible for the project's GEF specific M&E function, including evaluation services according to its UNEP-GEF procedures, as well as compliance with GEF requirements. . In addition, UNEP-Science Division will be involved in monitoring the SDGs delivery in the project. For this project, and with a mandate provided by project's countries in their respective endorsement letters, UNEP assigned project execution responsibilities to IUCN, which had conceived the project in its idea stage.
IUCN	<p>As a multi-lateral body with a broad nature conservation global mandate, IUCN will be the entity responsible for project execution at the global, regional and national levels, given that the project has all of these three entry points. IUCN will be therefore accountable to UNEP for delivering on the project objective and outcomes and for using the project's budget in accordance with the Project Document. It is also expected that IUCN will be able to draw on specialized knowledge and expertise among its staff, commissions and members, for advising on relevant project activities and global policy matters as needed. IUCN hosts the World Initiative for Sustainable Pastoralism (WISP), an important forum for connecting global HERD stakeholders and improving the knowledge base regarding rangelands, as well as IUNC's Global Drylands Initiative and the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management.</p> <p>National governments participating in the project (Jordan and Egypt) have endorsed the project and assigned to IUCN ROWA, located in Amman, Jordan) a core mandate for coordinating the project with country level partners, including with and among governments in Jordan, Egypt and in other countries in the region. More specifically, IUNC ROWA will be the budget holder for the project through an agreement to be signed with UNEP for the purpose, once the project had been endorsed by the GEF CEO.</p>
Partner agencies, donors and funds	<p>At the global level, several entities have been involved in discussing at the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) the governance of the world's commons, among them, rangelands, as well as the implications of key conclusions for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals. FAO is a relevant partner in this regard, not only for hosting the CFS, but also for sponsoring the compilation in 2016 of specific VGGT for rangeland management. Key donors are supporting these and related initiatives, among Germany, the EU and Danida. Furthermore, FAO collects, processes and avails data on land degradation and statistics agriculture and related matters, including livestock and pastoral resources. This is relevant for analyzing and monitoring the state of rangelands. Also, FAO has been hosting the World's Pastoralist Knowledge Hub as a related initiative to IUCN's WISP.</p> <p>Other relevant partners to be mentioned at the global level include: (i) the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), which is one of the CGIAR centers; (ii) International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); (iii) other UN agencies, including UNDP due to its Global Policy Centre on Resilient Ecosystems and Desertification (GC-RED), the World Bank (WB) and bilateral multilateral donors, due to their role in relevant global baseline projects; plus related scientific partnerships such as the Global Rangelands, hosted by the University of Arizona.</p> <p>In addition, in terms of funding resources, entities and initiatives such as the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund (LDNF) under the UNCCD could be in the future highly relevant for bringing the HERD Concept to scale.</p>
Regionally	
League of Arab States (LAS)	LAS is a key project partner for what regional policies are concerned. For the past few years, LAS has been playing a strong advocacy role in the region on issues of land degradation neutrality, sandstorms, climate change and resilience, and now also rangeland management. The project will keep an open dialogue with LAS through IUCN ROWA to fully explore synergies and collaboration.
Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe – CEDARE	Based in Cairo, Egypt, CEDARE is a knowledge-based and technology-driven Centre of Excellence established by the Arab Ministers of Environment and which received support from UNDP. CEDARE maintains a strong network of governmental, non-governmental and supra-national partners within the Arab region and it can be engaged to help raise awareness about rangelands and disseminate the models proposed for SRM under the HERD project.
The Arabian Pastoralist Communities Network	The Network is created to revive, document and develop the traditional knowledge in the Arabic Region in order to invest it in the development of Bedouin pastoral groups and building their capacities for effective participation in rehabilitation and improvement of sustainable participatory management of

Stakeholder	Context and expected role in the project
	rangelands. This happen through mainstreaming and networking with civil society organizations, researchers, experts, decision makers and other stakeholders and networks. Also, partnerships through the Arabian Pastoralist Communities Network aim to foster capacity building, shared learning, networking and exchange of experience of the indigenous peoples (local people) in our region, sharing a deep concern for the respect of cultural rights and rights to land and natural resource.
Other CSO partners working at the regional level	<p>A number of CSOs that are active in the environmental area play a role in and maintain projects and initiatives that are relevant for HERD. Among them, the Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD), the WANA Institute, OXFAM, CARE International and others. The project will reach out to them through networks, including through the revived WISP and other channels.</p> <p>As for OXFAM Italy, it is a project co-financier and it is expected to contribute through their support to environmental management policies and community development programs in Jordan.</p>
In Jordan	
Hashemite Fund for Development of the Jordan Baadia - HFDJB	The Badia Development Fund is a key project partner at the national level and co-financier, and hence a member of the Project Steering Committee. Based in Amman and established in 2003 under Royal patronage, the Hashemite, the Fund's aim is to improve the socio-economic conditions in the Badia by building the capacities of local communities, and by implementing well-planned projects in various relevant sectors. The Fund way of working includes both direct and indirect involvement in development activities taking place in the Badia. It maintains a corps of research experts and networks with government, local NGOs, donors and community based organizations, permitting it to implement a suite of projects relevant for Badia development. Previously responsible for Badia restoration projects, the Hashemite Fund for Development of the Jordan Baadia can potentially play a role in the implementation of activities in relevant project components, the details of which will be clarified after due process.
Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Agriculture and Water	Both ministries are project partners and co-financiers, responsible for ensuring the project is aligned with national priorities and investments and for supporting adoption of SRM approaches in national policies and budgeting processes. They are expected to participate actively in the Project Steering Committee. At the national level in Jordan, both line ministries will also facilitate for liaison with other ministries, sub-national governments (at the governate and district levels e.g.), with local authorities and with foreign partners through LAS dialogue, to ensure coordination at the national and regional levels.
Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG)	RGB's is a key project partner at the national level. Its role in supporting research on rangeland management is equally important. RGB is also a close project partner, co-financier and member of the project steering committee.
Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN)	Because of RSCN's role in supporting research relevant for the sustainable management of rangelands, they are well positioned to assist in the implementation of certain project activities. More specifically, of the selected landscapes (Hazeem) has protected areas is in its vicinity, under the responsibility of RSCN and collaboration with the project in the management of the wider landscape can be beneficial to both. The exact collaboration framework regarding the management of Hazeem's landscape will be further detailed during the project inception.
GIZ Jordan	A project partner and co-financier. GIZ and IUNC have been instrumental in supporting a PES project in Jordan through each a key study on the economic valuation of a large-scale rangeland restoration has been implemented in Jordan, building on the Hima system. The lessons from the PES project are crucial for disseminating the model in other sites in Jordan, besides the pilot in Bani Hashem and the Zarqua Basin.
In Egypt	
Desert Research Centre (DRC), Egypt	As a parastatal linked to the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, the DRCs has been mandated by the government to support the implementation of the UNCCD in Egypt. The DRC is a key project partner at the national level and co-financier, and hence a member of the Project Steering Committee. The Center functions mostly as a research entity, made up of experts and specialists on all aspects of managing drylands in Egypt. Responsible for other and on-going rangeland management projects, the Center is expected to play a role in the implementation of activities in relevant project components, the details of which will be clarified after due process.

Stakeholder	Context and expected role in the project
Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation	Similar to their peers in Jordan, these core line ministries are project partners responsible for ensuring the project is aligned with national priorities and investments and for supporting adoption of SRM approaches in national policies and budgeting processes. They are expected to participate actively in the Project Steering Committee. At the national level in Egypt, both line ministries will also facilitate for liaison with other ministries, sub-national governments (at the governorate and district levels e.g.), with local authorities and with foreign partners through LAS dialogue, to ensure coordination at the national and regional levels. Under the Ministry of Environment, more specifically, the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency can potentially support the project with researching and categorize pastoral lands and species, documenting indigenous knowledge, the economic value of pastoral plants and in reinforce environmental laws, including in the management of biodiversity.
Sub-national authorities in the Matrouh Governorate	Because the on-the-ground implementation of the project in Egypt will focus on rangelands within the Matrouh governorate, the involvement of sub-national authorities in Matrouh will be crucial, including in terms of fully participating in the mainstreaming of SRM in the land-use planning for the Governorate.
Agricultural Research Center	The Center's role in research relevant for the livestock sector and crops will be particularly useful informing the management.
<i>In both countries</i>	
Pastoralists, including local communities of agro-pastoralists, transhumants and nomads	They are a key beneficiary of the project, given their absolutely central role in managing rangelands. They are often not organized into CBOs. An innovation to be brought by the project is to find ways of connecting pastoral communities using mobile technology and in this way create networks among them to support the implementation of landscape management plans in rangelands. During the PPG, some of the pastoralist stakeholders have been surveyed, consulted at site level and engaged in the project. The project mechanisms at the site level will involve the signature of agreements for SRM.
Local farming communities	Along with pastoralists, sedentary farmers should part of the solutions for rangelands and the transition towards SRM. While livestock production systems are still highly dependent on complementary feed produced by cropping, this may change, to the extent that rangelands become more sustainably managed and its pasture resources can contribute more significantly to livestock rearing systems. Mechanisms of the involvement of local farmers will be similar to those of pastoralists.
Local rangeland service providers	Extension agents will be the main intermediaries for participatory planning and will be trained to roll out the methodology. They will facilitate community planning and will be responsible for channeling community priorities into local government planning processes. They will also advise on project actions due to their established role in the management of rangeland. Their role will be more closely defined during project implementation and after due capacity assessments.
Local government departments	Responsible for endorsing the project approach at local level, help prepare and endorse land use management plans that have a bearing for SRM, and identifying opportunities and community priorities that will reinforce the project objectives and agenda. This includes coordinating across public sectors to avoid conflicting investments. Local government departments will be represented on project steering committees at the local level.
National and local CSOs/CBOs	Various CSOs and COSs at the national and local levels can potentially participate in the implementation of project activities. More specific roles are assigned through the project strategy. As with rangeland service provider, they may be made responsible for the delivery of specific actions in partnership with IUCN ROWA, playing a role that will be more closely defined as calls for proposals and service agreements are rolled out.
Secondary stakeholders in both countries	Private Sector, the media, donor agencies that support baseline activities are important but secondary stakeholders. They will be involved in the project according to activities and relevance.

