



GEF

REQUEST FOR CEO ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Project

THE GEF TRUST FUND

Submission Date: 11 July 2008

Re-submission Date:

PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

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): MoA

GEF FOCAL AREA(S): LD & BD

GEF-4 STRATEGIC PROGRAM(S): LD/SP1 & BD/SP3

NAME OF PARENT PROGRAM/UMBRELLA PROJECT:

MENARID

INDICATIVE CALENDAR	
Milestones	Expected Dates
Work Program (for FSP)	Apr 08
CEO Endorsement/Approval	Sept 08
GEF Agency Approval	Oct 08
Implementation Start	Dec 09
Mid-term Review (if planned)	Jun 12
Implementation Completion	Dec 14

PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: The project goal is to address the processes of land degradation and of biodiversity losses affecting the country's northern ecosystems by achieving the following objectives: (i) adopting integrated land use planning and improved water management, (ii) enhancing the protection of examples of the mountainous-forest ecosystem which form presently part of the national protected area system and (iii) up-scaling SLM investments in productive areas, while improving the living conditions of low- and average-income households.

Project Components	Investment TA or STA	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Indicative GEF Financing		Indicative Co-financing*		Total (\$ '000)
				(\$ '000)	%	(\$ '000)	%	
<i>Strengthening the Policy and Planning Frameworks for SLM Mainstreaming</i>	TA, STA	Reasonable influence to improve country legal framework is exerted A national multi-stakeholder environmental and SLM information and knowledge management (KM) system is being set in place, including environmental M&E Country's strategy to implement a pluralistic advisory system is strengthened Land users actual participation to planning and assessing value of ecosystems and sustainable development is evident Alignment with foreseen MENARID outcomes	1-2 proposals for SLM barriers amendment developed and acknowledged at policy level A KM system designed and most of its components are operational (2 databases and 1 web architecture developed, national environmental M&E system upgraded and nation-wide awareness campaign undertaken) 50 staff from the, MOAWR, MESD, Commissariat Régional du Développement Agricole (CRDA), 3-5 NGOs and 10-15 CBOs trained to mainstream SLM and ecosystem management in their work 15 Local development Plans (LDP) developed, 5 participatory annual reviews done, and 4-6 studies performed	1,390	38.1	2,259	61.9	3,649
<i>Mainstreaming SLM in Agricultural</i>	Investment and TA	Impact-oriented and locally adapted SLM incentives are promoted in rain-fed crop	SLM practices (Conservation Agric., Organic Farming, Evapotranspiration reduction	1,520	7.5	18,800	92.5	20,320

<i>Activities</i>		<p>areas to reduce pressure on land resources</p> <p>Land resources' value added by linking SLM in land re-grouping activities and by consolidating Soil and Water Conservation (SWC) works</p> <p>Local land users' livelihoods improved</p> <p>Alignment with foreseen MENARID outcomes</p>	<p>, IPM, etc.) tested on more than 6000 ha, and 6000 farming households targeted</p> <p>1500 ha re-grouped and 1600 ha with consolidated SWC works</p> <p>5-6 best farmer awarding annual events on SLM practices celebrated</p>					
<i>Mainstreaming SLM in Sylvo-Pastoral Activities</i>	Investment and TA	<p>Sustainable sylvo-pastoral management systems and organizational forms are identified</p> <p>Impact-oriented and locally adapted SLM investments are promoted in rangelands;</p> <p>Degradation and unsustainable use of common-rights land is reduced;</p> <p>Local land users' livelihoods improved</p> <p>Micro-enterprises of natural and environmentally friendly activities developed to reduce pressure on rangelands</p> <p>Alignment with foreseen MENARID outcomes</p>	<p>1 participatory sylvo-pastoral management plan developed</p> <p>Range improvement SLM practices adopted over 1200 ha in family-managed pastureland, and 50 water harvesting and spring rehabilitation systems put in place</p> <p>Range improvement SLM practices undertaken over 500 ha of common-rights land;</p> <p>Production capacity of 4 sylvo-pastoral nurseries enhanced;</p> <p>At least 5 group micro-enterprises developed</p> <p>7500 livestock herders targeted and trained on range SLM</p>	1,255	22.9	4,205	77.1	5,460
<i>Conserving BioDiversity in Jebel Esserj</i>	Investment and TA	<p>A National Park created and its biotope management plan developed with regulations that include possibilities for eco-tourism enjoyment</p> <p>Capacity for PA management and sustainable NRM developed and information disseminated</p> <p>Endangered bio-diversity conserved and asset management ensured in a sustainable manner</p>	<p>1 Specific Park(Jebel Esserj) legal act negotiated and approved and one management plan developed</p> <p>1 500 families involved</p> <p>5 Park staff trained and the Park M&E and information dissemination system in place, including impact and process indicators monitoring, production of leaflets and publishing of park documentation</p> <p>Minimum park infrastructure developed including: tourist welcoming facilities; eco-museum; water systems; solar power system; user itinerary signs; bird watching posts; and animal management systems</p>	400	78	114	22	514
<i>Project management</i>				435	18	1,977	82	2,412
Total costs				5,000	15	27,355	85	32,355

