



PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Project
THE GEF TRUST FUND

Submission Date: 16 January 2008

Re-submission Date:

PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

GEFSEC PROJECT ID: 2709

GEF AGENCY PROJECT ID:

COUNTRY(IES): Tunisia

PROJECT TITLE: Support to Sustainable Land Management in the Siliana Governorate

GEF AGENCY(IES): IFAD

OTHER EXECUTING PARTNER(S): Ministry of Agriculture and Water resources & Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development

GEF FOCAL AREA (S): Land Degradation, Biodiversity

GEF-4 STRATEGIC PROGRAM(S): LD-SP1; BD-SP1

NAME OF PARENT PROGRAM PROJECT: MENARID

INDICATIVE CALENDAR	
Milestones	Expected Dates
Work Program (for FSP)	April 2008
CEO Endorsement/Approval	July 2008
GEF Agency Approval	July 2008
Implementation Start	June 2009
Mid-term Review (if planned)	January 2012
Implementation Completion	May 2014

A. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: The project objective is to address the processes of land degradation and of biodiversity losses affecting key ecosystems in the Siliana Governorate by: (i) adopting integrated land use planning and improved soil management, (ii) enhancing and expanding the protection of ecosystems of global and regional importance, and (iii) up-scaling SLM investments in productive areas, while improving the living conditions of low and average-income households

Project Components	Investments or STA	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Indicative GEF Financing		Indicative Co-financing*		Total (\$ '000)
				(\$ '000)	%	(\$ '000)	%	
<i>Promotion of an Enabling Environment for SLM Mainstreaming</i>	TA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Legal instruments for SLM mainstreaming improved Stakeholder information and knowledge management (KM) systems for SLM are promoted Country's strategy to implement an advisory system for SLM is strengthened Participatory NRM planning is promoted 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2 proposals to review and improve legal and policy framework of SLM mainstreaming Design a KM system (including 2 databases and 1 web site developed) Upgrade the national environmental M&E system Undertake 3 national awareness campaigns Training of 50 staff from the, MOAWR, MESD, CRDA¹, 3-5 NGOs and 10-15 CBOs to mainstream SLM and ecosystem management in their operations 15 Local Development Plans (LDPs) supported to include SLM principles 	1,390	51.3	1,316	48.7	2,706
<i>Mainstreaming SLM in Agricultural Activities</i>	Investment and TA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> SLM in rain-fed crop areas promoted fragmented land regrouped and soil and water conservation works consolidated Local land users' livelihoods improved 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of SLM practices and Conservation Agriculture (including organic farming) on 3000 ha and train 900 farmers on these practices Regroup 1500 ha of agricultural land Consolidate SWC works on 	1,520	10	13,832	90	15,352

¹ Commissariat Régional au Développement Agricole

		4. Environmentally-friendly micro-enterprises promoted	1600 ha of agricultural land d) Celebrate 5 to 6 best farmer awarding annual events on best SLM practices e) Increase of farmers' income					
<i>Mainstreaming SLM in Sylvo-Pastoral Activities</i>	Investment and TA	1. Sustainable community NRM systems promoted 2. Impact-oriented and locally adapted SLM investments promoted in rangelands; 3. Degradation and unsustainable use of common-rights land is reduced 4. Rangeland user livelihoods improved 5. Pressure on rangelands reduced through promotion of environmentally friendly micro-enterprises	a) Development of 1 participatory sylvo-pastoral management plan b) 1200 ha in family-managed pastureland improved c) 500 ha of common-rights rangeland rehabilitated through SLM d) 4 sylvo-pastoral nurseries have enhanced production capacity for local species e) Development of 5 micro-enterprises groups f) Training of 900 livestock herders on range SLM	1,260	22	4,415	78	5,675
<i>Conserving Biodiversity in Jebel Esserj</i>	Investment and TA	1. A National Park is created in Djebel Esserj 2. Djebel Esserj management plan developed 3. Eco-tourism activities promoted in Djebel Esserj 4. Capacity for PA management and sustainable NRM developed 5. Information disseminated 6. Endangered bio-diversity conserved and asset management ensured in a sustainable manner	a) Approval of the Legal act for the creation of Jebel Esserj National Park b) Development of one participatory management plan for Djebel Esserj c) Training 5 Park staff d) Establish the Park M&E and information dissemination system e) Establish minimum park facilities to promote eco-tourism f) Support the establishment of one eco-museum and bird watching posts g) Produce leaflets and information for information dissemination about the park	400	78	114	22	514
<i>Project management</i>				440	14.5	2,590	85.5	3,030
Total costs				5,000	18	22,267	82	27,267