Refer also to ProDoc Section 5, which contains more details on stakeholder participation.

A.4. [Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.](#)

Reproduced from UNEP ProDoc Section 3.4, Sub-Section on Gender Aspects

Studies from the early 2000's show that an estimated 70 percent of the poor are women, for whom livestock represent one of the most important assets and sources of income.¹² Pastoralist women are key agents in livelihood development. They engage in socioeconomic and cultural activities, and in the conservation and management of natural resources. Despite the many challenges they face, pastoral women are resourceful in finding ways to ensure that their households' basic needs are met. However, their valuable role is only partially recognized. Pastoral women are particularly disadvantaged by the limitations they face within their own societies, for instance in property ownership or participating in decision-making processes. Increasing women's participation in decision making and resource planning is essential in improving resource planning and management in rangelands. Understanding women's concerns and the value of their specific input in resource planning and management is a step to strengthening their role in pastoral communities thus reducing their vulnerability to external shocks.

Women's rights and responsibilities over rangeland resources have traditionally been differentiated from those of men, although as discussed below, this is changing. This initiative will focus on strengthening local governance by securing rights, promoting participation and developing accountability. In particular, it will focus on the relationship between pastoralist communities and the State. However, there is an inherent risk in such approaches of empowering men at the expense of women and therefore the project will emphasize strengthening the effective participation of women in rangelands management and in influence public decision making.

Project activities will specifically target women's groups as rangelands users, as well as women within other rangeland organizations, to ensure they are central to project delivery and to the development of scale-up initiatives and policy dialogue.

This will be achieved through partnerships with women's organizations and through insistence on effective women's representation in dialogue at community, local government and national government levels, as well as in international dialogue. Women groups will also be targeted for PRMP based supporting activities which will aim at diversifying their income sources and act as alternative income generating activities. Collecting and drying of herbs is one such initiative that started during the revival of Hima in Bani Hashem.

To further integrate gender into relevant activities, the project will collaborate with the Ministries in charge of gender. In component 2, gender specific indicators and targets will be developed to monitor the progress of gender mainstreaming into rangeland governance. The project will promote targeting especially women and youth for alternative livelihoods activities (value added activities of livestock such as milk, gee, butter, cheese, leather, weaving and local handcrafts). Under all Components, gender sensitivity will be incorporated into trainings so that female participants are empowered to participate fully in the training sessions and related project activities. Trainers will be required to have the skills and experience necessary to plan and facilitate gender-sensitive training.

Community Environmental Management Planning is a central component of the project approach and this provides an important entry point for strengthening the voice of women. All participatory planning exercises require the participation of women and in most cases the planning exercises are disaggregated into men and women's groups. This not only allows women to be more vocal, but also allows planners to get an insight into how women view or manage their resources differently to men.

Women in pastoralist communities are among the most disadvantaged sub-groups in the world due to their weak access to resources and to government services. The project will address the vulnerability and low adaptive capacity of women to degradation of dryland and climate change by mainstreaming gender considerations into the design and implementation of project activities.

For example, women's groups will be supported to develop more diverse livelihood activities through improved transformation and marketing of rangeland produce (livestock and non-livestock). The project will also work directly with Rangeland Associations and HIMA communities to include female members in project activities.

Although women in pastoralist societies have traditionally had differentiated roles in rangeland and herd management, those roles are rapidly changing due to a combination of economic and social forces. The project will provide important lessons on these changing roles and responsibilities in order to improve the targeting of responses. For example, women's evolving rights as decision makers over rangeland resources within common property regimes need to be upheld in local agreements. Similarly, women's roles as herd

¹² DFID, 2000a cited in FAO, 2003.

managers will be accommodated in the development of innovative financing mechanisms for scaling up good practices. This implies significant challenges for facilitating equitable outcomes at the community level and will rely on the skill and experience of the leading project partners.

About Gender mainstreaming in reviving the Al Hima In Jordan

In principle, the state law in Jordan does not give advantages to any ethnic groups regarding rights. The state law does not also differentiate between men and women in terms of access and rights to natural resources. However, local or customary laws treat men and women differently, and do not give women rights to own or access natural resources such as land or water. This is despite the acknowledged role women play in natural resource planning and management. Through awareness campaigns, the role of women in resource use and management was incorporated in the revival of the Hima Initiative in Bani Hashem.

The underlying concept of the Hima approach is development of grazing protocols whereby herds of flocks are regularly and systematically moved to rested areas with the intention of maximizing the quality and quantity of forage growth while at the same time respecting women's rights to use and benefit from the Hima land by collecting and processing herbs. To further institutionalize the management of Hima a private society was established that coordinates the actions of the community members. This joint effort allowed better local women empowerment by giving them complete ownership of a herbal/medicinal plant workshop. During grazing seasons, local community women will cultivate native plants which are processed and packed in the workshop to be later sold for extra income.

Through this approach, women and marginalized groups became more involved in the planning and management process of their lands and at the same increased.

Gender mainstreaming in the project will be done with a focus on gender responsive and equitable participation for development planning and implementation, as well as ensuring participation of women and other vulnerable groups in project implementation and community representation and decision-making. This will include training and awareness raising in (i) gender responsive participatory approach in identification of development needs with specific focus on social inclusion of women and other vulnerable groups in the community decision making process such as water user committees, village development committees, etc., (ii) gender responsive monitoring and evaluation of project implementation and progress, (iii) training in community mobilization, management and leadership skills, including training in micro-projects identification and formulation.

A.5 Risk.

Elaborate on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, the proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation.(table format acceptable):

Reproduced from UNEP ProDoc Section 3.5 on Risks, ProDoc Table 10 (Project Risk Matrix)

<i>Identified Risk and</i>	<i>Risk Assessment</i>	<i>Proposed risk management measures</i>
Dialogue on rangeland policy or investments is not open to the public.	LOW	The multi-stakeholder processes to initiate this project will be crucial to lay out expectations and identify potential barriers to participation in decision-making. During the PPG, a number of strategic alliances among relevant policy and planning stakeholders have been formed. However, to avert this risk during implementation, it is important to maintain the dialogue on policies. A number of activities under Component 1 are geared towards policy dialogue. It is important to carefully select stakeholders and events in connection with those activities to ensure the effectiveness of policy dialogues.
Pace of change through the project is too slow to see genuine environmental and economic gains during the project cycle.	LOW	There is very high likelihood that some impacts will be felt beyond the project cycle, and a medium risk that few impacts will be identifiable during the project itself. Nevertheless, the project will contribute essential changes that will enable the long-term changes to take effect. The project builds on an intervention logic that has mapped the key stages in the expected progress towards the long-term objectives, and these stages, including changes in knowledge, attitude and practice, will be critically monitored. Retained project activities are those that are slated to achieve a good balance between those that give quick-wins and those that require longer to deliver. Overall, the project focuses on restoration of rangelands by helping rangeland managers to follow an evidence-based pathway towards restoration.

