



GEF-6 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

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 for biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation		
Country(ies):	Jordan, Egypt	GEF Project ID: ¹	9407
GEF Agency(ies):	UNEP (select) (select)	GEF Agency Project ID:	01400
Other Executing Partner(s):	IUCN	Submission Date:	March 22, 2016
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:	[if applicable]	Agency Fee (\$)	334,018

A. INDICATIVE FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK AND OTHER PROGRAM STRATEGIES²

Objectives/Programs(Focal Areas, Integrated Approach Pilot, Corporate Programs)	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
		GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
LD-1 Program 1 (select) (select)	GEFTF	1,959,247	5,015,000
LD-2 Program 3 (select) (select)	GEFTF	677,740	1,735,000
LD-3 Program 4 (select) (select)	GEFTF	878,995	2,250,000
(select) (select) (select)	(select)		
(select) (select) (select)	(select)		
(select) (select) (select)	(select)		
(select) (select) (select)	(select)		
(select) (select) (select)	(select)		
(select) (select) (select)	(select)		
Total Project Cost		3,515,982	9,000,000

B. INDICATIVE 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	Financing Type ³	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
					GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
Component 1. Technical assistance for adaptive management and learning (evidence-based decision-making)	(select)	1.1. Rangeland monitoring systems institutionalized nationally and regionally based on commonly agreed scale-dependent indicators appropriate for different end-user groups	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	GEFTF	832,347	2,237,122

¹ Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC and to be entered by Agency in subsequent document submissions.

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

³ Financing type can be either investment or technical assistance.

		<p>1.2. Good practices and effective policies in sustainable rangeland management and rangeland rehabilitation identified and prioritized for implementation</p>	<p>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 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>			
Component 2. Stronger institutions for rangeland governance	(select)	<p>2.1. Local organizations for rangeland management (community and government) engage in more inclusive dialogue for improved rangeland governance covering 100,000 hectares</p> <p>2.2. Participating communities use PRMP to guide the establishment of rules and regulations for improved rangelands</p>	<p>2.1.1. Capacity/needs assessment of local organisations, 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>	GEFTF	569,501	1,530,662

		management (in line with the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure)	2.2.2. Documentation of existing 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	(select)	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 (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) 3.1.3 Indicative supporting activities: strengthening markets for rangeland goods and services (including livestock and non-timber forest products), market information systems,	GEFTF	1,098,844	2,953,393

			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)			
Component 4. Knowledge management to promote an enabling environment for regional scale up of sustainable rangeland management	(select)	4.1. Increased support for sustainable pastoralism in investments and public decision/policy-making, nationally, regionally and globally	<p>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</p> <p>4.1.2. Regional dialogue to influence the design and implementation of policies and investments for SRM, including coordinated influence of international agreements</p> <p>Output 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</p>	GEFTF	847,862	2,278,823
	(select)			(select)		

Subtotal		3,348,554	9,000,000
Project Management Cost (PMC) ⁴	GEFTF	167,428	
Total Project Cost		3,515,982	9,000,000

For multi-trust fund projects, provide the total amount of PMC in Table B, and indicate the split of PMC among the different trust funds here: ()

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

Sources of Cofinancing	Name of Cofinancier	Type of Cofinancing	Amount (\$)
Bilateral Aid Agency (ies)	TBD (Oxfam Italy (EC), project under negotiation with USAID)	In-kind	2,300,000
National Government	Government of Jordan	In-kind	2,500,000
National Government	Government of Egypt	In-kind	2,500,000
Other Multilateral Agency (ies)	IUCN	In-kind	400,000
GEF Agency	UNEP	In-kind	300,000
National Government	Government of Jordan	Cash	500,000
National Government	Government of Egypt	Cash	500,000
Total Cofinancing			9,000,000

D. INDICATIVE TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), COUNTRY(IES) AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS ^{a)}

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in \$)		
					GEF Project Financing (a)	Agency Fee (b) ^{b)}	Total (c)=a+b
UNEP	GEFTF	Jordan	Land Degradation	(select as applicable)	1,324,201	125,799	1,450,000
UNEP	GEFTF	Egypt	Land Degradation	(select as applicable)	1,324,201	125,799	1,450,000
UNEP	GEFTF	Global	Land Degradation	(select as applicable)	867,580	82,420	950,000
(select)	(select)		(select)	(select as applicable)			0
(select)	(select)		(select)	(select as applicable)			0
Total GEF Resources					3,515,982	334,018	3,850,000

a) Refer to the [Fee Policy for GEF Partner Agencies](#).

E. PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)⁵

Is Project Preparation Grant requested? Yes ☒ No ☐ If no, skip item E.

PPG AMOUNT REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), TRUST FUND, COUNTRY(IES) AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS

Project Preparation Grant amount requested: \$136,986					PPG Agency Fee: 13,014		
GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in \$)		
					PPG (a)	Agency Fee ⁶ (b)	Total c = a + b

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.

⁵ PPG requested amount is determined by the size of the GEF Project Financing (PF) as follows: Up to \$50k for PF up to \$2m (for MSP); up to \$100k for PF up to \$3m; \$150k for PF up to \$6m; \$200k for PF up to \$10m; and \$300k for PF above \$10m. On an exceptional basis, PPG amount may differ upon detailed discussion and justification with the GEFSEC.

UNEP	GEF TF	Jordan	Land Degradation	(select as applicable)	45,662	4,338	50,000
UNEP	GEF TF	Egypt	Land Degradation	(select as applicable)	45,662	4,338	50,000
UNEP	GEF TF	LD-Set Aside	Land Degradation	(select as applicable)	45,662	4,338	50,000
Total PPG Amount					136,986	13,014	150,000

⁶ PPG fee percentage follows the percentage of the Agency fee over the GEF Project Financing amount requested.

F. PROJECT'S TARGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS⁷

Provide the expected project targets as appropriate.