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

	Project Preparation * a	Project Grant b	Total c=a+b	Agency Fee**	For the record Project Grant at PIF
GEF	350,000	5,000,000	5,350,000	531,500	5,881,500
Co-financing	322,441	27,355,000	27,677,441		22,684,000
Total	672,441	32,355,000	33,027,441	531,500	28,565,500

* PDFB funded under GEF-3.

** 10% fee rate applicable only on project grant with 9% advance received at preparatory grant.

C. SOURCES OF CONFIRMED CO-FINANCING, including co-financing for project preparation for both the PDFs and PPG.

Name of co-financier (source)	Classification	Type	Project Preparation	Project	Total	%*
GOT	Nat'l Gov't	Grant	190,000 in kind -	6,066,000	6,256,000	22.6
Bilateral Aid Agency	Bilateral Agency	Soft-loan	-	4,555,000	4,555,000	16.45
IFAD	Multilat. Agency	In-kind and loan	132,441 in kind and cash	10,998,000	11,130,441	40.21
Others	Beneficiaries	In Kind	-	5,736,000	5,736,000	22.23
Total Co-financing			322,441	27,355,000	27,677,441	100%

D. GEF RESOURCES REQUESTED BY FOCAL AREA(S), AGENCY(IES) OR COUNTRY(IES)

GEF Agency	Focal Area	Country Name/ Global	(in \$)			
			PDFB* (a)	Project (b)	Agency Fee** (c)	Total d=a+b+c
IFAD	Land Degradation	Tunisia	350,000	4,600,000	491,500	5,441,500
IFAD	Biodiversity	Tunisia		400,000	40,000	440,000
Total GEF Resources			350,000	5,000,000	531,500	5,881,500

* PDFB funded under GEF-3.

** 10% fee rate applicable only on project grant with 9% advance received at preparatory grant.

E. PROJECT MANAGEMENT BUDGET/COST

Cost Items	Total Estimated person weeks	GEF (\$)	Other sources (\$)	Project total (\$)
<i>Local consultants*</i>				1,254,462
- Project coordinator	260	120,000		
- Administration and finance	260	60,000		
- Programming Unit	780		128,308	
- Implementation Unit ¹	2860		349,385	
- M&E Unit	780		596,769	
<i>International consultants*</i>	0	0		0
<i>Office facilities, equipment, travel, vehicles and communications**</i>		90,000	712,477	802,477
<i>Workshops and supervision</i>		165,000	190,060	355,060
Total	-	435,000	1,977,000	2,412,000

¹ Including 5 drivers and 2 secretaries

F. CONSULTANTS WORKING FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPONENTS:

<i>Component</i>	<i>Estimated person weeks</i>	<i>GEF(\$)</i>	<i>Other sources (\$)</i>	<i>Project total (\$)</i>
<i>Local consultants*</i>	1 820	600 000	1 500 000	2 100 000
<i>International consultants*</i>	30	75 000	0	75 000
Total	1850	675 000	1 500 000	2 175 000

G. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M&E PLAN:

Project monitoring and evaluation will be conducted by the project team in conformity with GEF M&E procedures and within the M&E framework of the January 2006 loan agreement between IFAD and the Government of Tunisia. The Logical Framework Matrix in Annex A provides *impact* and *performance* indicators for project implementation along with their corresponding *means of verification*. These will form the basis on which the project's Monitoring and Evaluation system will be built. A detailed M&E Plan is presented at the detailed Project Document Appendix D. Below is a brief description of the Plan.

Project Inception Phase

A Project Inception Workshop (IW) will be conducted with the IADP-II project team, including National Coordinator (from MAWR) and Task Coordinator (for all project activities under the MESD), relevant government counterparts, IFAD and co-financing partners. The main objective of this workshop will be to increase the project team's ownership of the project's goals and objectives, as well as finalize preparation of the project's first annual work plan on the basis of the project's logframe matrix. This will include fine-tuning the methodology for measuring the logframe indicators, imparting additional detail as needed, and on the basis of this exercise, finalize the Annual Work Plan (AWP) with precise and measurable performance indicators, and in a manner consistent with the expected outcomes for the project. For an indicative M&E Work Plan for the whole project implementation period, see Appendix D of detailed Project Document.