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

	Project Preparation	Project	Agency Fee	Total
GEF	350,000*	5,000,000	531,500	5,881,500
Co-financing	417,000	22,267,000		22,684,000
Total	767,000	27,267,000	531,500	28,565,500

*Already provided (fees included)

C. INDICATIVE CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT (including project preparation amount) BY SOURCE and BY NAME (in parenthesis) if available, (\$)

Sources of Co-financing	Type of Co-financing	Amount
Project Government Contribution	Cash and In-kind	6,904,000
GEF Agency(ies)	Mostly Cash (loan)	11,200,000
Bilateral Aid Agency(ies)	Soft Loan (TBC)	4,555,000
Multilateral Agency(ies) - GM	Grant (PPG)	25,000
Total		22,684,000

D. GEF RESOURCES REQUESTED BY FOCAL AREA(S), AGENCY (IES) SHARE AND COUNTRY(IES)*

GEF Agency	Focal Area	Country Name/ Global	(in \$)			
			Project Preparation	Project	Agency Fee	Total
IFAD	Land Degradation	Tunisia	315,000	4,600,000	488,350	5,403,350
IFAD	Biodiversity	Tunisia	35,000	400,000	43,150	478,150
Total GEF Resources			350,000	5,000,000	531,500	5,881,500

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. STATE THE ISSUES, HOW THE PROJECT SEEKS TO ADDRESS THEM, AND THE EXPECTED GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS TO BE DELIVERED:

The vast majority of Tunisia's total land area (1.5 million ha) is classified as arid to semi-arid climate. Only 14% of the area is considered arable in country but the proportion of land that is actually used for agricultural purposes goes well beyond its real potential, to an extent of about 150%. As a result, land degradation is affecting about 60% of the total country area. The Government of Tunisia (GOT) has made substantial achievements by implementing social and economic policies but despite the efforts in favour of less endowed areas in terms of basic infrastructure, regional disparities are still significant. Among the regions, the Governorate of Siliana (north-western region of the country - Upper Tell) still ranks negative in terms of development indicators including low incomes, unemployment and high migration rates. The region remains an area of high priority for the government's rural development and natural resources management policies in the current 11th Social and Economic Development Plan (2007-2011).

Until the middle of the 19th Century, the predominant land use in Siliana was extensive grazing on common lands. As population grew rapidly in the past century, and with increased sedentary agriculture, more marginal lands and rangelands highly unsuited for annual cultivation, have been converted to cereal crops. Ever since, land degradation and desertification are increasing problems in Siliana that are leading to widespread soil erosion, impairment of hydrological functions, degradation of vegetation cover, biodiversity loss and habitat fragmentation through overgrazing and changes in the vegetation structure in pastoral areas. Out of the total area of Siliana, about 300,000 ha (65%) are considered subject to/or affected by water erosion. During the last thirty years, the GOT has made an outstanding effort in terms of physical Soil and Water Conservation (SWC) investments improving some 186,000 ha. However, SWC works are costly investments which need sustained maintenance and on their own they do not constitute a sufficient condition to halt land degradation.

Customary land tenure and inheritance systems have induced widespread landholding fragmentation. This has resulted in a proliferation of long, narrow fields, which essentially oblige farmers to plough up and down the slopes, significantly increasing the rate of erosion. Unsuitable tillage operations have increased soil inherent erodibility contributing to further land degradation. Long term cereal *quasi*-mono-cropping, inadequate rotations and insufficient nutrient replenishment have all together impoverished soil fertility leading to de-structured soils. Declining or stagnant crop yields constitute a first sensible indicator of the land degradation process in Siliana.

Overtime, ample segments of forestland have been deforested with major implications on bio-diversity and production of wood and non-wood forest products. This has also negatively affected the hydrological functions and the discharge pattern of springs and wadis. Springs have reduced discharge or have dried and impeding the economic profitability of the downstream

established fruit tree orchards. Catchment areas have modified their hydrology and wadi courses are subject to over-flooding or have been deviated disrupting re-charge of man-made reservoirs.