Corporate Results	Replenishment Targets	Project Targets
1. Maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society	Improved management of landscapes and seascapes covering 300 million hectares	<i>Hectares</i>
2. Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)	120 million hectares under sustainable land management	<i>100,000 Hectares</i>
3. Promotion of collective management of transboundary water systems and implementation of the full range of policy, legal, and institutional reforms and investments contributing to sustainable use and maintenance of ecosystem services	Water-food-ecosystems security and conjunctive management of surface and groundwater in at least 10 freshwater basins;	<i>Number of freshwater basins</i>
	20% of globally over-exploited fisheries (by volume) moved to more sustainable levels	<i>Percent of fisheries, by volume</i>
4. Support to transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path	750 million tons of CO _{2e} mitigated (include both direct and indirect)	<i>1800 metric tons</i>
5. Increase in phase-out, disposal and reduction of releases of POPs, ODS, mercury and other chemicals of global concern	Disposal of 80,000 tons of POPs (PCB, obsolete pesticides)	<i>metric tons</i>
	Reduction of 1000 tons of Mercury	<i>metric tons</i>
	Phase-out of 303.44 tons of ODP (HCFC)	<i>ODP tons</i>
6. Enhance capacity of countries to implement MEAs (multilateral environmental agreements) and mainstream into national and sub-national policy, planning financial and legal frameworks	Development and sectoral planning frameworks integrate measurable targets drawn from the MEAs in at least 10 countries	<i>Number of Countries:</i>
	Functional environmental information systems are established to support decision-making in at least 10 countries	<i>Number of Countries:</i>

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

1. *Project Description.* Briefly describe: 1) the global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed; 2) the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects, 3) the proposed alternative scenario, GEF focal area⁸ strategies, with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project, 4) [incremental/additional cost reasoning](#) and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and [co-financing](#); 5) [global environmental benefits](#) (GEFTF) and/or [adaptation benefits](#) (LDCF/SCCF); and 6) innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

1) THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND/OR ADAPTATION PROBLEMS, ROOT CAUSES AND BARRIERS THAT NEED TO BE ADDRESSED

Land degradation is one of the most pressing environmental challenges, although estimates of the global extent vary considerably. A recent analysis of long-term trends in land degradation (25 year) 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. Anthropogenic declines in biomass productivity were found on 25% of croplands and vegetation-crop mosaics, 29% of mosaics of forests with shrub- and grasslands, 25% of shrublands, and 33% of grasslands, as well as 23% of areas with sparse vegetation (Le et al., 2014). According to this study rangelands, which are dominated by grasslands, are the most degraded land area.

⁷Provide those indicator values in this table to the extent applicable to your proposed project. 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. There is no need to complete this table for climate adaptation projects financed solely through LDCF and/or SCCF.

⁸ For biodiversity projects, in addition to explaining the project's consistency with the biodiversity focal area strategy, objectives and programs, please also describe which [Aichi Target\(s\)](#) the project will directly contribute to achieving.

Rangelands cover an estimated 50% of the total land area of the world (Friedel et al., 2000; Lean et al., 1990) and between two thirds and three quarters of all drylands (MEA 2005, Neely et al., 2009). However, data on the state of rangelands is generally weak and there is no universal definition of rangelands and as yet no agreed measurement of their extent (Allen et al., 2011). Rangelands are social ecological landscapes that consist of a complex array of features, including grasslands, shrubland, forest and woodland, wetlands and other riparian zones and so on. As a result they fall into the responsibility of many state institutions, including Ministries of Agriculture, Forestry and Environment, but because they are not the top priority for any single Ministry they sometimes fall between the gaps between institutions, receiving below average investment and poorly designed policies.

The global extent of land degradation in the rangelands 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. This data gap has significant implications for investments in the world’s rangelands, since the UNCCD Second Science Conference showed convincingly that investment in sustainable management is more cost effective than investing in restoration. Additionally, the sheer scale of rangelands and the high value of their ecosystem services are powerful reasons to ensuring that appropriate investments and policies are in place to support their sustainable use.

Rangelands play an important role in global carbon cycles, sequestering carbon at high rates and storing it in above- and below-ground biomass. They protect watersheds and maintain hydrological cycles which often have transboundary benefits. They provide habitat for biodiversity and provide connectivity between different habitat types. Additionally, rangelands provide livelihoods for hundreds of millions of people as well as food, fiber and other resources for global consumers (Mcgahey et al., 2014).

Many countries have weak capacity in the field of rangeland ecology. Despite policies that could often enable sustainable management of rangelands, for example through more secure communal resource management arrangements, good practice remains limited and policies remain poorly implemented in the rangelands. Weak understanding of rangelands and the inappropriateness of some policies and investments has much to do with the long-term marginalization of pastoralists; the principal managers of rangelands. Pastoralism has been defined as “extensive livestock production in rangelands” and pastoralists (including shepherds, agro-pastoralists, nomads etc.) are the stewards of these important landscapes. Pastoralism has evolved to guarantee survival in the high resource-variability of rangeland ecosystems, but pastoralists are frequently ignored in decision-making and policies and investments have been at best unhelpful, and at worst antagonistic to their management of rangelands. Long-term underinvestment in basic development, low consultation and weak natural resource governance are major factors in degradation of the rangelands (Niamir-Fuller, 1999; Davies et al, 2010).

2) THE BASELINE SCENARIO OR ANY ASSOCIATED BASELINE PROJECTS

There is a political consensus among North African and West Asian countries on the importance of combating desertification and land degradation. After UNCCD’s Decision 3/COP12, which invites all countries to formulate voluntary targets to achieve Land Degredation Neutrality (LDN) according to their specific national circumstances and development priorities, the League of Arab States (LAS) launched the Climate Risk Nexus Initiative addressing food security, water scarcity and social vulnerability to build resilience in the region. LAS approved the Sharm El Sheikh Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction and the Sustainable Development Goals SDG’s in November 2015. In relation to the Cliamte Risk Neexus, 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 (Feb 28th 2016) which proposed that the current project would support the development of an “Initiative to Support LDN Implementation in the Arab Countries”.

One of the main problems facing the Arab Region is land degradation and desertification which has become a serious socio-economic and health issue. Land degradation is triggered by drought, population growth, intensive farming practices and degraded rangelands, overexploitation, urbanization, climate change and harmful economic policies. Drylands account for about 90% of the total area (EOAR, 2010) with 33% grasslands, 19.1 % deserts, 6.6% forests and 14.1% arable land. Scattered grasslands and forests, and degraded rangelands and crop land fall into the largest land use category thus threatening food security. Land degradation has also aggravated the Sand and Dust Storm (SDS) frequency and intensity in the region thus affecting human health and SDGs. Sustainable Land Management integrating cross sectoral participation is an urgent action needed in the region requiring international community immediate attention and support to combat desertification and land degradation effectively and promote sustainable policies and use of natural resources as well as adaptation to climate change.

The Arab Region has a strong cultural heritage in relation to pastoralism, and as a predominantly dry region, pastoralism is the most widespread land use system. However, throughout the region there is a tension between the aim of the agricultural sector to maximize food output and the goal of sustainable development. New scientific evidence on the management of rangeland ecosystem services to produce optimal benefits to society—a balance between food production and provision of other ecosystem services—has not yet effectively pervaded the development mainstream. On the other hand, due to the history of pastoralism the region, combined with the comparative capacity of countries as emerging economies, the region could play a significant role in championing the “new paradigm” in sustainable pastoralist development that has been popularized by the GEF-funded World Initiative for Sustainable Pastoralism (WISP). Achieving this significant shift in the overall development paradigm has been shown (by WISP amongst others) to benefit from cross-country dialogue and from leadership through regional institutions.