Identified Risk and	Risk Assessment	Proposed risk management measures
Instability and conflicts in countries and the region.	MEDIUM	In Jordan, there may be a risk of Syrian refugees putting additional pressure on the rangelands. However, IUCN's approach (which originated in the challenge of managing pressure from Palestinian refugees) recognizes that pressure can only be alleviated if local governance is first strengthened to ensure the implementation of rules for sustainable rangeland management. There is a lower risk of conflict in the project countries but there is always the possibility of local level conflict, given the sensitive nature of rangeland resource management and governance. Conflict management is an integral component of IUCN's approach and the risk will be mitigated through transparent participatory approaches and exhaustive efforts to identify and include key stakeholders in decision making. Both UNEP and IUCN have security plans in place and share information on country and project level security risks.
Climate change creates a scale and rate of ecological change to which pastoralist societies are unable to adapt.	LOW	Whilst the risk of climate change may be considerable, the project supports revival of pastoralism as the most resilient and adaptive way to manage the rangelands. Climate change factors could create initial challenges to initiating work with communities, but the risk of climate change will also provide a powerful argument in favor of more sustainable range management and more resilient rangeland and pastoral systems.
Participating communities are unwilling to collaborate with government on PRMP.	LOW	Long-standing distrust can jeopardize these relationships and success is often accomplished by NGOs rather than government agencies. Key to mitigating this risk is to develop strong multi-stakeholder processes from the start and to engage interlocutors like civil society groups and existing CBOs/associations etc. The more open the initial formulation stage the greater chance there is to have widespread acceptance and community buy in. The key to overcoming this risk is in the hands of the executing agency.
The pace of implementation between countries will be variable and countries will hold each other back	LOW	The risk that countries will operate at different paces is high, but countries will be supported to execute their activities at their own pace and national activities will not be tied to other countries. The only activities that will be constrained in this way will be the regional/global learning and policy work which will be designed to accommodate different rates of progress.
Inability to reach consensus on the basis or definition of good practices in sustainable rangeland management	LOW	There are anticipated challenges around the political acceptability of some important rangeland management practices, most notably herd mobility. The project will overcome this by a) ensuring information dissemination and awareness raising over the principles of rangeland ecology and management and b) developing objective indicators based on biophysical and socio-economic metrics, and drawing on established methodologies. Currently the VGGT provide an excellent framework for the land-use governance and a common denominator for defining guiding parameters for any approach to governance tenure.
Women's participation in the project is weak.	MEDIUM	During the PPG, a number of strategies have been developed for the engagement of women in the project and for ensuring that they benefit equitably from results. Various project activities are specifically targeting women's groups as rangelands users, as well as women within other rangeland organizations, to ensure they are central to project delivery and to the development of scale-up initiatives and policy dialogue. This will be achieved through partnerships with women's organizations and through insistence on effective women's representation in dialogue at community, local government and national government levels, as well as in international dialogue. Women groups will also be targeted for PRMP based supporting activities which will aim at diversifying their income sources and act as alternative income generating activities. Collecting and drying of herbs is one such initiative that started during the revival of Hima in Bani Hashem. These are slated for replication.
Monitoring systems and platforms are not fully adapted to the local needs and leads to poor ownership of tools promoted by the project.	LOW	Monitoring systems and platforms are important for a number of project activities, but they will not undermine project success if there are issues with them. A number of different tools can be used and tested. Effective participation is more important than the platforms themselves. Nevertheless, the project will be testing a new methodology called 'PRAGA', or Participatory Rangeland and Grassland Assessment, designed by IUCN for improving assessment of rangeland and grassland health at a suitable scale to inform sub-national level planning and action. It is assumed that the tool will be well accepted among stakeholders, because it combines a participatory approach for defining land use objectives and local

<i>Identified Risk and</i>	<i>Risk Assessment</i>	<i>Proposed risk management measures</i>
		indicators with expert-led field assessment and use of remote sensing data. Where needed, written and oral translation will apply to ensure ownership and strong participation.
The project is not able to tackle complex land tenure issues and their links to land degradation.	MEDIUM	Currently the VGGT provides an excellent framework for the land-use governance and a common denominator for defining guiding parameters for any approach to governance tenure. It is an approach of choice, together with the PRAGA methodology for a number of activities for which land tenure issues should be taken into consideration. In addition, key activities under Component 2 will entail documenting existing rules and regulations (government and community) and developing appropriate mechanisms to strengthen their enforcement, including by-laws and local conventions. Information and policy openness will ensure that, although complicated, land tenure issues and their potential negative impact on land management can be adequately tackled.

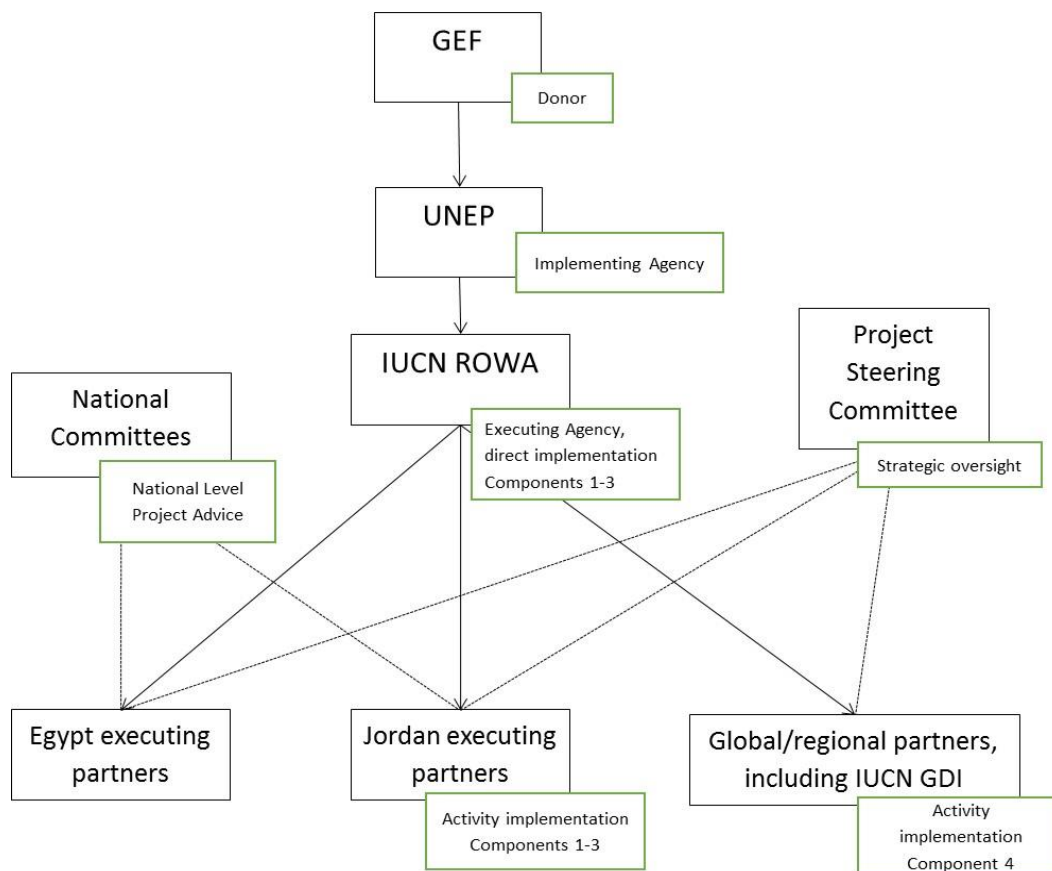
See also additional risk considerations in the Project's Safeguards in ProDoc Appendix 16.

A.6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination.

Describe the institutional arrangement for project implementation. Elaborate on the planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

Reproduced from UNEP ProDoc Section 4 on the Institutional Framework and Implementation Arrangements

Figure 6 from ProDoc contains an indicative outline of the organizational chart is reproduced below and which summarizes the Institutional Framework and Implementation arrangements, which are aotherwise explained in Section 4 of the Prodoc.



From ProDoc Section 4.1 on Implementation and execution

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) will act as executing agency for the overall project, with all associated responsibilities. After the endorsement of the GEF CEO to UNEP and before project start, an executing agency agreement will be signed between UNEP and IUCN, through its Regional Office in West Asia (IUCN ROWA).

As a next step, IUCN will conclude sub-grants agreements with implementing partners in each of the participating country. These are:

- The Hashemite Fund for Development of the Jordan Baadia (HFDB: Jordan);
- The Royal Botanical Gardens (RBG: Jordan)
- The Desert Research Centre (DRC: Egypt)
- The Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE: Egypt/Regional)

These partners have approved the project work plan and activity plan during the validation meeting in March 2017, but final negotiation over roles and responsibilities will take place during the national inception meeting, which will be the correct time to bring a wider group of partners into the discussion. Sub-grant agreements will be prepared based on agreed responsibilities, with clear guidance on how actions by different partners have to be carried out sequentially and in a strongly coordinated manner (e.g. participatory planning to guide restoration actions).

IUCN will be responsible for technical support and oversight of country-level work (see project management below for related arrangements). Additionally, IUCN ROWA will be responsible for implementing regional level activities and will draw, as needed, on its in-house expertise located that can be availed by other offices of IUCN for support global level work foreseen under the project – e.g. the IUNC's Global Drylands Initiative and the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management.

Section 4 of the ProDoc additionally includes:

- Section 4.2 Project management and technical support
- Section 4.3 Project Steering Committee

A.8 Knowledge Management.

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

Reproducing ProDoc Section 3.10, which relates closely to Section A8 herein: Public awareness, communications and mainstreaming strategy,

Component 4 of the project focuses explicitly on knowledge management, particularly to promote the development of an enabling environment for regional scale up of sustainable rangeland management. Knowledge management will focus on documenting evidence and strengthening communication of evidence in order to improve understanding amongst key actors, and building capacities for taking action on SRM. The component on knowledge management will also promote regional dialogue for policy and investment frameworks to enable scaling up of SRM. Particular emphasis will be given to creating a Communal Rangelands Leadership network for South-South learning and cooperation, which will build on the strong cultural and economic history of the Arab region in relation to pastoralism and will harness the existing capacities within the region for championing SRM in global dialogue.

Knowledge management will include managing both internal and external knowledge for the benefit of this project and for influencing regional and global discourse and investment.