Crop expansion has also greatly reduced natural rangeland. However, livestock raising continues to provide in Siliana 63% of the value-added as compared to 37% coming from crop output. This has encouraged overstocking beyond land carrying capacity, and eventually, overgrazing and vegetation quality impoverishment on reduced rangeland areas. Animal grazing occurs by open access to State-owned range and forestlands and on undivided private lands open amongst the members of the extended family/clan that own the lands. There are no agreed control mechanisms on the number or type of livestock or the timing of the use of rangelands. Sylvo-pastoral communities more than others, require assistance and support for them to sustain rangeland management and to identify alternative livelihoods systems that release pressure on land and natural resources.

Jebel Serj, a biotope within the sylvo-pastoral ecosystem of the Governorate, is a biodiversity sanctuary for rare examples of flora and fauna such as the unique *Acer monspessulanum* habitat. Due to high human pressure, the biotope is subject to threats such as over-exploitation in terms of unmanaged or illegal pastoral and forestry extraction activities; opportunistic agriculture expansion; erosion; hunting; and introduction of alien species or varietal modifications. The GOT has established and gazetted in the early nineties a limited Natural Reserve area (about 100 ha) but the bio-diversity richness of the biotope goes well beyond the current small-protected area. Examples of flora include some unique species such as the Maple of Montpellier, Cypress of Makthar, Cork Oak, Cotoneaster, Sorbus, *Rosa canina*, and *Ceratonia siliqua*. In terms of fauna, Jebel Esserj hosts the Hyena, Wild Boar, Jackal, Porcupine, Pilgrim Falcon, Booted Eagle.

The current policy and strategic framework of Tunisia related to Natural Resources Management (NRM) is substantially robust. Major efforts have been made in terms of SWC investments. Policies in the forestry sector have allowed moving the forested area from 4 to 12%. Biodiversity has been conserved by creating protected areas in terms of parks and reserves. However, the legal framework is not always well defined, and at times it conflicts with the evolved national strategic and policy package. This situation makes the case for a careful review of the country's legal framework related to the management of natural resources and for proposals to be made (even in terms of pilot waivers for subsequent up scaling) to overcome existing barriers to the mainstreaming of sustainable NRM and SLM activities. For instance, the involvement of concerned populations in the management of natural resources is foreseen in the prevailing policies but, in the case of commercial use of forestry products by local populations, there is an apparent contradiction between such indications and the existing Forest Code (which otherwise protects and regulates local populations' common rights only for subsistence purposes) that merits further examination. Furthermore, in order to mitigate the land fragmentation consequences of the prevailing inheritance system, the government has promoted and supported an ambitious programme for land re-grouping (known as "Remembrement"). The programme however requires, through appropriate incentives, the integration of SLM practices on newly re-grouped lands.

The national environmental monitoring system for improving land use environmental management and for measuring effectiveness of environmental programs is still underdeveloped. The GOT intends to put in place a sophisticated system, which is still at an initial stage and requires further resources for its continuation and completion. The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MESD) is the key institution on top of the initiative. System establishment and testing has started in one Governorate (Tataouine) comprising capacity building and training of key administrative, which now needs to be up scaled in other Governorates. In addition, project-M&E systems, including the one adopted by the IADP-II, require integration work and resources to include LD and SLM parameters, which are to be organized at the community level in order to involve the local communities in the measurement and evaluation exercises. A comprehensive and multi-stakeholder Knowledge Management system is also not in place. Information related to lessons-learned on development and NRM projects/programs, best approaches on current Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) and SLM in Tunisia and elsewhere, technologies, SWC investments and experiences, availability of advisory services and service providers, etc. are not organized to the benefit of users at different levels.

The national strategy foresees the establishment of a pluralistic demand-driven, effective and sustainable NRM and agricultural advisory system. In Siliana however, the current system has limited institutional diversification. The CRDA under the MAWR is the sole extension service provider in Siliana; the private sector inputs suppliers play almost no role; farmers associations are insufficiently trained (though the IADP-II is supporting their strengthening); and the NGO sector has not been targeted with incentives for its involvement in extension activities. The current system has a top-down structure with little farmer involvement in problem identification, and development of the extension approaches. There is the need to update information on GAPs, SLM and NRM and to coordinate roles for the public sector service providers; establish renewable, performance-based contracts with private sector service providers for SLM related services. Support to the private sector suppliers of inputs to provide basic extension materials to their clients is weak and help to CBOs to develop basic capacities for service provision⁴

to small farmers is inadequate. Farmers and rangeland users and CBOs are not often well involved in the participatory development of new, diversified agricultural extension packages that integrate sustainable agricultural practices.