The Baadia covers 80% of Jordan’s land mass, specifically the arid and semi-arid rural regions. It is separated into three areas: North, Central, and South, each with their own unique environments and traditions. Historically, the Jordanian Baadia was occupied by nomadic Bedouin tribes. Yet given Jordan’s increasing modernization and development, Bedouin now predominantly live in cities and villages scattered throughout the Baadia. As Bedouin lifestyles continue to change, new challenges arise, which require innovative solutions and approaches. One such challenge is that of significant rangeland depletion. The combination of settled or semi-nomadic communities, overgrazing, and drought have caused significant degradation in Jordan’s rangelands.

Egypt can be divided into four regions: the Western Desert, Nile Valley, Eastern Desert and Sinai. While 4% of the country is agricultural lands, 96% are hyper-arid, arid and semi-arid deserts. The country’s biodiversity is of global significance due to the fact that it is situated at the juncture of four bio-geographical realms, namely the Irano-Turanian, Mediterranean, Saharo-Sindian and Afrotropical regions; and due to the diversity of landscapes and topographic features, which range from the rugged mountains of South Sinai and the Eastern Desert (up to 2641 m), over featureless gravel plains including the Qattara Depression (134 m below sea level), to the freshwater habitats along the Nile River.

Rangelands development in the target countries suffers from lack of agreement over the objectives for rangeland management. Pastoralists are not well consulted in planning and there is inconsistency in rangeland, livestock and other related policies. This leads to poorly coordinated investments and policies and tension between land uses and the use and management of rangeland ecosystem services.

Overall knowledge of rangeland ecology is weak and there is no consensus over validating good practices in Sustainable Rangeland Management (SRM). Although many of the more harmful investments in rangelands—privatization of land, sedentarization, maximizing yields of single products—are increasingly discouraged, there remains a gap between recognizing which policies and investments to avoid, and proactively developing good policies and investments. Livestock management can be a powerful tool for manipulating ecological communities in the rangelands and ensuring the ideal balance between trees, shrubs, grasses and other biodiversity, determined according to production requirements. The most sustainable

practices are generally those which pursue multiple production objectives—environmental as well as economic—and it is important to ensure a balance of regulations and incentives to promote this “multifunctionality”. IUCN’s publication “Minimum Standards in Sustainable Pastoralist Development” provides a framework for improved assessment of good practice.

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. IUCN is developing scale-able approaches for rangeland monitoring through the “Sustainable Rangelands Project” (Danida funded, including Jordan as a target country) and is partnering with the GEF-FAO project “Participatory assessment of land degradation and sustainable land management in grassland and pastoral systems” to roll out methodologies in 5 further countries.

Globalization of the discourse on sustainable pastoralism has created new learning opportunities, for example WISP and the FAO Pastoral Knowledge Hub. Greater emphasis is now needed on developing partnerships for innovation between strong community institutions (e.g. pastoral associations), scientists and the state. In addition, much greater emphasis is needed on securing government support for good practices and ensuring public sector buy-in to good practice approaches. Regional monitoring and knowledge sharing is becoming more popular, through initiatives like MENA-DELP. However, the League of Arab States Region (LAS) covers a unique range of rangeland-dominated countries where there is significant, unexploited, scope for pioneering innovative approaches, boosting learning, improving coordination, and monitoring progress.

Jordan has recently adopted a new Rangeland Strategy which places communal management and control at the center of rangelands development, and Egypt has experimented with similar community-based approaches. Yet investments in rangelands continue to favor technology-based interventions rather than addressing the institutional and organizational factors behind desertification. Interventions have been largely sectoral with poor overall coordination and there is little focus on community rights and responsibilities, or legal processes for SRM. There is ambiguity over community rangeland rights and major sensitivity over resolving this institutional weakness, yet there is political interest in developing pluralistic systems that recognize pastoral rights, entitlements, and rules governing access to land.

Weakness in communal rangeland governance and tenure are amongst the most serious desertification risks in the target countries. Customary institutions for communal rangelands management have become weakened and have not adapted well to the requirements of engaging with the modern state. Mechanisms for creating rational grazing plans, incorporating seasonal patterns and refuge zones for use during harsh climatic events, and for optimizing herd grazing and rest periods, need to be strengthened and adapted to new patterns of resource availability and emerging economic opportunities as well as new climate risks.

There is growing scientific validation that communal resource management is both necessary and efficient in the rangelands (Ostrom, 1990). Emerging good practices revolve around building community rangeland institutions (Rangeland User Associations, Hima Communities etc.) for improved governance and management of rangelands. These institutions strengthen local-level decision-making on a day-to-day basis for SRM, and simultaneously strengthen the relationship between pastoralists and government for improved public investment and policy. However, the skills required to replicate these institutions are often in short supply.

The participating countries in this project have policies that can support sustainable pastoralist development, but often the most favorable policies are poorly implemented because of funding shortfalls, uncoordinated efforts and poor. Policy makers have a growing interest in engaging with indigenous knowledge and mobilize community agency in support of SLM goals. At the same time access to local and scientific knowledge at the policy-level has enabled a more detailed understanding of the social and environmental issues, and this is evident in policy strategies and national action plans. However, attitudes

amongst policy makers towards pastoralism and its role in combating desertification remain mixed, creating policy conflicts that can undermine progress towards environmental goals. Convincing arguments have been made that the most cost-effective strategy to management of the rangelands is to capitalize simultaneously on the multiple benefits of sustainable pastoralism (Davies et al., 2012; Davies et al., 2010), but this demands inter-sectoral cooperation and coordination, which is often missing. Regional declarations in support of pastoralism, such as the African Union Policy Framework for Pastoralism in Africa (AU, 2010), provide inspiration for better-coordinated investments, but a comparable regional framework is currently lacking in the LAS.

National support for pastoralism can be identified in some national policy documents, including NAPs, NBSAPs and NAPAs that provide a framework for coordinated action. Jordan's revised National Action Program (2014) for example fosters "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)". Hima is a traditional system for governance of rangelands that is common throughout the Arab Speaking world, and indeed has analogues in many other pastoralist cultures. It is an established and respected system through which rangelands can be returned to sustainable management through the application of locally-agreed rules. Egypt's 2005 National Action Program to Combat Desertification includes a "Programme for Rehabilitation, Conservation and Sustainable Use of Range Resources". This program 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".