Internal knowledge management refers to the adaptive management of the project based on closely monitoring and evaluating progress. This includes Component 1 where the project will strengthen rangeland monitoring systems and the identification of good practices and policies in sustainable rangeland management. The project implementation plan will be informed by prior understanding of the countries. This was strengthened through the PPG process (see results of assessments in the ProDoc Annex 1a). Further improvements in the project's delivery of knowledge management products based on the assessments undertaken during project implementation, in agreement with all project partners.

Special focus will be given to learning from and sharing lessons with the projects outlined earlier, which this project is designed to complement. The project will enable scale-up of established approaches using Component 1 to strengthen the validation of good practices. At local level, knowledge and practices will be disseminated through the strategy of "learning by doing", with focus on mobilizing local and indigenous knowledge, such as the capacity of herders to enable natural regeneration of degraded rangelands or to reach agreement on natural resource governance and management. Other relevant initiatives will be engaged right from the project inception phase through project implementation, to ensure that good practices and lessons learned during their implementation and incorporated into this project's development.

External knowledge management will focus on capturing lessons from the project in order to influence decision-making by investors and policy makers at all levels, from local to global. This will include publication of experiences and convening of dialogue, for example to influence national policy and investment.

The project includes attention to regional and global scale-up under the umbrella of "HERD" and the World Initiative for Sustainable Pastoralism (WISP). The project aims to leverage multiple projects under the HERD umbrella in order to catalyze a global initiative on rangelands and pastoralism, using GEF and non-GEF financing.

The publication on good practices in rangelands development, entitled "Minimum standards for Sustainable Pastoralist Development" by the World Initiative for Sustainable Pastoralism will be updated through this project, based on continuing learning and new experiences, and will be used to reach consensus on Minimum Standards across the HERD initiative and the wider GEF portfolio. In addition, FAO's Technical Guide to implementing the VGGT in Pastoral Lands (see Prodoc Box #2) provides a more specific framework for dissemination of good practices.

Knowledge on project results and lessons as well as specific studies conducted through the project will be publicly available through the IUCN website and the website and list-server of WISP and of other project partners. It will also be fed into global fora including the UNCCD, CBD and UNFCCC, the World Conservation Congress and other significant international events.

Refer also to ProDoc Section 5, which contains more details on stakeholder participation.

B. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:

B.1 Consistency with National Priorities.

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

Prodoc Section 2.4 Institutional, sectoral and policy context (reproduced)

Global Level

The global debate discussing the governance of the world's commons is high on the global agenda, including within the context of operationalizing the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals. Rangelands are a very important global common. The global level agenda is important for this project and the project will also contribute to strengthening it.

More specifically, in 2012, the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) officially endorsed a set of Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security. FAO and partners – among them, IUCN and UNEP – have supported the process. In the years that followed, a series of technical guidelines called 'Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT)' were launched covering several of the world's commons.

In 2016, IUCN wrote the FAO Technical Guide to implementing the VGGT in Pastoral Lands (see Prodoc Box 2 more info below on the the VGGT in Pastoral Lands and relevant for the HERD Project). The project will work towards disseminating, applying and improving those guidelines. Their content and practical use will be elaborated in the project strategy.

Regional and National Levels

At the regional level, policy-makers within MENA countries share similar views about the importance of combating desertification and land degradation. More specifically, within the Arab States Region, the League of Arab States (LAS) has been vocal in different international fora about the management of rangelands and approved the Sharm El Sheikh Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction and

the Sustainable Development Goals SDG's in November 2015. This was in the aftermath of the UNCCD's COP12, which invited all countries to formulate voluntary targets to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) according to their specific national circumstances and development priorities. In connection with it, the LAS launched the Climate Risk Nexus Initiative addressing food security, water scarcity and social vulnerability to build resilience in the region.

In relation to the Climate Risk Nexus, LAS representatives met in Ankara at UNCCD COP12 and recommended a regional initiative on LDN. In response IUCN, UNEP and others attended a meeting convened by the LAS in Cairo (on February 28th, 2016) which proposed that the current project would support the development of an "Initiative to Support LDN Implementation in the Arab Countries".

Rangelands Arab States countries are found within varied climatic zones, have varied land cover types and are managed through a number of governance approaches. Although rangelands are assumed to be the largest land use category across LAS countries, their exact extension is also not well defined, but it is undoubtedly a hugely important asset for these countries.¹³ Their sustainable management, tenure and stewardship can make more positive contribution to food security. In some LAS countries, the management of rangelands is also a matter of national security.

Additionally, in the Arab States region, land degradation has also aggravated the frequency and intensity of sand and dust storms (SDS) thus affecting human health. The matter of SDS is being more closely studied by UNEP and new initiatives supported by the agency and benefitting the Arab States may arise in the near future.

Finally, because drylands are so important in the Arab World, Arab countries established in 1971 the Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD) within the framework of the specialized organization of the League of Arab States Region (LAS). Its mandate is to conduct the studies required to develop the fragile environment and arid and semi-arid areas. ACSAD has been reporting to the UNCCD since COP1, providing a shared policy framework for LAS countries and it has been a strong voice of advocacy in different global fora.

National policies

National support for pastoralism can be identified in some national policy documents, as well as in Rio Conventions' reporting documents, in particular the NAPs, NBSAPs and NAPAs that provide a framework for coordinated action.

Both Jordan and Egypt have reported regularly to the UNCCD. The most recent reports date from 2007 and 2014 for Jordan, and from 2012 and 2014 for Egypt. The 2014 reports for these two countries were produced, as required, within the PRAIS reporting format and they include a wealth of information on baseline programs financed by the two governments and partners. Both mention the importance of GEF and other related interventions and describe relevant national policies, while providing information on stakeholders. Furthermore, the reports include indicators for each of the five Operational Objectives for UNCCD reporting¹⁴ for each of the two countries.

Jordan's revised National Strategy and Action Plan to Combat Desertification for the period 2015 to 2020 foster for example "Community-based approaches through participatory methodologies and multi-stakeholder dialogue (e.g. Hima system, Rangeland Cooperatives, Community-based Grazing Management, Co-Management or Protected Areas)". While Hima is a traditional system for governance of rangelands that is common throughout the Arab Speaking world – and it has indeed analogues in many other pastoralist cultures – the mentioned Strategy and Action Plan recognized the importance of the application of locally-agreed rules aimed at returning rangelands to a sustainable management state.

A more relevant policy development for Jordan with respect to SRM has been the approval of the country's Updated Rangeland Strategy in 2014 as a new and specific policy instrument, conceived under the Directorate of Rangelands and Badia Development of the Ministry of Agriculture, with assistance from IUCN and the European Commission. Vis-à-vis the 2001 National Rangelands Strategy, the 2014 Updated one recognizes that the previous frameworks and related legislations have not been effective in achieving the stated goals, mainly because of the absence of national consensus and the lack of integrated plans. The Updated Strategy notes that "the status of poor management and use of the rangeland resources has not changed, which led to destruction of plant cover and weakening of productive capacities of rangelands". With a vision towards conserving and sustainably managing rangelands, the following is the stated objective (or mission) of Jordan's Rangeland Strategy:

¹³ Drylands account for about 90% of the total area in the Arab States Region, with 33% grasslands, 19.1 % deserts, 6.6% forests and 14.1% arable land. (Source: UNEP 2010. Environment Outlook for the Arab Region (EOAR). The First Comprehensive Policy-Relevant Environmental Assessment Report for the Arab Region Spring.)

¹⁴ The five Operational Objectives are: (1) Advocacy, awareness raising and education; (2) Policy framework; (3) Science, technology and knowledge; (4) Capacity-building; and (5) Financing and technology transfer.

“[To] support and develop the rangelands sector as to attain a sustainable development and increased productivity and preserve achievements, and enhance the integrative role of concerned parties and participation of local communities in natural resources management as to have improved standards of living in light of climate changes and recurrent droughts which have significantly aggravated the deterioration of natural resources and wild life.”

Five main strategic goals are embedded in the Strategy, which also proposes to operationalize them through a series of initially developed and roughly costed project ideas, some of which can be catered for under this project:

- 1) *Rangelands sustainable development and management.*
- 2) *Improvement of social and economic conditions for livestock breeders and pastoral communities taking into consideration gender issues*
- 3) *Enhancement of capacity building (training and awareness)*
- 4) *Monitoring and evaluation of rangeland status*
- 5) *Engagement of Local communities in sustainable rangeland development and management.*

Egypt's UNCCD National Action Program NAP dates from 2005 and aims for “integration of pastoral systems into the broad agricultural domain after long years of marginalization”. It recognizes the need for stronger human resources and increased public awareness and participation in addressing land degradation as well as mobilizing financial resources. Egypt's NAP equally recognizes the need for multidisciplinary policy and programs of intervention across sectors. The following are the main axes foreseen in Egypt's NAP:

- 1) *Principal programs, including: (a) evaluating and monitoring desertification; (b) capacity building program.*
- 2) *Pastures Improvement programs, including: (a) rehabilitating degraded pasture/range lands; (b) preserving land and water resources; (c) managing natural grazing lands.*
- 3) *Sand dunes stabilization programs, including: (a) protecting Nasser Lake shores against sand dunes; (b) stabilizing sand dunes in Siwa Oasis; (c) stabilizing sand dunes in north Sinai.*
- 4) *Irrigated agriculture programs, including: (a) improving and modernizing irrigation techniques; (b) integrated management of irrigation projects; (c) managing and improving lands; (d) treating soil and water pollution; (e) treating environmental pollution in Wadi Al-Rayan pan/Depression.*
- 5) *Rain-fed agriculture programs, including: (a) planning land usage in the north coast; (b) improving animal wealth; (c) improving small ruminant animal's productivity in the north part of Sinai; (d) limiting soil erosion.*

Of importance, under Program #2 above is a specific “Program for Rehabilitation, Conservation and Sustainable Use of Range Resources”, which advocates for a holistic approach to management of rangeland resources that integrates conservation, development and sustainable use. The Program plans for “integration of pastoral systems into the broad agricultural domain after long years of marginalization”.