The proposed project would address the barriers and causes for land degradation and biodiversity loss in the Siliana governorate through a comprehensive and participatory approach. The project will be a five-year project covering the same geographical area as IADP II Project area (IFAD loan in Siliana). The project area covers sites and key ecosystems in Siliana where the impacts of environmental degradation and rural poverty are coupled. It also includes Jbel Esserj, the site identified, by the Government, as having the highest priority for biodiversity conservation within the Siliana Region. The project will respond to the identified issues through the following components: (i) **Promotion of enabling environment for SLM mainstreaming:** This component will support SLM mainstreaming at all levels it will entail reviews of the legal framework and making proposals for its alignment to the prevailing strategies and policies of the country. This component will also strengthen the institutional framework supportive to SLM in light of the existing national strategy for a modern and sustainable advisory system that integrates the public sector, the private and NGO service providers, and includes in service provision activities for SLM. It will similarly contribute to putting in place the conditions for the creation of comprehensive and integrated Knowledge Management System, seeking to network national stakeholders at different levels among themselves and with the regional and other international contexts; (ii) **Mainstreaming SLM in Agricultural Activities: This component is focusing on investments within agricultural production systems and land in Siliana. It will contribute to** implementation of demonstrative SLM Investments through participatory Local Development Plans. Activities will entail, beyond farmer training, promotion of SLM in rain-fed crop areas, support to land regrouping and consolidated soil and water conservation works, improvement of local farmer's livelihoods and support to environmentally-friendly micro-enterprises. This component will be specifically supporting the promotion of SLM practices and Conservation Agriculture (including organic farming) on 3000 ha and train 900 farmers on these practices, regroup about 1500 ha of agricultural land and consolidating SWC works on 1600 ha of agricultural land; (iii) **Mainstreaming SLM in Sylvo-pastoral activities:** The project will pay particular attention to the degraded rangelands ecosystems in Siliana through this component that seeks to **encourage** sustainable community NRM systems and to generate impact-oriented and locally adapted SLM investments in selected rangelands. It will work towards more sustainable use of common-rights land and improvement in rangeland user livelihoods. The project will also support the promotion of environmentally friendly micro-enterprises that will contribute to reduced pressure on rangelands reduced through. This component will seek to support the development of 1 participatory sylvo-pastoral management plan, improved management of about 1200 ha of family-managed pastureland, rehabilitation of 500 ha of common-rights rangeland through SLM techniques, increase the production capacity of 4 sylvo-pastoral nurseries, the development of 5 micro-enterprises groups and training of 900 livestock herders on range SLM. The project will support conservation efforts in Siliana through the protection of a key ecosystem of local and global importance (Djebel Esserj). A full component for **Conservation of Bio-diversity in Jebel Esserj** will contribute to the extension of the national park from 100 ha to about 3000 ha while developing a management plan for the park. Eco-tourism activities will be promoted through the establishment of minimum park facilities to promote eco-tourism and support to the creation of one eco-museum and bird watching posts. Targeted capacity building will be provided (Training 5 Park staff) for PA management and sustainable NRM. The project will also seek to disseminate information about the park and its conservation value for awareness raising purposes.

The proposed incremental investment will leverage significant global environmental benefits. Global environmental benefits will be yielded from the protection and re-integration of agricultural-and rangeland ecosystems functional capacity in key sites in Siliana. Investment under components 1, 2 and 3 will contribute to increased carbon sequestration over about 3000 ha of land, increased NPP of targeted ecosystems. The project will also produce important global environmental benefits through the reduction in habitat fragmentation and increase in protected area of local species and key habitats. In terms of biodiversity conservation, the project will conserve habitats of global importance and unique sites in the country like *Acer monspessulanum* and protect severely threatened species such as (flora) *Acer monspessulanum*., *Cupressus semervirens*, rare outlier population of *Quercus suber* and exceptional populations of *Cotoneaster racemiflora* var *tomentella*, *Sorbus aria* subsp *meridionalis*, and *Rosa canina* subsp *pouzini*. *The project will indirectly protect endangered fauna species like the Pilgrim Falcon and the Booted Eagle.* The area is also characterized by archaeological sites and features of cultural heritage including a traditional form of cattle raising whereas the animals are left to grow wild in mountainous areas and eventually re-captured through bloodless hunting systems.