This project contributes to the Operational Objectives of the UNCCD 10 Year Strategy through knowledge, capacity building, policy and investment. The project contributes to "synergy and strengthening concerted action" (Operational objective 1) by influencing international, national and local processes and actors in adequately addressing desertification/land degradation and drought-related issues. This relates to strengthening community rangeland institutions and strengthening integration between sectors and stakeholders. The project contributes to identification and scaling up of good practices (Strategic objective 2) to restore and sustain rangeland productivity and other ecosystem goods and services contributing to improved livelihoods. The project will also contribute to resource mobilization (Strategic objective 4), through partnership building and through valuation of the multiple ecosystem service benefits of SRM. The project will increase financial, technical and technological resources available to implement the convention and will contribute to enabling policy environments—particularly improved policy implementation—for UNCCD implementation at all levels. The project also contributes to the achievement of The Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including Target 5 (the project will increase protection of rangeland habitat through Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas); Target 7 (SRM to conserve biodiversity for efficient pastoralism); Target 13 (promote management improvement of indigenous breeds for efficient rangeland management); Target 14 (strengthen ecosystem management of rangelands in order to protect watersheds and other ecosystem functions); Target 15 (SRM to mitigate desertification and contribute to ecosystem-based climate change mitigation and adaptation); Target 18 (strengthen institutions for engaging indigenous peoples in policy development and planning from local to global levels).

Associated baseline projects in Sustainable Rangeland Management and Land:

Jordan, "Mainstreaming Sustainable Land Management Practices", IFAD-GEF (total cost US\$39.6 million, including US\$6.8 million from GEF, US\$11.6 million from IFAD and other co-financing of US\$21.2 million). This initiative will demonstrate and scale-up successful sustainable land management practices for the control and prevention of desertification and deforestation.

Jordan, Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Sylvo Pastoral Sharah Areas in Ma'an Governorate IFAD-GEF (total cost US\$4,300,000 million, including US\$1 million from GEF, US\$3 million from Jordanian Government and other co-financing of US\$300,000). The project supports integrating participatory community planning and poverty reduction activities in parallel with biodiversity conservation activities, building local capacities and raising public awareness for biodiversity mainstreaming and the economic

value of biodiversity. It will mainstream biodiversity conservation in sylvo-pastoral and rangeland management activities, particularly in buffer zones associated with existing (and proposed) Nature Reserves, and produce local economic benefits and poverty alleviation in a sustainable and replicable manner.

Jordan, “Securing Rights and Restoring Land”. EU-Danida-IUCN partnership, 2010-2015. US\$500,000. This project was one of the key factors leading to development of the HERD PIF. Itsupported restoration of rangeland ecosystems for livelihood resilience, through improved governance and management practices and led to revision of the Jordanian National Rangelands Strategy and the Jordan UNCCD-NAP by IUCN in 2014. A major outcome has been mobilization of high-level political support in Jordan and Egypt for scaling-up community based approaches to rangeland restoration.

Egypt, Matrouh the sources development projects 1993-2003, financed by WP/IDA (total cost about 22 million U\$ of which about 1.8 million U\$ for range management.) This initiative supported 38 Bedouin communities in the preparation of community action plans, annual work plans and budgets and supported skills development through training for participatory approaches and sustainable land management.

Egypt, Range management of 4 thousand hectares in the North West coast of Egypt (1997-2002). The total cost is 7 million LE (2.3 thousand U\$), financed government of Egypt. This project supported the improved management of 4000ha rangealnds in the Northwest Coastal region of Egypt.

3) THE PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE SCENARIO: EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND COMPONENTS OF THE PROJECT

This project will contribute towards Land Degradation Neutrality through adoption of community-based, sustainable land management in one of the world’s most important rangeland regions, as covered by the LAS. This alternative scenario sees an improved sustainable development trajectory for rangelands, with investments that maximize the multiple values of rangeland ecosystem services. Evidence shows that optimal investment in more than one of the rangeland ecosystem services that pastoralism supports—for example combining food production with protection of water sheds or biodiversity—is key to sustainable pastoralist development. In this scenario Governments will coordinate investments and policies across sectors in order to optimize ecosystem service provision. A wider range of markets and investments will be established, including markets for biodiversity (e.g. sale medicinal herbs, tourism), payments for ecosystem services, and niche marketing to capitalize on the environmental and human health values of rangeland livestock products. Governments will recognize the value of investing in rangeland assessments and rangeland monitoring will be institutionalized based on commonly agreed indicators at the local and national level, and will inform data sets at the international level. Appropriate methodologies will be developed for use at different scales and by different actors, including improved use of remote sensing at national scale and improved use of participatory rangeland monitoring at the community scale.

Improved rangeland monitoring will enable objective validation of rangeland management practices, leading to improved investments and policies. Improved validation will contribute to greater public sector confidence in rangeland investment and a significant increase in appropriate investments from the public sector to enable good practices and to promote new management strategies, markets and technologies based on globally-available learning. There will be improved engagement of appropriate elements of the private sector to invest in the multiple values of sustainably managed rangelands. Monitoring at the regional level will help to identify regional costs and opportunities for improved coordination of rangeland management, boost regional learning, and will strengthen targeting of investments.

Improved dialogue between rangeland managers and service providers in both private and public sectors will lead to better-coordinated investment planning, informed by the specific needs of communal rangelands. Greater emphasis will be placed on enabling investments for improved governance and communal management. These include investments in human capital and basic services and investments in local institutions, as well as investment in financial services and markets. Government planning and investment at local level will be better influenced by the priorities of rangeland communities and will be

more gender sensitive, based on improved participatory natural resource planning and routine consultations and dialogue.

Rangeland governance will be strengthened through greater inclusion of rangeland managers in decision-making and more responsive institutions at the local level, including community rangeland institutions. Planning will be supported at the appropriate level to ensure that critical rangeland resource patches are protected from unplanned conversion to other uses. Institutions will also be strengthened at the national level to support governance of rangelands at all scales, including across domestic and international boundaries where applicable.

In the alternative scenario, rangeland users will have more secure access and management rights with the ability to create rules for effective grazing management, and the support of government institutions to improve enforcement. Community rangeland institutions will play a central role in coordinating rangeland management and governments will place greater emphasis on legally strengthening these institutions and building capacity. Existing national (or local) land laws for communal tenure will be applied more comprehensively and equitably, and in countries where such laws do not exist greater emphasis will be placed on developing local conventions, bylaws etc. according to government priorities and legal opportunities.

Communal rangeland management practices will be strengthened, blending local and traditional knowledge with recent advances in understanding rangeland ecology and emerging market opportunities. Community Participatory Rangeland Management planning will be institutionalized at appropriate levels and capacities will be built in local government and the community to develop and implement plans effectively. Based on these plans communities will implement improved herding strategies, improved management of seasonal refuges including riparian zones and woodland patches, rehabilitation of degraded areas, and adaptive management strategies for climate change risks and other scenarios.