Both in Jordan and Egypt, a suite of national policies can have a bearing on the fate of rangelands. Among them, it is worth mentioning:

- *Overarching development policies*, that may stress e.g. the thrust towards either “developing” or rather “conserving” rangelands in their more natural state, as well as how ‘rangeland development’ is to be interpreted;
- *Agricultural policies and strategies*, as well as the economic investment and financial flows that are relevant to these, and under these, *irrigation and specific livestock policies strategies and the relevant finance* are of utmost importance;
- *Land tenure policies and legislation* are particularly important because they could crystalize practices of open-access, endorse land privatization tendencies in rangelands or favor good land stewardship with controlled access and sustainable use;
- *Environmental and nature protection policies*, which will be crucial for the land use outcome, e.g. whether particular sites within the rangelands should be protected, whether quarries and other mining activities should be licensed within rangelands etc.

Additionally, ProDoc Annex 1a, includes an analysis of current national policies for Jordan and Egypt.

C. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M & E PLAN:

Prodoc Section 6 (reproduced further down) contains the general **M&E Plan** with reference to several ProDoc Appendices and Tables.

Appendix 7, more specifically includes the **Costed M&E plan** and a key table from it is also reproduced further down.

Prodoc Section 6 Monitoring & Evaluation Plan

The project will follow UNEP standard monitoring, reporting and evaluation processes and procedures. Substantive and financial project reporting requirements are summarized in **ProDoc Appendix 8**. Reporting requirements and templates are an integral part of the UNEP legal instrument to be signed by the executing agency and UNEP.

The project M&E plan is consistent with the GEF Monitoring and Evaluation policy. The Project Results Framework presented in **Prodoc Appendix 4** includes SMART indicators for each expected outcome as well as mid-term and end-of-project targets. These indicators along with the key deliverables and benchmarks included in **Prodoc Appendix 6** will be the main tools for assessing project implementation progress and whether project results are being achieved. The means of verification and the costs associated with obtaining the information to track the indicators are summarized in **Prodoc Appendix 7**. Other M&E related costs are also presented in the Costed M&E Plan and are fully integrated in the overall project budget.

The M&E plan will be reviewed and revised as necessary during the project inception workshop to ensure project stakeholders understand their roles and responsibilities vis-à-vis project monitoring and evaluation. Indicators and their means of verification may also be fine-tuned at the inception workshop. Day-to-day project monitoring is the responsibility of the project management team but other project partners will have responsibilities to collect specific information to track the indicators. It is the responsibility of the Project Manager to inform UNEP of any delays or difficulties faced during implementation so that the appropriate support or corrective measures can be adopted in a timely fashion.

The project Steering Committee will receive periodic reports on progress and will make recommendations to UNEP concerning the need to revise any aspects of the Results Framework or the M&E plan. Project oversight to ensure that the project meets UNEP and GEF policies and procedures is the responsibility to the Task Manager in UNEP-GEF. The Task Manager will also review the quality of draft project outputs, provide feedback to the project partners, and establish peer review procedures to ensure adequate quality of scientific and technical outputs and publications.

At the time of project approval 90% percent of baseline data is available. Baseline data gaps will be addressed during the first 1.5 years of project implementation. A plan for collecting the necessary baseline data is presented in **Prodoc Appendix 6** and **Prodoc Table 7**. The main aspects for which additional information are needed are.

- Baseline and targets referring to Indicator #6, i.e. the exact benchmarks for policies & practices that the project is slated to influence will be confirmed upon during the project inception, and for which a couple of suggestions for validation are presented in the **Results Framework Table in Prodoc Appendix 4**;
- Core LDN indicators (Item B2 of **ProDoc Table 7**) to be monitored at either at country-level for Jordan and Egypt respectively, or for the entire Arab or MENA Region (t.b.d), barring costs and possible partnerships to be developed for achieving this goal, likely with the LAS Initiative Climate Risk Nexus (see **Prodoc paragraph 76**).

Project supervision will take an adaptive management approach. The Task Manager will develop a project supervision plan at the inception of the project which will be communicated to the project partners during the inception workshop. The emphasis of the Task Manager supervision will be on outcome monitoring but without neglecting project financial management and implementation monitoring. Progress vis-à-vis delivering the agreed project global environmental benefits will be assessed with the Steering Committee at agreed intervals. Project risks and assumptions will be regularly monitored both by project partners and UNEP. Risk assessment and rating is an integral part of the Project Implementation Review (PIR). The quality of project monitoring and evaluation will also be reviewed and rated as part of the PIR. Key financial parameters will be monitored quarterly to ensure cost-effective use of financial resources.

A mid-term management review or evaluation will take place after year 2 of the project as indicated in the project milestones. The review will include all parameters recommended by the GEF Evaluation Office for terminal evaluations and will verify information gathered through the GEF tracking tools, as relevant. The review will be carried out using a participatory approach whereby parties that may benefit or be affected by the project will be consulted. Such parties were identified during the stakeholder analysis (see **Section 2.5 of the UNEP ProDoc**). The project Steering Committee will participate in the mid-term review and develop a management response to the evaluation recommendations along with an implementation plan. It is the responsibility of the UNEP Task Manager to monitor whether the agreed recommendations are being implemented.


An independent terminal evaluation will take place at the end of project implementation. The Evaluation and Oversight Unit (EOU) of UNEP will manage the terminal evaluation process. A review of the quality of the evaluation report will be done by EOU and submitted along with the report to the GEF Evaluation Office not later than 6 months after the completion of the evaluation. The standard terms of reference for the terminal evaluation are included in UNEP's website and/or Intranet. These will be adjusted to the special needs of the project.

The GEF tracking tools are attached as **ProDoc Appendix 15**. These will be updated at mid-term and at the end of the project and will be made available to the GEF Secretariat along with the project PIR report. As mentioned above the mid-term and terminal evaluation will verify the information of the tracking tool.

PART III: certification by gef partner agency(ies)

A. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies¹⁵ and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for CEO endorsement under GEF-6.

Agency Coordinator, Agency Name	Signature	Date (MM/dd/yyyy)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Kelly West, Senior Programme Manager & Global Environment Facility Coordinator Corporate Services Division UN Environment		October 10, 2017	Ersin Esen Task Manager	+41-22-917 8196	Ersin.Esen@unep.org

¹⁵ GEF policies encompass all managed trust funds, namely: GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF and CBIT

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

(either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

Prodoc Appendix 4 with the Results Framework (reproduced)

Outcome Level Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks
Project Objective: To Strengthen restoration and sustainable management of pastoral rangelands for the provision of ecosystem services and protection of biodiversity in Egypt and Jordan and catalyzing scale up regionally and globally.				
Outcome 1.1: Rangeland monitoring systems institutionalized nationally and regionally based on commonly agreed scale-dependent indicators appropriate for different end-user groups				
# of institutional partners supporting rangeland monitoring system # of institutional arrangements for rangeland monitoring	Up to date data on land degradation assessment using participatory approaches not available. Project partners do not follow an up to date and standardized monitoring approach Rangeland monitoring systems are not institutionalized or systematically applied in the participating countries	Results by project end: PRAGA methodology adapted and conducted by national partners in at least four landscapes; 3 in Jordan and 1 in Egypt National partners report acceptance of the methodology by project review / evaluation. Process for institutionalizing rangeland assessment is documented and preliminary steps launched during the project cycle	Project Progress Reports, Project Maps and Tracking Tools Validation by the Mid-term Review and Final Evaluation	<u>Assumptions:</u> Governments are open to support policy changes that favor SRM, if an underlying analysis and technical recommendations are sufficiently convincing. <u>Risks:</u> Monitoring systems and platforms are not fully adapted to the local needs and leads to poor ownership of tools promoted by the project. Land tenure is vital to this work, but the subject is always sensitive. The project uses a participatory approach to manage the risks of tension, but should also monitor underlying political