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

The sustainable use of natural resources is the basis for Tunisia's development strategy since the conception of the 9th Economic and Social Development Plan (ESDP, 1997-2001). The interventions aimed at up-scaling SLM mainstreaming at national and local level are aligned with National Action Plan to Combat Desertification (NAPCD) approved in 1998. Since approval, the NAPCD has become a national priority which is anchored to the ESDP process. The project is in line with the current GOT strategies and policies for the protection and sustainable utilisation of biological, rangeland, agricultural land, and livestock resources, with full involvement of the concerned populations. All such goals are confirmed in the current 11th ESDP Plan (2007-2011). Interventions that seek to adequately manage ecosystems and integrate biodiversity in sectoral strategies as well as promote compatible SLM in the buffer-zone of protected areas under threat by agricultural and pastoral activities are among the country priorities established under the National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan (NBSAP). Therefore, the project will assist Tunisia to meet its local and international commitments under the UNCCD and the CBD. The proposed project is also an incremental investment to IFAD's and GOT's baseline IADP-II in the governorate of Siliana. The region remains an area of high priority for the government's rural development and natural resources management policies in 11th Plan. The projects/programmes concerning Siliana, and which are included in the 11th Plan encompass interventions for: (i) water management (US \$32 million); (ii) forest and rangeland improvement (US \$16 million); (iii) soil and water conservation (US \$ 7 million); (iv) integrated rural and agricultural development (US \$ 40 million); and (v) environment; and other issues (US \$ 3 million).

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

The dry sub-humid or semi-arid agro-ecological zones in Siliana correspond to high priority zones for GEF-4 investment in the LD focal area in particular. The project specifically addresses the two strategic objectives and one strategic program enlisted in the Land Degradation GEF-4 strategy, namely, LDSO1, LDSO2 under LD-SP1. SO1 will be addressed through (i) efforts to target the policy and institutional bottlenecks by reviewing the legal framework and proposing alignments with the current strategic an policy package, and (ii) mainstreaming of SLM objectives into the national planning, M&E, Knowledge Management frameworks; and by (iii) capacity building within key institutions responsible for SLM. SO2, is the main focus for this project under its SLM entry point. SO2 is targeted through investments in the field aimed at adapting and up scaling SLM (in agricultural and sylvo-pastoral systems), and mining and generating lessons and good management practices through the cross-cutting platform on knowledge management, which would produce indications for up scaling at local, national and global level. LD-SP1 will be targeted by applying the aforementioned SO1 and SO2-related efforts to rain-fed crop and rangeland management areas, where the natural resources will be managed in an integrated and holistic way.

While remaining mainly a SLM initiative, the project focuses BD conservation in a specific biotope. The Biodiversity GEF strategy is addressed in terms of BD-SO1 and its strategic program 3 (Strengthening terrestrial PA networks) directly through the creation of the Jebel Esserj Park and the extension of the protected area from 100 ha to about 3000 ha. The objective is to increase the representation of this park main ecosystem in the national protected areas as requested by the Tunisian government, hence filling an important gap in the system in the Siliana region.

D. OUTLINE THE COORDINATION WITH OTHER RELATED INITIATIVES:

The proposed GEF project will be part of the overall GEF programming framework in the region (MENARID) which is under the leadership of IFAD. MENARID is a natural response to coordination between its individual projects and it is an open gate for coordination with other similar GEF and non-GEF initiatives. The current project is developed in a consultative manner and based on lessons learned from previous similar project in the country and elsewhere. It will be also designed to offer opportunities for learning, sharing and synergies with similar initiative in the region. This is reflected in the strong emphasis on Knowledge management and sharing and the direct linkages with MENARID and its Programme results for harmonisation and coordination. The project will establish concrete linkages with all relevant initiative in the region and will directly contribute and exchange with and feed in the KM platform that is being proposed under MENARID. Alignment of M&E systems and procedures under MENARID is another important element for coordination with other projects. Potential strong linkages are expected with the WB/GEF proposed initiative (to be part of the MENARID individual projects) and lessons will be captured from previous/ongoing projects such as the Protected Areas Management Project (GEF/IBRD).