The alternative scenario sees a significant increase in capacity of rangeland advisors, with a change in emphasis from livestock intensification towards rangeland ecosystem service optimization, and greater skills for institution building and enabling communal governance. The future will see improved validation of effective policies for rangelands management, greater policy implementation and adaptation of unsupportive policies. There will be stronger methods and skills for policy analysis and improved dialogue with rangeland users to analyze the existing policy environment. Stronger partnerships will develop between government, rangeland users and supporting actors (NGOs, CBOs and the private sector) to innovate in the implementation of policies and to share experiences, capabilities and skills.

Through development partnerships for SRM, evidence of progress will be used to mobilize public support. Dialogue on SRM will contribute to development and environmental management frameworks such as NAPs, NAPAs, and NBSAPs, in order to highlight the value of addressing multiple goals with efficient investments in the rangelands. Multi-sectoral dialogue at national and regional level will contribute to addressing policy contradictions and will lead to an overarching framework for sustainable pastoralist development.

Regionally and globally there will be greater recognition of the multiple values of rangelands and the effectiveness of community management approaches, through documentation and presentation of evidence in international fora and through established networks like the World Initiative for Sustainable Pastoralism and the FAO Pastoralist Hub. Establishing a regional Communal Rangelands Leadership network of scientists, pastoralists and Civil Society Organizations will boost the engagement of experts from the LAS region, which is currently not well connected to global fora, and will strengthen South-South learning and cooperation. It will facilitate the acceptance of evidence that is more locally-contextualised and will boost the credibility and activity of rangeland scientists from the region. This will stimulate dialogue that accelerates adoption and innovation, which mobilizes financial resources for further scale up, and which champions Hima and related community based rangelands management approaches in global dialogue.

Regional support through the LAS will catalyze action both regionally and at local level by contributing to a growing momentum for change. The region will increasingly play a role in championing community rangeland management approaches and in promoting the role of rangelands in securing global environmental benefits. The project will catalyze action to on communal rangeland stewardship and sustainable management in additional countries in the region and beyond. It will provide the framework for a Global Initiative (under the umbrella of “HERD”) that will be funded by multiple development partners and which will provide inspiration for investment and improved policy for the rangelands. Good practices will be shared globally and will feed into global policy and investment dialogue, with communications, awareness raising and capacity building to strengthen the rate of scale up.

Component 1, “Technical assistance for adaptive management and learning (evidence-based decision-making)”, 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” (IUCN, 2011). This Component will 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).

Component 2, “Stronger institutions for rangeland governance”, will draw on the IUCN-authored Technical Guide for implementing the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT) in Pastoral Lands (FAO, 2015). The project will strengthen local organisations 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 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 (see Section 3).

Component 3, “Identifying and up-scaling good practices in SRM”, will 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. 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. By drawing on the PRMPs, Comp 2 will explicitly address priorities identified by women pastoralists.

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, Feb 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. Component 4 includes establishing a regional Communal Rangelands Leadership network of scientists, pastoralists and Civil Society Organisations 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. 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 centre 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. 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 prioritisation 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.

4) INCREMENTAL/ADDITIONAL COST REASONING AND EXPECTED CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE BASELINE

Rangelands have historically received disproportionately low investment in many countries and from most bilateral and multilateral donors. They are often at the geographic margins, far from the centers of investment and decision-making. Economically rangelands have been viewed as marginal – as wastelands or low productive lands where return on investment is poor. Many rangelands are also socially marginalized and in several of the project countries they are populated by ethnic minorities who have been poorly represented in development discourse and policy making. The incremental cost of this project reflects the long-term underinvestment and the practical challenges of working in remote and climatically harsh rangelands. Investments can sometimes take longer to produce results due to the need to build trust and overcome initial capacity and knowledge gaps in rangeland communities. There are often major capacity gaps to close in extension staff and development partners that also delay achievement of results. However, these are long term investments in human and social capital that can be low cost but require time, and which eventually yield multiple, sometimes dramatic, dividends.

Rangelands are biologically diverse regions that provide globally important ecosystem services, and play a leading role in climate change mitigation. The role of grass-dominated communities in global carbon cycles is greatly under-recognized. Rangelands offer one of the few opportunities to simultaneously mitigate climate change, strengthen adaptation, conserve biodiversity, reverse desertification, and to promote sustainable development and food security. An IUCN study in the Zarqa Basin of Jordan estimates an average annual increase in above and below ground carbon stocks of 0.018 t/ha over a 20 year period as a result of natural regeneration of rangeland ecosystems (Westerberg and Myint, 2014). This figure is below published estimates from other regions and could be considered conservative, however the figure is used in Table F above to indicate the minimum potential contribution to Climate Change mitigation.

An important part of the incremental cost reasoning is that rangelands do not fit the typical investors’ ideal of high-input high-output opportunity. They are viewed as low-input low-output systems, which

betrays lingering misunderstanding of the true value of rangeland ecosystem services. In reality pastoralist investments can be high and are made in the form of human and social capital rather than in financial capital. Similarly outputs are often high when measured as a combination of ecosystem services and not only individual livestock products. However, these outputs are often enjoyed by the wider society and the benefits may not be captured locally, requiring external support and innovative approaches to safeguard their provision.

The multifunctionality of sustainably managed rangelands demand unique marketing and investment approaches, which imply new challenges and require new skills and innovations, presenting capacity gaps for many countries. They also require non-typical investments and re-thinking of infrastructure projects to provide the most appropriate support. Overall these represent incremental costs that evidence shows have been a barrier to investment to date.

The LAS region is uniquely placed to champion sustainable rangelands management in international discourse. The region is dominated by rangelands and faces serious levels of rangeland degradation. At the same time the region is home to ancient systems of communal rangeland management that are culturally and politically respected, and which are beginning to make a come-back. These systems have analogues in all the pastoral areas of the world and the region is well-placed to provide global leadership in reviving pastoral governance to restore millions of hectares of degraded rangelands worldwide.

5) GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS (GEFTF)

SRM is one of the land management options that delivers the widest range of global and local environmental benefits. 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 (see below) and nutrients, including soil organic carbon, sustaining primary productivity. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment reported that expansion of cropland into forests and pastures is the single most important factor in land degradation. Such land use change is frequently the outcome when rangelands are viewed as low value or wastelands (Gallagher, 2008; Gaia, 2008) and the project will demonstrate the value of rangelands in order to reduce such pressures.

SRM 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: on a range of grasses with different nutritional properties and seasonal availability and on a range of shrubs and trees which provide fuel, shelter, fodder and numerous economic and cultural values. Many rangelands are de facto Community Conserved Areas and pastoralists can be supported to secure compensation for environmental services related sustainable herding practices, including seasonal mobility and fire management. When pastoralism is based on carefully managed herd mobility, it can stimulate pasture growth, improve rangeland mulching, reduce invasive species and improve mineral and water cycling.

Rangelands play an important role in mitigating climate change. 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. Additionally, 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 (Tennigkeit and Wilkes, 2008). An estimate of the contribution of the project to carbon sequestration is given in Table F and discussed above (Section 4).