Outcome Level Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks
Project Objective: To Strengthen restoration and sustainable management of pastoral rangelands for the provision of ecosystem services and protection of biodiversity in Egypt and Jordan and catalyzing scale up regionally and globally.				
				challenges that could lead to local tensions
<u>Outputs</u>				
1.1.1 Rangeland landscape assessments conducted at local, and national levels using agreed biophysical and socio-economic indicators and participatory approaches where applicable				
1.1.2 Development of Prototype National platforms for information sharing and exchange, including data on land degradation and good practices in Sustainable Rangelands				
Outcome 1.2: Key project stakeholders reach consensus over identification and prioritization of good practices and effective policies in sustainable rangeland management and rangeland rehabilitation				
# good practices and SRM policies identified and approved by project stakeholders # of good practices that explicitly address the roles and responsibilities of women land users	Lack of consensus over good practices in SRM amongst stakeholders Proposed good practices in SRM have been identified in Jordan and Egypt but they are not widely adopted by project partners. Identified good practices generally do not pay explicit attention to the role of women resource managers Jordan has adopted a policy supporting improved community-based SRM but the policy is not yet widely implemented	At least one specific SRM practice (e.g. controlled grazing or reseeded) approved for implementation in each site with clear guidance over the role of women land managers Community based rangelands management is implemented in all project landscapes (192,621 ha in Jordan and 332,942 ha in Egypt) Dialogue for improved policy for community rangeland management under way in Egypt	Project Progress Reports, Mid-term Review, Final Evaluation	<u>Assumptions:</u> Governments are open to support policy changes that favor SRM, if an underlying analysis and technical recommendations are sufficiently convincing. <u>Risks:</u> Monitoring systems and platforms are not fully adapted to the local needs and leads to poor ownership of tools promoted by the project. Land tenure is vital to this work, but the subject is always sensitive. The project uses a

Outcome Level Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks
Project Objective: To Strengthen restoration and sustainable management of pastoral rangelands for the provision of ecosystem services and protection of biodiversity in Egypt and Jordan and catalyzing scale up regionally and globally.				
				participatory approach to manage the risks of tension, but should also monitor underlying political challenges that could lead to local tensions
<u>Outputs</u>				
1.1.1 Rangeland landscape assessments conducted at local, and national levels using agreed biophysical and socio-economic indicators and participatory approaches where applicable				
1.1.2 Development of Prototype National platforms for information sharing and exchange, including data on land degradation and good practices in Sustainable Rangelands				
Outcome 2.1: Local organizations for rangeland management (community and government) engage in more inclusive dialogue for improved rangeland governance covering approximately 500,000 hectares				
# of a) Rangeland User Associations or Hima Communities and b) Local government entities at governate and/or district levels that participate in SRM planning # of women members of participating organisations	SRM management practices prevail only in the pilot SRM site in Jordan, Bani Hashem: a) 1 Rangeland User Association b) 1 Hima Community c) 2 Local government entities at governate and/or district levels 1 site in Egypt has a nascent community association that is willing to engage in SRM Women are widely excluded from rangeland management organisations, although women's groups exist in Jordan	6 Hima Communities and 4 Rangeland User Associations participate in SRM planning Women participate in all community based SRM planning, either through their membership of Hima Communities and rangeland User associations, or through membership of women's organisations 1 local government partner in Egypt and 3 in Jordan participate in SRM planning	Project Progress Reports, registry of engaged CBOs and local government engaged in the project	<u>Assumptions:</u> VGGT are implementable within the prevalent policy framework in Jordan and Egypt. <u>Risks:</u> Enforcement of SRM based traditional systems is not sufficiently strong to ensure the regeneration of rangelands. Additional measures to be taken, as required.
<u>Outputs</u>				

Outcome Level Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks
Project Objective: To Strengthen restoration and sustainable management of pastoral rangelands for the provision of ecosystem services and protection of biodiversity in Egypt and Jordan and catalyzing scale up regionally and globally.				
<p>1.2.1 Review of policies and laws, including relevant international agreements, related to sustainable rangeland management, identifying opportunities and barriers to policy implementation</p> <p>1.2.2 Cost-benefit analysis of sustainable rangeland management policies and practices using economic methodologies</p> <p>1.2.3 Good practices and policies in integrated rangeland management validated following agreed methodologies and indicators</p>				
Outcome 2.2: Rules and regulations for improved rangelands management are established (in line with the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure) based on PRMPs in participating communities				
# of local SRM agreements developed within communities and between communities and state institutions, based on PRMPs and in line with VGGT [E.g. Hima agreements, local conventions, bylaws etc.]	1 (in Bani Hashem site in Jordan)	At least 5 SRM agreements developed across both countries	Project Progress Reports	<p><u>Assumptions:</u></p> <p>VGGT are implementable within the prevalent policy framework in Jordan and Egypt.</p> <p>Governments and local communities will not obstruct the establishment of SRM plans and local resource agreements</p> <p><u>Risks:</u></p> <p>Enforcement of SRM based traditional systems is not sufficiently strong to ensure the regeneration of rangelands. Additional measures to be taken, as required.</p>
<u>Outputs</u>				

Outcome Level Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks
Project Objective: To Strengthen restoration and sustainable management of pastoral rangelands for the provision of ecosystem services and protection of biodiversity in Egypt and Jordan and catalyzing scale up regionally and globally.				
<p>2.2.1 PRMP implemented in all participating communities and updated annually</p> <p>2.2.2 Documentation of existing community land use practices (rules and regulations over rangeland resource management: pasture, water, trees, wildlife, livestock corridors, etc.)</p> <p>2.2.3 Local agreements between communities and between communities and state institutions (Hima agreements, local conventions, bylaws etc.) developed according to national legal opportunities</p>				
Outcome 3.1: Local farmers / pastoralists adopt good practices in rangeland restoration and management and supporting services with support from local government agencies				
# communities with improved income from sustainably managed rangelands obtained by local communities as a result of implementing SRM practices # of women participating in income generating activities related to SRM	0	At least 3 communities across both countries report increased income (livestock and non-livestock) or production (i.e. subsistence) as a result of rangeland rehabilitation At least one income generating activity targeting women rangeland users is implemented in each project site	Specialized study with validation by the Mid-term Review and Final Evaluation	<u>Assumptions:</u> SRM can deliver results within only a few years, in improvements in land productivity and in increased income thereof. <u>Risks:</u>
# new SRM practices implemented by communities of rangeland managers	1 in Bani Hashem 1 in Mersa Matrouh	At least 3 SRM practices adopted across both countries New SRM practices adopted in at least 10 project sites across both countries	Project evaluation and progress reports	The establishment and recognition of community groups and local SRM plans is more complex than initially assumed
<u>Outputs</u>				
<p>3.1.1 Training and awareness raising in rangeland restoration and management innovations and adapting services for sustainable rangeland management</p> <p>3.1.2 PRMP based sustainable rangeland management systems are piloted</p> <p>3.1.3 <i>PRMP-based supporting activities are piloted.</i></p>				
Outcome 4.1: Increased support for sustainable pastoralism in investments and public decision/policy- making, nationally, regionally and globally				

Outcome Level Indicators	Baseline	Targets and Monitoring Milestones	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks
Project Objective: To Strengthen restoration and sustainable management of pastoral rangelands for the provision of ecosystem services and protection of biodiversity in Egypt and Jordan and catalyzing scale up regionally and globally.				
# new investments under development in the region or globally that draw on project lessons and partnerships # regional and national policy dialogues initiated or enhanced through project actions	0	5 major investments in SRM under development within LAS and other participating countries 5 policy dialogues towards community based SRM are influenced by project actions	Meeting reports Agreements reached at dialogue meetings.	<u>Assumptions:</u> Learning on SRM can be pro-actively instigated through networking and communication. Countries are willing to prioritize SRM vis-à-vis other SDG investments <u>Risks:</u> Competition for space and time with national govts in a congested global policy arena
<u>Outputs</u>				
4.1.1 Lessons on the value of rangeland ecosystems and good practices in SRM are documented and communicated through a regional Communal Rangelands Leadership network (of scientists, pastoralists and Civil Society Organizations for South-South learning and cooperation) 4.1.2 Regional dialogue to influence the design and implementation of policies and investments for SRM, including coordinated influence of international agreements 4.1.3 Sustainable Rangeland Management initiatives are submitted (regionally and outside the region) for funding under the HERD umbrella, based on “bankable” investment options and innovative financing strategies				

ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS

(from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

1) COMMENTS AT PIF STAGE

Comments	Responses	Document reference
<i>STAP Scientific and Technical screening of the Project Identification Form (PIF), dtd. May 10, 2016</i>		
Overall assessment: 2 Concur	In the STAP Review Section III, further guidance from STAP was provided, requiring a response.	See guidance from STAP and responses, where needed below.
<p>STAP acknowledges UNEP's proposal "Healthy Ecosystems for Rangeland Development (HERD): sustainable rangeland management for biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation.</p> <p>The PIF highlights the importance of rangelands for the global environment, and pastoral livelihoods. STAP appreciates the strongly evidence-based proposal that focuses on the human dimensions in rangeland management: community-based, participatory approaches, capacity-building, tenure, and learning.</p> <p>STAP is pleased to see the strong integration across scales, and linkages to other programs, and national strategies. STAP appreciates the clear and viable strategy for scaling up and out, and the well-developed approach to gender and knowledge management.</p> <p>To strengthen the project design STAP recommends addressing the following points:</p> <p>1- Once the target sites are known, STAP suggests detailing the rangeland characteristics. For example, what type of rangelands will be targeted (e.g. deserts, wetlands), what is the native vegetation,</p>	<p>The points in the STAP guidance were addressed as follows:</p> <p>Point #1)</p> <p>The characteristics of rangelands have been much more thoroughly described in the PRODOC at CEO Endorsement stage -- not just at the global, regional and national levels (see ProDoc Section 2.1 Background and context), but also at site level.</p> <p>Under Section 3.4, a sub-section titled 'Project Sites' provides an introduction to all six selected sites in Jordan and Egypt, plus a few maps.</p> <p>A thorough description of these sites is included in the PPG Reports in Annex 1a, where additional maps have also been included.</p> <p>The Tracking Tool exercise, for which some of the results are summarized in ProDoc Table 8, served also to go more in depth with the characteristics of the rangelands that will be targeted by the project.</p> <p>A project bibliography was included at PIF stage, but it was considerably expanded at CEO Endorsement</p>	<p>ProDoc Section 2.1 Background and context</p> <p>ProDoc Sub-section Project Sites under Section 3.4</p> <p>ProDoc Annex 1a, PPG Report for Jordan; PPG Report for Egypt.</p> <p>ProDoc Appendix 15: Tracking Tools</p>