DISCUSS THE VALUE-ADDED OF GEF INVOLVEMENT IN THE PROJECT DEMONSTRATED THROUGH [INCREMENTAL REASONING](#) :

Without the GEF

The region remains an area of high priority for the government's rural development and natural resources management policies in the current 11th Social and Economic Development Plan (2007-2011). The 11th plan also includes the second phase of the Integrated Agricultural Development Project (IADP-II) to be implemented in the Siliana Governorate, which is financed by the GOT, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), the beneficiaries and other private sector financing agencies. The IADP-II is the main baseline for the proposed GEF component. It targets twelve delegations of the Siliana Governorate and 54 Sectors/Imadats (comprising 140 000 total population and 28 000 families; 12 600 agricultural enterprises on 175 000 ha of cultivated area and 92 000 ha of range and forest land; 177 000 sheep, 21 000 goats, and 9000 cattle). At large, activities around the thematic areas of land degradation control, land-use planning and biodiversity conservation are strategic for the GOT and there are baseline activities at both national and local level that match the GEF project outcomes. The total baseline is approximately 90 USD million, the Government of Tunisia will contribute to the baseline with approximately 20 USD million, IFAD with 15.5 USD million, other multilateral and bilateral financing institution with 52 USD million (including the GoT contribution in these projects), beneficiaries are putting about 2.5USD million mostly in kind. There is also a stock draw down from the past budget plan that include two main projects financed by the UE and the WB. The overall GEF incremental investment will be 5 USD million. The project area coincides with the target area of PDAI-II project. However, most of this investment package is channelled to support development-related activities and poverty alleviation efforts. The baseline scenario focuses on social and economic benefits. It puts emphasis on local livelihoods and on on-farm and off-farm incomes, the baseline operations seek to boost agricultural productivity, support the development of small and medium-sized businesses and open up access for young people, especially women, to the labour market. It establishes mechanisms that assist communities and local administrations in planning and supervising synergistic and targeted activities to foster self-help and local development initiatives. Under this approach, landless households are likely to benefit from infrastructure services and technical support for employment creation, while smallholders will benefit from the actions to enhance agricultural productivity. However, the baseline scenario puts less emphasis on environmental aspects and natural resource management issues. Biodiversity conservation is not reflected as a priority for baseline interventions despite its importance for both local livelihoods and the national/global conservation needs.

With the GEF

The main value-added of the GEF involvement will be linking SLM practices and approaches, with the broader land degradation mitigation and poverty reduction objectives of the baseline. The GEF investment will enhance the participatory planning process of the IADP-II by involving the farming and sylvo-pastoral populations in the selection of SLM practices and investments to be tested. This constitutes a unique occasion for the land users to choose first, then test, acknowledge and eventually determine the conditions to upscale appropriate SLM practices most of which also have a climate change adaptation value (e.g Conservation Agriculture, Evapotranspiration reduction). Pilots on Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), IPM, organic farming would show how sustainable practices are able to increase return to land and labour, and in turn, enterprise profitability of environment-friendly investments. Demonstrations on sustainable rangeland management (on private and public land) supported by the project would mark evidence on relationship between sustainable pasture management and livestock productivity. The GEF investment will bring a significant contribution to the conservation efforts in Siliana. It will contribute to the increase of protected areas for bio-diversity conservation (first bringing the number of national parks from the current 8 to 9 and increasing the protected area in Djebel Esserj from 100 ha to 3000 ha) including the conservation of key ecosystems and habitats of global and national importance. But the GEF alternative would also bring a unique opportunity to decrease pressure on land resources (because productivity of land improves diminishing horizontal expansion, and because alternative sources of income are created with park-triggered tourism). Furthermore, the project through the foreseen measures to create enabling environments for a SLM mainstreaming would also move forward substantially in an innovative manner that would not be otherwise achieved. Building and managing the environmental and SLM knowledge basis and M&E systems, which would be otherwise insufficiently considered, is another important element that this GEF increment is adding. Last but not least, the GEF alternative will significantly strengthen a weak interaction and coordination between the MAWR and MESD. It will also bring significant exchange opportunities with other projects and similar initiatives throughout the MENA region within the MENARID context.