Rangeland restoration contributes to climate change adaptation. Pastoralism is a highly adaptive system and has evolved in unpredictable climates as a way of managing uncertainty and seasonal variability. Lack of support for sustainable pastoralism contributes to failure to adapt to climate change, which is

contributing in turn to rural urban migration and environmental refugees who impact directly and indirectly on neighboring countries and globally. 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.

Sustainable Rangeland Management restores important ecosystem services. SRM improves hydrological cycles by improving infiltration of water, 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.

Finally, SRM will contribute to poverty reduction: a global benefit enshrined most notably in the UNCCD. Research has shown that pastoral systems are significantly more productive, in terms of gross value, than alternative land uses (including irrigation agriculture) in the majority of the world's rangelands and pastoralism contributes above its weight to many agrarian economies even despite long-term underinvestment.

6) INNOVATIVENESS, SUSTAINABILITY AND POTENTIAL FOR SCALING UP

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. 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. 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 emphasises strengthening community and local government organisations 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 multistakeholder 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. Sustainable

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.

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.

The LAS region is uniquely placed to champion SRM and community-based approaches like Hima. Hima enjoys unrivalled social and political acceptance in several Arab countries and this 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 organisations 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.

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 contribute 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.

2. Stakeholders. Will project design include the participation of relevant stakeholders from civil society organizations (yes ☒ /no ☐) and indigenous peoples (yes ☒ /no ☐)? If yes, identify key stakeholders and briefly describe how they will be engaged in project preparation.

During the preparation phase potential stakeholder's involvement in the project will be ensured at different levels. Key stakeholders who can contribute to project will be involved in one form or another in project preparation and will be directly and continuously involved in the project through a number of means, which will include their participation in activities.

Key stakeholders in this project are men and women rangeland users, local rangeland service providers, local government departments, line ministries at the national level, and Civil Society partners (pastoralists, agricultural institutions, environment institutions, and Badia research center). Rangeland users will be the primary beneficiaries of this project and will be closely involved in the preparation of the project, particularly at the inception of local project activities where they will participate in multistakeholder dialogue processes. Community rangeland institutions (in different forms according to national laws and opportunities) will be the focus of Participatory Rangeland Management Planning, with close support of local government extension agents. PRMP is designed to address inequity in community decision-making and explicitly ensures the engagement of women and other marginalized groups.

Community rangeland institutions will be closely consulted during the formulation of the project (PPG stage) to ensure their buy-in and participation in the project. Local Civil Society Organizations will also be invited to participate at this stage and to contribute their experiences and approaches to the project methodology. The project preparation phase will include consultations at community as well as national levels to ensure awareness of and buy in to the project. Key technical agencies and scientific advisors will be brought on board from the outset to guide project development and implementation and to advise on the various technical components. In some countries, research institutes will be identified as executing partners or sub-contractors for important elements of the project (e.g. rangeland assessments, value chain development, validating good practices etc.). The project will also engage actors from both the environment and development sectors to strengthen the multi-sectoral approach of the project and foster dialogue for improved inter-sectoral collaboration.

A key institutional stakeholder in Jordan is the Hashemite Fund for Development of the Jordan Baadia, which is made up of experts and specialists on all aspects of agriculture, land management, and rural development. They possess the networks and infrastructure necessary to make a project of this scale sustainable, using local community involvement and capacity building. The Hashemite Fund has had success in several smaller projects of this nature, one example being the Hadalat Dam and Range Reserve. Strategies for water collection and direct seeding have proven very successful in the Hadalat project, and the dam provides a water resource for land and flocks in the area.

A key institutional stakeholder and partner in Egypt is the Desert Research Centre (DRC). Based on discussions with DRC the likely project site is West Marssa Madrouh of Egypt's Northwest coast region. The target direct beneficiary group for this action will be Bedouins CSOs and community associations and their constituent members working on socioeconomic development within the North West Coast, Egypt, and more broadly civil society organizations who represent dryland development interests nationally along with Desert research center and local authorities.

Stakeholder	Roles and responsibilities	Engagement in project preparation and implementation
Rangeland users	Rangeland users (primarily pastoralists from 10-17 communities	Current proposal is based on consultation with pastoralist

	in Egypt and 30-35 communities villages in Jordan) will take the lead in developing and implementing participatory range management plans, including assessment of rangeland conditions and restoration opportunities as well as identification of socially-acceptable management options	communities and pastoralist Civil Society through a number of IUCN initiatives in Jordan and Egypt. Further consultations with target communities will be held during PPG phase. Existing local institutions and pastoral associations will be engaged in project delivery as the main interlocutor for developing and implementing range management plans
Women rangelands users	Project activities will specifically target women's groups, 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 partnership 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
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 legal options for securing rangeland governance and tenure.	Will be consulted in project design at PPG stage and will be responsible for delivery of specific actions in partnership with the executing agency.
Local government departments (2-4 Governorates per country, to be confirmed at PPG phase)	Responsible for endorsing the project approach at local level and for identifying opportunities for community priorities to influence local government planning and budgeting. This includes coordinating across public sectors to avoid conflicting investments	Will be consulted during PPG phase, will participate in national formulation and inception exercises, and will be represented on project steering committees at the local level.
Line ministries/ partners at national level (including Jordan Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Agriculture and water, the Hashemite Fund for Development of the Jordan Baadia, and the Egypt Ministry of	Responsible for ensuring the project is aligned with national priorities and investments and for supporting adoption of approaches in national policy and budgeting. Also responsible for liaison with other ministries and with foreign partners through LAS dialogue, to ensure coordination at the national and regional levels.	Already consulted on project development and will be central to PPG process and project design and implementation. Their role in project implementation will be to oversee the project steering committee and provide political will in support of key project activities, including liaison with local authorities.

Agriculturel (Desert Research Centre) and Ministry of Environment)		
Civil Society partners	Civil Society groups will be key partners for participatory planning and will partner with local government, acting as intermediary between government and communities (NB: pasture user committees could be considered CSOs, but are addressed above under Rangeland Users). They will support specific rangeland management actions and will be central to policy dialogue at national and international levels.	Will be consulted during PPG phase and their roles will be agreed and written into the project document. Where necessary Implementation Agreements will be drawn up with key partners to deliver specific actions.

3. *Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment.* Are issues on [gender equality](#) and women's empowerment taken into account? (yes ☒ /no ☐). If yes, briefly describe how it will be mainstreamed into project preparation (e.g. gender analysis), taking into account the differences, needs, roles and priorities of women and men.

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.

To 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 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.