Comments	Responses	Document reference
<p>what animals graze in the rangelands, what are the socioeconomic characteristics of the pastoral communities? It also will be important to describe the rangeland management practices in the project sites, and take into consideration the multi-functional aspects of rangelands. If there are studies (published, or unpublished) about the specific rangeland sites it would be useful to reference them in the project design, especially regarding the local ecology. UNEP may wish to consider the following paper on the importance of managing the landscape heterogeneity of rangelands based on experience from Southern Africa: "Mutifunctional Rangeland in Southern Africa: Managing for Production, Conservation, and Resilience with Fire and Grazing. 2013. McGranahan, D., et al. http://www.mdpi.com/2073-445X/2/2/176. STAP also suggests reviewing the results of the recent evaluation of the GEF funded Grasslands program in South Africa.</p> <p>2- Once the target sites are defined and the types of rangelands specified, STAP recommends detailing the specific drivers of rangeland degradation. Currently, the drivers are too broadly defined to understand the root causes of rangeland degradation in the target sites. STAP appreciates that some of this analysis will be done under component 1 and 2. Therefore, it encourages UNEP to carry out a comprehensive problem analysis during the project design as it will strengthen the project rationale. The components were not detailed sufficiently, and this hampered understanding how the interventions could meet the objective.</p> <p>3- It also would be useful to provide more information on biodiversity, and ecosystem services provided by rangelands. Biodiversity conservation and</p>	<p>stage. This is a token of the intensity of the research effort put into the project's design. Based on the STAP recommendation, the 2003 paper by McGranahan, D., et al. was consulted and included in the updated Bibliography.</p> <p>Point #2)</p> <p>The threat drivers at site level have been thoroughly analyzed. ProDoc Section 2.3 (Threats, Root Causes and Barrier analysis) is not only quite specific on this, but was also complemented by additional background information in Annex 1a.</p> <p>This includes the background analysis that underpinned the development of Components 1 and 2. The project's Barriers Analysis (included in Annex 1a) provides evidence of this.</p> <p>ProDoc Table 1 shows both the intensity of land degradation in the project areas as well as their profile (causes, manifestation and impacts).</p> <p>As indicated further up, the project's Tracking Tool has gone in depth with defining the characteristics of the rangelands that will be targeted.</p> <p>Additionally, PPG Reports provides numerous other details on site level assessments.</p> <p>At CEO Endorsement stage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project now has complete descriptions of Outcomes, Outputs and Activities. This was based on a reconstruction of the project's Theory of Change, where Root Causes of land degradation were studied, and analyzed, including at site level. 	<p>ProDoc Annex 1a, Section 1, point 6) Bibliography.</p> <p>ProDoc Section 2.3 Threats, root causes and barrier analysis</p> <p>ProDoc Annex 1a, Section 1, Additional Context and Background</p> <p>ProDoc Annex 1a, Section 1, Point 4) Detailed Barrier Analysis</p> <p>ProDoc Table 1.</p> <p>ProDoc Appendix 15: Tracking Tools</p> <p>ProDoc Annex 1a, PPG Report for Jordan; PPG Report for Egypt.</p>

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<p>ecosystem services are key features of the objective, and the PIF (e.g. the project aims to increase knowledge about the value of rangelands and their ecosystem services' component 4).</p> <p>4- On global environmental benefits, STAP recommends specifying the methods that will be used to measure the benefits, and how they will be monitored. It also would be useful to clarify whether the project will monitor all the benefits listed in the PIF (e.g. climate adaptation, climate mitigation, biodiversity conservation, desertification, ecosystem services), or just indicators related to land degradation/desertification.</p> <p>5- The PIF identifies the need for increased collaboration between multi-stakeholders to strengthen rangeland management in Jordan and Ethiopia. STAP recommends describing how these consultations will be done in a way that ensures the appropriate participation of the stakeholders. Potential conflicts between stakeholders and ways to address them should be considered, given the diversity and possibly competing interests in the group. Additionally, STAP encourages learning across sectors so that rangelands feature more prominently across policy sectors.</p> <p>6- STAP proposes strengthening the climate risks and mitigation measures in section 4. STAP suggests using the resources provided in the CGIAR portal on climate change: http://ccafs-climate.org/</p> <p>7- Additionally, STAP suggests considering ways to assess resilience and measures that will be needed to address stresses, such as climate change. For example, will there be a need to assess the number</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SRM Solutions and Barriers were described and the project Outputs were then seen in a slightly new light and described accordingly. • The Tracking Tool Assessment (PMAT) served to define landscapes and engage project stakeholders in the project subject matter. • Activities have been detailed and costed, with flexibility implied, to allow for an adaptive management approach during project implementation. <p>Points #3, #4 and #5)</p> <p>There is much more detail on the biodiversity harbored by rangelands and the ecosystem services that they provide in the ProDoc than whilst at PIF stage. This additional detail is mostly included in ProDoc Section 2, but also in the thorough descriptions of the HERD Concept included in Annex 1a and in the PPG Reports.</p> <p>In addition, see the study on the economics of rangeland degradation in Jordan and Egypt in Annex 1a.</p> <p>The Project's M&E Framework has been concluded. Not all of the global environmental benefits (GEB) that had been listed in the PIF will be effectively monitored (see e.g. ProDoc Table 11. Incremental Cost Reasoning and Analysis for a summary of what the project is now claiming as GEB).</p> <p>This decision of was made not only because it is not practical or useful to monitor too many indicators during implementation, but also because the project concept has been streamlined to focus on what actually matters – addressing land degradation through a participatory landscape management</p>	<p>ProDoc Section 2.1 Background and context</p> <p>ProDoc Annex 1a, Section 1, Point 1) The HERD Concept and Hima;</p> <p>ProDoc Annex 1a, Section 1, Point 2) The economics of rangeland degradation in Jordan and Egypt</p> <p>ProDoc Annex 1a, PPG Report for Jordan; PPG Report for Egypt.</p>

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<p>of animals and available forage based on rainfall patterns? Planning for adaptive management will be important in addressing climate, and other stresses/shocks, that risks the project's sustainability. STAP recommends applying the Resilience, Adaptation Pathways and Transformation Assessment (RAPTA) Framework to assess resilience and opportunities for adaptation and transformation to address change. Further information about the RAPTA and its guidelines are available at: http://www.stapgef.org/the-resilience-adaptation-and-transformation-assessment-framework/The project concept is clearly well thought through as evidenced by the logic and coherence of its components.</p>	<p>approach.</p> <p>Overall, the HERD project is following a global trend on the monitoring of land degradation by embracing LDN indicators, for which complexity is captured into simple and straight forward geo-based indicators. Activities under Output 1.1.1 (Rangeland landscape assessments conducted at local, and national levels using agreed biophysical and socio-economic indicators and participatory approaches where applicable) includes the surveying of LDN indicators. How this will be done more specifically for carbon stocks above and below ground remains to be more closely defined during Inception (see e.g. ProDoc Table 7).</p> <p>Furthermore, in the description of Outcome 1.1, we refer e.g. to the application of PRAGA – or Participatory Rangeland and Grassland Assessment – as a methodology designed by IUCN for improving assessment of rangeland and grassland health at a suitable scale to inform sub-national level planning and action. The tool is being elaborated under a GEF funded project, implemented by FAO. It combines a participatory approach for defining land use objectives and local indicators with expert-led field assessments and it uses remote sensing data.</p> <p>The PRAGA methodology was developed to address a number of common challenges in assessments of rangeland and grassland landscapes and it was therefore considered quite suitable to the project's context. These challenges include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor availability of data • Established methodologies may be misleading (e.g. excessive reliance on Net Primary Productivity) and bush encroachment, which can be a form of 	