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

Risk	Mitigation
<p>Legal framework cannot be amended in time to allow the proposed innovations.</p> <p>M&E and KM systems are inadequate.</p>	<p>Timely action will be required and included in legal amendment proposals. The project will specifically monitor this aspect and apply corrective measures</p> <p>The project contributes to a system that which is driven by GOT through the MESD. It is considered a national priority. In addition, the system will be developed in a participatory manner and linked to all existing databases/systems. Also lessons from other projects and guidance from the MENARID will be useful to deliver on a high quality M&E and KM system</p>
<p>Low capacity of local, national and regional institutions to efficiently contribute to project objectives and drive its implementation processes.</p>	<p>Institutional strengthening is recognized as a priority, and so is the need to build up a pluralistic and sustainable system. Capacity building will be targeted in order to ensure cost-effectiveness.</p>
<p>Interagency coordination and integration fails.</p>	<p>The project will pay careful attention to institutional setup and improved coordination between all involved stakeholders. A clear institutional setup will be established and clear roles and responsibilities defined.</p>
<p>The GEF project is all about changing methods/approaches/ways of doing things. The project has a special focus on participatory processes executed by the local administration. Involved agencies fail to internalize innovation of new approaches.</p>	<p>The baseline IADP-II project put a lot of emphasis and resources on participatory approaches. Local implementers are committed to test and implement innovative approaches. This is further strengthened by the ongoing decentralization process and the increased shift toward participatory approaches.</p>
<p>Climate change increases risk of low land productivity and of further pressure on resources in terms of horizontal expansion at the expense of other uses (pastures, forests).</p>	<p>The on-the ground demonstration investments of the GEF project are centered on showing effectiveness of SLM as a means that enhances return to land and labour while promoting techniques for adaptation to climate change increasing agricultural (through conservation agriculture, organic farming, IPM and windbreak planting) and rangeland resilience (water harvesting, vegetation improvement). Positive experiences would enable local, national and regional up scaling.</p>

F. DESCRIBE, IF POSSIBLE, THE EXPECTED COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROJECT:

The project primarily looks at cost-effectiveness options that would lead to a maximum impact for each GEF dollar. The investments will support targeted capacity building, training, studies in order to foster the local, and national capacity to handle and promote the best SLM practises. Other interventions will be for demonstration, and pilot sites in agriculture and rangelands. The GEF intervention is fully blended with the IFAD project and interventions in order to reduce transaction and management cost for the GEF side. The GEF project will benefit from the overall IFAD project organisation and first year experience for related investments. In addition, the demand driven nature of the project (land user investments are identified through the participatory LDPs) will lead to targeted investments and increased sustainability. Foreseen linkages with MENARID interventions will also improve the harmonisation and efficiency of GEF intervention in targeted areas. Cost-effectiveness is pursued for M&E functions through the foreseen linkages with the national M&E system on environment under the responsibility of the MESD but also through the MENARID MSP on KM and M&E. The intervention for conserving biodiversity in Jebel Eserj will be linked to the planned creation of the National park and would benefit from the linkages with the national policies on natural parks and bio-diversity conservation. The project is seeking to increase the GEF impact by putting emphasis on investment and increasing the conservation area from 100 ha to about 3000 ha with a minimum allocation for capacity building and training. The GEF SLM Project area is well defined and identical to that of the IFAD IADP II project and the targeted beneficiaries are the same. The IADP II targets the most impoverished rural populations and the 54 *imadats* have been selected to include those with the lower access to services, the higher percentage of smallholders and the higher degree of erosion and unemployment. The total population of the project area has been estimated at 28,000 households, of which more of 60% are rural. There are approximately 12,800 farming units. Approximately 8000 households will benefit directly or indirectly from prospected GEF project activities, which also represent the direct beneficiaries of the IADP II project. Cost-effectiveness will be further assessed during project preparation.

G. JUSTIFY THE COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE OF GEF AGENCY:

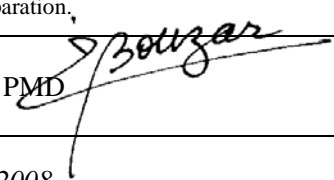
IFAD's comparative advantage on land degradation issues is acknowledged. IFAD has recently also shown comparative advantage to work on biodiversity GEF projects. Biodiversity mainstreaming and conservation are included in several IFAD operations. Some examples include the Biodiversity Conservation and Participatory Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Inner Niger in the Mopti Region in Mali and the Mount Kenya East Pilot Project for Natural Resource Management, which are directly dealing with biodiversity conservation in an integrated manner. Examples also include the Second Environment Program Support Project in Madagascar and the Sustainable Development Project for Rural and Indigenous Communities of the Semi-Arid North-West in Mexico, which are particularly dealing with Ecotourism. IFAD has supported biodiversity through its grants portfolio, for example through the Rewarding the Upland Poor in Asia for Environmental Services (the RUPES project). IFAD has proven experience in supporting management of national parks and adjacent buffer zones (e.g. buffer zones of the Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park in Viet Nam) through its portfolio. Biodiversity conservation is delivered through various activities that promote local best practices and traditional know-how, support to agro-biodiversity conservation and agro-forestry. Many of its operations were successful in up scaling innovative models for management of natural resources and biodiversity in sustainable manner. The project is also based on strong synergies between SLM and biodiversity conservation in an integrated manner. IFAD's strong experience in SLM and in tackling the land degradation problem, through community-based approaches will further contribute to a successful integration of the biodiversity dimension.