4 Risks. Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design (table format acceptable).

Risk	Risk	Mitigation measure
1. NON-PARTICIPATING MINISTRIES ARE UNFAVOURABLE TO PRIORITISING INVESTMENTS IN RANGELANDS	Medium	Government partners will use the best available evidence to convince other sectors, and to influence government at higher levels. The project will strengthen evidence of the value and effectiveness of investments in the sector to convince national planners to prioritise such investments. High-level political support is key to ensuring multi-sectoral support for rangeland management.
2. DIALOGUE ON RANGELAND POLICY OR INVESTMENTS IS NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC	Medium	The multistakeholder processes to initiate this project will be crucial to lay out expectations and identify potential barriers to participation in decision-making. Strategies will be identified in cases where access to dialogue will be limited, including developing better alliances between potential interlocutors within the policy or planning process and rangeland users.
3. PACE OF CHANGE THROUGH THE PROJECT IS TOO SLOW TO SEE GENUINE ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC GAINS DURING THE PROJECT CYCLE	Medium	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 will have a clear Theory of Change that will map the stages in progress towards the long term objectives, and these stages, including changes in knowledge, attitude and practice, will be critically monitored. Activities will also be selected to achieve a balance between those that give quick-wins and those that require longer to deliver. However, slow-impact targets will

		not be avoided as these are often the highest value.
4. INSTABILITY AND CONFLICTS IN COUNTRIES AND THE REGION	Medium	<p>Conflict within the LAS region as a whole will not hinder implementation of this project, although it may have implications for how regional rangeland issues are prioritized in intergovernmental dialogue. 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.</p> <p>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.</p>
5. 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 favour of more sustainable range management and more resilient rangeland and pastoral systems
6. PARTICIPATING COMMUNITIES ARE UNWILLING TO COLLABORATE WITH GOVERNMENT ON PRMP	Low	Long-standing distrust can jeopardise these relationships and success is often accomplished by NGOs rather than government agencies. Key to mitigating this risk is to develop strong multistakeholder 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.
7. 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.
8. INABILITY TO REACH CONSENSUS ON THE BASIS OR DEFINITION OF GOOD PRACTICES	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

IN SUSTAINABLE RANGELAND MANAGEMENT		and management and b) developing objective indicators based on biophysical and socio-economic metrics, and drawing on established methodologies (such as WOCAT).
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5. *Coordination.* Outline the coordination with other relevant GEF-financed and other initiatives.

The project shares common objectives with the regional World Bank GEF initiative MENA-DELP: “Desert ecosystems and livelihoods knowledge sharing and coordination project”. The project is coordinated by the Observatoire du Sahel et Sahara (OSS) and aims to strengthen cooperation among national institutions in partner countries and improve understanding of the linkages between desert ecosystem services and desert livelihoods for an informed decision-making. Specifically MENA-DELP will contribute to Knowledge Management and Sharing, Monitoring and Evaluation, and regional Coordination. HERD will benefit from MENA-DELP through access to improved regional assessment data, since HERD is focused more closely on implementation of good practices on the ground. However, the regional component of HERD focuses on regional opportunities to advance scale-up: generating specifically awareness of innovative rangeland management approaches; strengthening the evidence to justify investment; developing policy at the national and regional level to support scale up; developing global leadership on communal rangeland development within the Arab Region (under the LAS); and leveraging regional financing through recognition of the regional environmental benefits.

As discussed earlier, in Jordan the project will coordinate with “Mainstreaming Biodiversity in the Sylvo-pastoral and Rangeland Landscapes in the Al Sharah Agricultural Development Region of Southern Jordan”: IFAD-GEF MEDIUM-SIZE PROJECT 2013-2016. The specific Goal of this project is to Increase Biodiversity Conservation in Productive Landscapes in Pockets of Poverty in Southern Jordan. The project is designed to achieve this goal in three specific Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) Reserves (exclosures) which are intended to protect portions of the rangeland and sylvo-pastoral landscapes within the Agricultural Directorate for Developing the Sharah Region (ADDSR). By improving government and community understanding of the value of biodiversity, it is also intended to demonstrate that there are economic benefits and alternative livelihoods available if biodiversity conservation is improved. It is further intended that the successful outcomes of the project become sustainable and replicable within other geographic areas of Jordan.

The project will also coordinate with the IFAD-GEF project “Mainstreaming Sustainable Land Management Practices” in Jordan. This project is designed to enhance the quality of life of rural communities, consistent with development objectives to improve economic productivity of land and enhance gendered empowerment of communities affected by land degradation. It also supports sustainable land management best practices at the local level and mainstream them in local, sub-national and national planning and incentive frameworks. IUCN is an existing partner of this initiative and will draw on experiences in both projects for cross-fertilisation of ideas.

The project will also coordinate with the EC, Danida and IUCN funded “Securing Rights and Restoring Land”. This project is drawing to a close but provides the institutional basis on which the current project has been made possible, including the endorsement of key national partners.

In Egypt the project will coordinate with the Matrouh “Sources Development Projects, financed by WP/IDA and the initiative to improve range management in the North West coast of

Egypt. These initiatives are led by the Desert Research Centre, which is a key project partner and which will have responsibility for alignment of initiatives.

The more specific Objective of the project is to mainstream biodiversity conservation in sylvo pastoral and rangeland management activities particularly in buffer zones associated with existing (and proposed) Nature Reserves and to produce local economic benefits and poverty alleviation in a sustainable and replicable manner. The project is designed to deliver six Outcomes:

- 1.1. Rangeland monitoring systems institutionalized nationally and regionally over 100,000 hectares based on commonly agreed scale-dependent indicators appropriate for different end-user groups
- 1.2. Good practices and effective policies in sustainable rangeland management and rangeland rehabilitation identified and prioritized for implementation
- 2.1. Strengthened rangeland governance through improving dialogue and greater inclusion of rangeland managers (Rangeland Associations, HIMA communities) in decision-making
- 2.2. Participating communities empowered to govern rangeland resources in line with the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure
- 3.1. Local farmers / pastoralists adopt good practices in rangeland restoration and management and supporting services with support from local government agencies
- 4.1. Increased support for sustainable pastoralism in investments and public decision/policy-making, nationally, regionally and globally

Under Outcome 4 the project intends to catalyze a global initiative under the umbrella of “HERD”, which is foreseen as a long term (10 years or more) initiative involving multiple countries and regions. Discussions are already underway with potential partner countries in HERD and it is important that the project develops the HERD framework to ensure coherence and adherence to agreed good practice. HERD will be developed following the guidelines developed by IUCN, IFAD and the World Initiative for Sustainable Pastoralism, entitled “Minimum standards in Sustainable Pastoral Development”. Additional projects may be developed with country partners under GEF6 or GEF7 as well as with further bilateral donors providing that partners agree to the basic framework and agreed standards. The project will enter into dialogue with other existing GEF projects in the rangelands in order to reach consensus over these standards and, where necessary, to influence approaches to be more suitable for communal rangelands governance.