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	<p>degradation, often shows up as a positive change in grassland assessments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecological challenges, including when dealing with non-equilibrium systems (e.g. drylands) • Highly detailed assessments can be prohibitively expensive • Some of the more detailed methodologies are designed for small scale assessment • Conflicting production & conservation objectives (as is often the case in rangelands) <p>Component 2 will make the roll out of the PRAGA methodology operational through Participatory Sustainable Rangeland Management Planning (PRMP).</p> <p>Planning for adaptive management (#7) is an integral part of the project design, but maybe less apparent due to the language used. The basis of the HERD approach is participatory rangeland management planning, which is a simple tool that is carried out annually by rangeland management groups to track changes in their land resources and to respond to those changes. This includes adapting management options to the changing situation, including changes that are outside the control of the community, such as climate change.</p> <p>We thank the STAP for the recommendation on using the RAPTA methodology. The adaptation angle is relevant for the HERD Concept more broadly, but it is not very prominent in the GEF current project, which is the first HERD intervention that applies the HERD Concept globally, but with a strong ‘land degradation angle’ and focusing on natural climatic variability for the most.</p>	

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	<p>In this light, the PRAGA methodology was deemed more relevant than RAPTA at this stage. This does not preclude its application in complementary HERD interventions/projects, if funding can be leveraged.</p> <p>The same applies to the recommendation on climate risks and mitigation measures. While exploring the climate change adaptation angle -- and even the climate change mitigation one -- will be important in the further development of the HERD Concept, we deemed that including these aspects in the scope of the current GEF project would spread its focus too much and it would not be productive. Other 'HERD projects' may be designed in the future as a follow-on intervention, where climate challenges will be fully explored.</p> <p>The streamlining of the project's focal area scope was considered necessary to keep it focused, feasible and on track towards delivering results.</p>	
Comments from Germany – June 2016		
<p>Germany approves this PIF in the work program but asks that the following comments are taken into account:</p> <p>Suggestions for improvement to be made during the drafting of the final project proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current land tenure situation impedes sustainable management of rangeland in both countries, Jordan and Egypt. While reflected in the project proposal, this crucial problem needs be given more concrete reflection and attention, especially in the risk section, as this situation might affect or even hinder other components in their efficiency. 	<p>We thank the GEF Council member Germany for the constructive comments.</p> <p>Regarding the first point, the land tenure context in both Jordan and Egypt have been thoroughly studied and considered, before proposing the methodologies and approaches that will be rolled out through the HERD project.</p> <p>Overall, land tenure patterns in project countries are highly important and need to be carefully considered, but they were not found to represent an impediment to sustainable rangeland management (SRM).</p> <p>Rangeland governance is such a central aspect in the</p>	<p>ProDoc Section 3.3 Project components and expected results, description of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Component 2 and, more specifically, of Outcome

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposal is very focused on establishing the Hima land management approach for SRM, highlighting the support of Hima communities. There are alternative approaches in Jordan which have shown good performance, especially for biodiversity conservation, and should be considered, such as the well-founded “Community-based Rangeland Rehabilitation Program” (CBRR) developed by the Jordanian Royal Botanic Garden (RBG) or rangeland management measures performed by the Royal Society for Conservation of Nature (RSCN) which do not necessarily follow the Hima system as privileged by IUCN. The proposal mentions generally other management systems but a broader survey of existing alternatives should be taken into consideration before upscaling preferentially or exclusively the Hima model. Spreading knowledge results through the FAO-led Pastoralist Knowledge Hub should be considered. 	<p>HERD concept that an entire Outcome is dedicated to it: Outcome 2.2 - Participating communities use PRMP to guide the establishment of rules and regulations for improved rangelands management, in line with the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT).</p> <p>The mentioned VGGT guidelines actually touch upon a number of important aspects regarding ‘tenure of the commons’. Governments in both countries were consulted about the prevailing land tenure patterns in their countries and the implications of this to rangeland governance. They were also queried about the application of VGGT principles in light of these patterns. If there were to be issues pertaining to the project’s feasibility in this respect, this would have been flagged or noted by project designers. Else, the committed support from the Governorate of Matrouh in Egypt to the project shows a strong willingness to tackle the project barriers, including those linked to rangeland governance of tenure. The same applies to the support provided by the Ministry of Environment in Jordan, which is a co-financier.</p> <p>Furthermore, guiding principles such as the VGGT and PRAGA will be a part of the ‘methodological packages’ to be applied in both training and planning under the project’s Outcome 3.1 (Local farmers / pastoralists adopt good practices in rangeland restoration and management and supporting services with support from local government agencies).</p> <p>Nevertheless, in other to take the relevant GEF Council comment into consideration, a new project risk was identified (see ProDoc Table 10). It deals specifically with the probability that the project is not able to tackle complex land tenure issues and their links to land degradation. The risk level was</p>	<p>2.2 and related Outputs and Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Component 3 and, more specifically, of Outcome 3.1 and related Outputs and Activities <p>ProDoc Section 3.1 Project rationale, policy conformity and expected global environmental benefits</p> <p>ProDoc Table 10. Project Risk Matrix, Risk #11</p> <p>ProDoc Section 3.5 Risk analysis and risk management measures + Table 10</p>

Comments	Responses	Document reference
	<p>classified as ‘medium’ and risk mitigation measures are as follows:</p> <p><i>“Currently the VGGT provides an excellent framework for the land-use governance and a common denominator for defining guiding parameters for any approach to governance tenure. It is an approach of choice, together with the PRAGA methodology for a number of activities for which land tenure issues should be taken into consideration. In addition, key activities under Component 2 will entail documenting existing rules and regulations (government and community) and developing appropriate mechanisms to strengthen their enforcement, including by-laws and local conventions. Information and policy openness will ensure that, although complicated, land tenure issues and their potential negative impact on land management can be adequately tackled.”</i></p> <p>Regarding the second point, we refer to several passages in the ProDoc where it is made clear that Hima will not be the only approach applied. We quote specifically the following two paragraphs in ProDoc Section 3.4:</p> <p><i>“141. Another key assumption behind the project is the idea that for, managing rangelands, across time and across large landscapes, it is necessary to manage grazing pressure, land use and the mobility of livestock. Within the HERD concept, solutions imply reinforcing the governance of rangeland tenure with a view to both ensuring the long-term health of rangeland ecosystems and an equitable and responsible</i></p>	<p>ProDoC Section 3.4 Intervention logic and key assumptions</p>

Comments	Responses	Document reference
	<p><i>management of use and control rights. This requires an approach to governance of tenure that is both normative and utilitarian. 142. For addressing this issue, the project will, on the one hand reinforce evidence-based decision-making through its first component, where the regional and global entry points will be prominent. This implies technical assistance, tools, methods and sound monitoring systems that country stakeholder can readily use, adapt and further develop. On the other hand, the project proposes to explore ‘traditions’ that are important in North African and West Asian countries through a regional perspective, to the extent that these traditions can effectively enforce an equitable and sustainable management of rangelands. In the MENA Region, the HIMA system is prominent. Yet there are other land tenure governance approaches that are being successfully adopted – whether they are “branded” or not – as these societies, evolve, transform themselves, and as States develop useful synergies between customary and statutory systems.”</i></p> <p>In addition, the project will effectively learn from and build upon both baseline and past interventions. This is made explicit in Section 2.7 (Linkages with other GEF and non-GEF interventions). This is the case of the RBG’s CBRR example.</p> <p>Baseline interventions will serve to draw lessons, seek collaboration and possibly partnerships in connection with the future up-scaling of the HERD Concept.</p>	<p>ProDoc Table 3. Financial Baseline Summary Overview</p> <p>ProDoc Table 4. Project HERD core Linkages</p>

Comments	Responses	Document reference
	<p>Regarding the third point, on the FAO-Led Pastoralist Knowledge Hub (network initiative, Global), it was considered a relevant baseline intervention, with which the project intends to collaborate extensively.</p> <p>Finally, we refer to ProDoc Section 2.7 on the description of linkages with other GEF and non-GEF interventions, from where we quote a relevant passage in Table 4:</p> <p><i>“Currently, there is no potential duplication between the WISP and the FAO-led Pastoralist Knowledge Hub. WISP and the FAO-PKH coordinate closely and WISP is revising its role now that FAO-PKH has embarked on the work that WISP formerly covered. The HERD initiative will contribute to redefining the role of WISP. Both initiatives are highly relevant for the objective of HERD. Synergies and collaboration are being developed at the global level through IUCN’s offices in Nairobi and Gland.”</i></p>	

ANNEX C: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES AND THE USE OF FUNDS¹⁶**A. PROVIDE DETAILED FUNDING AMOUNT OF THE PPG ACTIVITIES FINANCING STATUS IN THE TABLE BELOW:**

PPG Grant Approved at PIF:			
<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>GETF/LDCF/SCCF/CBIT Amount (\$)</i>		
	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent To date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>
Project personnel	44,400	46,682	
Consultants	37,000	37,983	
Administrative support	3,000	4,671	
Travel on official business	34,500	34,095	
Meetings/Conferences	18,086	13,555	
Total	136,986	136,986	0

¹⁶ If at CEO Endorsement, the PPG activities have not been completed and there is a balance of unspent fund, Agencies can continue to undertake the activities up to one year of project start. No later than one year from start of project implementation, Agencies should report this table to the GEF Secretariat on the completion of PPG activities and the amount spent for the activities. Agencies should also report closing of PPG to Trustee in its Quarterly Report.

ANNEX D: CALENDAR OF EXPECTED REFLOWS (IF NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT IS USED)

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

N/A