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

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

<i>DALI Najeh</i> Director General of Environment and Life Quality Tunisian Operational Focal Point Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development	Date: <i>13 December 2007</i>
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B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for project identification and preparation.	
Khalida Bouzar GEF Coordinator, PMD IFAD	 Naoufel Telahigue Project Contact Person, PMD IFAD
Date: <i>16 January 2008</i>	Tel. +39 06 54592572 E-mail: n.telahigue@ifad.org
<i>Please do not forget to copy IFAD/GEF Registry on official communications: gefregistry@ifad.org</i>	

REPUBLIQUE TUNISIENNE

MINISTÈRE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT
ET DU DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE

Direction Générale de l'Environnement
et de la Qualité de la Vie

**A : Dr. Khalida Bouzar,
Coordonnateur FEM
Fonds International de Développement Agricole (IFAD)
107, Via Del Serafico 00142
Rome, Italie**

Sujet : Approbation du projet : Gestion Durable des Terres dans le
Gouvernorat de Siliana.

En ma qualité de point focal opérationnel du FEM pour la Tunisie, je confirme que la proposition de projet cité en objet : (a) est en accord avec les priorités nationales du gouvernement et avec les engagements de la Tunisie relatifs aux conventions environnementales globales pertinentes et (b) a été discuté avec les dépositaires d'enjeux concernés, y inclus les points focaux des conventions environnementales globales, en accord avec la politique du FEM sur la participation publique.

De même, j'ai le plaisir d'endosser la préparation de la proposition de ce projet avec le soutien du FIDA. Si approuvée, la proposition sera élaborée et mise en œuvre par le Ministère de l'Agriculture et des Ressources Hydrauliques et le Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable.

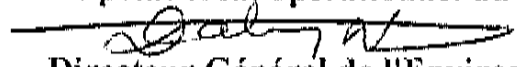
Par ailleurs, je demande au FIDA de nous fournir une copie du document de projet avant sa soumission au Secrétariat du FEM pour endossement de la CEO.

Il est entendu que le montant total requis pour ce projet s'élève à 5,850,000 Dollars des E.U incluant le montant de 350,000 Dollars des E.U pour la préparation du projet ainsi que le montant de 500,000 Dollars des E.U pour Le FIDA couvrant les services de gestion du cycle de projet associés au projet ci-dessus mentionné.

Aussi, je consens à l'utilisation des allocations de l'ordre de 440.000 dollars des EU disponibles pour la Tunisie dans le cadre du FEM-4 sous le FEM DAR afin de couvrir les coûts associés à la composante Biodiversité (Jbel Esserj).

Meilleures salutations.

Pr. Najeh DALI
Le point focal opérationnel du FEM



**Directeur Général de l'Environnement
et de la Qualité de la Vie**

Le Directeur Général
de l'Environnement et
de la Qualité de la Vie
Najeh Dali

13 DEC. 2007
Tunis, le

Madame Mona BISHAY
Directeur de la Division Proche Orient
et Afrique du Nord
Département Gestion des Programmes
FIDA

Objet : Endossement du Don FEM relatif au financement des
activités de gestion durable des sols.

Pièces Jointes : Une (01).

Dans le cadre du Projet de Développement Agricole Intégré de Siliana
(Phase II), j'ai l'honneur de vous faire parvenir ci-joint, la lettre
d'endossement de notre demande de financement, sur les ressources du FEM,
des activités relatives à la gestion durable des sols.

Veillez agréer, Madame le Directeur, l'assurance de ma meilleure
considération.

Le Directeur Général
de la Coopération Multilatérale

Signé: Kamel BEN REJEB