6. *Consistency with National Priorities.* Is the project consistent with the National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions? (yes ☒ /no ☐). If yes, which ones and how: NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, etc.

Environmental performance within the Arab region is well below global averages, measured against several environmental indices. Among the leading environmental challenges in the region are Land Degradation, water shortage, and inefficient resource use. Urbanization in the region is rapid and population growth rates are among the highest in the world. However, it is a highly diverse region, with some countries responsible for among the world’s highest per capita carbon emissions, and some countries particularly vulnerable to climate change effects (UNEP, 2000).

Performance against environmental indicators in the Arab region is particularly poor considering the comparatively advanced state of economic development, which in other parts of the world tends to lead to greater engagement in environmental affairs. The region is quite disengaged from global environmental discourse and lags behind the world on environmental governance. Public debate on environmental matters is inadequate (Esty et al., 2003).

Inter-governmental environmental initiatives within the League of Arab States are not widespread. However, significant statements have been made at the regional level by Ministers from member states. Arab Environmental Ministers met in a special session of the “Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment” (CAMRE) in Abu Dhabi and released a significant statement on the state of environmental affairs and the need for concerted action (UN, 2001). This statement highlights the environmental issues faced by the region and particularly emphasises the need for greater environmental governance, and for greater engagement of Civil Society in environmental dialogue.

In relation to this project, members of the Arab League that are also members of the African Union have already endorsed an intergovernmental agreement on Pastoralism (AU, 2010). This policy framework highlights the environmental role that pastoralism can play as well as its role in sustainable development and food security. The existence of this agreement could provide an entry point for wider dialogue throughout the Arab Region, where there is particularly strong cultural heritage associated with pastoralism and the rangelands.

This project is designed to support countries to implement their National Action Program to Combat Desertification and to demonstrate synergy with objectives of their National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plans and National Adaptation Plan of Action. The project will specifically support the NAP in relation to rangeland restoration and management through strengthening of local institutions.

The NAPs of participating countries including strengthening institutions for sustainable land management, improving the engagement of different stakeholders, and strengthening inter-sectoral collaboration for improved ecosystem management:

Jordan’s NAP fosters “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)”.

Egypt’s NAP supports “integration ... and well-coordinated efforts of the government (or governorates), international, regional and national organizations, research centers and the active participation of target communities, NGO’s...”.

The NAPs also prioritize rangelands and pastoralism as neglected systems. For example, Egypt’s NAP aims for “integration of pastoral systems into the broad agricultural domain after long years of marginalization”. They recognize the need for stronger human resources and increased public awareness and participation in addressing land degradation as well as mobilizing financial resources. Jordan’s NAP was revised in 2014 to align it with the UNCCD 10 Year Strategy as well as to align it with the revised NBSAP. It also underscores the importance of improving consistency between policy frameworks and harmonizing the NAP with other domestic policies. Egypt’s NAP similarly recognizes the need for multidisciplinary policy and programs of intervention across sectors.

Jordan's NAP also provides a strong indication of the changing attitudes towards community governance of rangelands. It demonstrates the changing awareness of the cost effectiveness of community approaches and their value in addressing multiple environmental and development benefits simultaneously. Jordan's NAP also shows the aspiration to present the revival of the Hima system for rangelands governance as a potential global solution to rangelands degradation and biodiversity loss.

The project contributes to all Operational Objectives of the UNCCD 10 Year Strategy, through knowledge, capacity building, policy and investment. The project contributes to CSOs synergy and strengthening concerted action (Operational objective 1: Advocacy, awareness raising and education) by influencing international, national and local processes and actors in adequately addressing desertification/land degradation and drought-related issues. This particularly relates to strengthening community rangeland institutions and strengthening concerted action and integration between sectors and stakeholders. The project contributes to identification and scaling up of good practices (Strategic objective 2: To improve the condition of affected ecosystems) in order to restore and sustain rangeland productivity and other ecosystem goods and services contributing to improved livelihoods. The project will also contribute to resource mobilization (Strategic objective 4: To mobilize resources to support implementation of the Convention through building effective partnerships between national and international actors), both through partnership building and through valuation of the multiple ecosystem service benefits of sustainable rangeland management. The project will increase financial, technical and technological resources available to implement the convention and will contribute to enabling policy environments—particularly improved policy implementation—for UNCCD implementation at all levels.

The project also contributes to the achievement of The Aichi Biodiversity Targets, which provide a range of support for SRM: Target 5 (the project will increase protection of rangeland habitat through Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas); Target 7 (SRM to conserve biodiversity for efficient pastoralism); Target 13 (promote management improvement of indigenous breeds for efficient rangeland management); Target 14 (strengthen ecosystem management of rangelands in order to protect watersheds and other ecosystem functions); Target 15 (SRM to mitigate desertification and contribute to ecosystem-based climate change mitigation and adaptation); Target 18 (strengthen institutions for engaging indigenous peoples in policy development and planning from local to global levels).

7. Knowledge Management. Outline the knowledge management approach for the project, including, if any, plans for the project to learn from other relevant projects and initiatives, to assess and document in a user-friendly form, and share these experiences and expertise with relevant stakeholders.

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 (strengthened through the PPG process), but further improvements in project delivery may be made 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 PPG project design 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 a 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.

Knowledge on project results and lessons as well as specific studies conducted through the project will be publically 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.

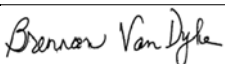
PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) AND GEF AGENCY(IES)

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT⁹ OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S):
(Please attach the [Operational Focal Point endorsement letter](#)(s)with this template. For SGP, use this [SGP OFP endorsement letter](#)).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE(MM/dd/yyyy)
Ahmed Abou ELseoud	GEF Operational Focal Point	MINISTRY OF STATE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS	10/04/2015
Saleh Al-Kharabsheh	GEF Operational Focal Point	MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION	06/30/2015

B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies¹⁰ and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for project identification and preparation under GEF-6.

Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	Date (MM/dd/yyyy)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email
Brennan Van Dyke Director, GEF Coordination Office, UNEP		March 22, 2016	Ersin Esen Task Manager	+254 20 762 4731	Ersin.Esen@unep.org

C. ADDITIONAL GEF PROJECT AGENCY CERTIFICATION (APPLICABLE ONLY TO NEWLY ACCREDITED GEF PROJECT AGENCIES)

For newly accredited GEF Project Agencies, please download and fill up the required [GEF Project Agency Certification of Ceiling Information Template](#) to be attached as an annex to the PIF.

⁹ For regional and/or global projects in which participating countries are identified, OFP endorsement letters from these countries are required even though there may not be a STAR allocation associated with the project.

¹⁰ GEF policies encompass all managed trust funds, namely: GEFTF, LDCF, and SCCF

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