Additionally, IW will provide a detailed overview of IFAD-GEF reporting and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) requirements, with particular emphasis on the Annual Project Implementation Reviews (PIRs) required by GEF, the bi-annual and annual reporting requirements for IFAD, the bi-annual supervisory missions, the occasional supervisory missions of IFAD as well as mid-term and final evaluations. Equally, the IW will provide an opportunity to inform the project team on IFAD project-related budgetary planning, budget reviews, and mandatory budget re-phasing.

The IW will also provide an opportunity for all parties to understand their roles, functions, and responsibilities within the project's decision-making structures, including reporting and communication lines, and conflict resolution mechanisms. The Terms of Reference for project staff and decision-making structures will be re-discussed, as needed, in order to clarify for all, each party's responsibilities during the project's implementation phase.

Monitoring responsibilities and events

A detailed schedule of project reviews meetings will be developed by the project management, in consultation with project implementation partners and stakeholder representatives and incorporated in the Project Inception Report. Such a schedule will include: (i) tentative time frames for, Bi-annual Supervisory Missions and meetings of the National Coordination committee, the Regional Advisory Council and the Delegation-level Advisory Councils, and; (ii) project related Monitoring and Evaluation activities.

Day to day monitoring of implementation progress will be the responsibility of the Regional Coordinator for regional level activities and the National Coordinator and Task Coordinator for national-level activities based on the project's Annual Work Plan and its indicators. The Project Team will inform the IFAD-GEF of any delays or difficulties faced during implementation so that the appropriate support or corrective measures can be adopted in a timely and remedial fashion.

The National Coordinator, the Task Coordinator and the Regional Coordinator will fine-tune the methodology for measuring progress and performance/impact indicators of the project in consultation with the full project team in consultation with IFAD. Specific targets for the first year implementation progress indicators together with their means of verification will be developed at this Workshop. The local implementing agencies will also take part in the Inception Workshop in which a common vision of overall project goals will be established. Targets and indicators for subsequent years would be defined annually as part of the internal evaluation and planning processes undertaken by the project team.

Measurement of impact indicators related to national and global benefits will occur according to the schedules defined in the IW and tentatively outlined in the indicative Impact Measurement Template. The measurement of some of the impact indicators will be undertaken through subcontracts or retainers with relevant institutions or through specific studies that are to form part of the projects activities or periodic sampling.

Reporting

The Regional, National and Task Coordinators, in conjunction with MAWR and MESD, will be responsible for the preparation and submission of the following reports that form part of the monitoring process. As the project is based in the Region, the Regional Coordinator will have lead responsibility for their compilation:

(a) Inception Report (IR)

A Project Inception Report will be prepared immediately following the Inception Workshop. It will include a detailed First Year/ Annual Work Plan divided in quarterly time-frames detailing the activities and progress indicators that will guide implementation during the first year of the project. This Work Plan would include the dates of specific field visits and project activities, support missions from IFAD or supervision institution or consultants, as well as time-frames for meetings of the project's decision making structures. The Report will also include the detailed project budget for the first full year of implementation, prepared on the basis of the Annual Work Plan, and including any monitoring and evaluation requirements to effectively measure project performance during the targeted 12 months time-frame. Moreover, the IR will include a more detailed narrative on the institutional roles, responsibilities, coordinating actions and feedback mechanisms of project related partners. In addition, a section will be included on progress to date on project establishment and start-up activities and an update of any changed external conditions that may effect project implementation. Upon IFAD's review, the final report will be circulated to project counterparts who will be given a period of one calendar month in which to respond with comments or queries.

(b) Bi-annual Project Reports

Bi-annual reports will be submitted to IFAD by MAWR a minimum of two weeks prior to the scheduled bi-annual supervisory missions. The bi-annual reports will include: a) quantitative and qualitative assessments of progress towards project objective and outcomes; b) problems encountered during the reporting period; c) measures taken or proposed to resolve these problems, and; d) activities to be undertaken during the subsequent reporting period.

(c) *Annual Project Implementation Review (PIR) PAREI AQUI*

The PIR, following GEF and IFAD requirements, will be the main vehicle for extracting lessons from ongoing projects. It will be completed by the IFAD together with the project team. It will be scheduled in conformity with the timing of project start-up and in line with IFAD reporting requirement.

(d) *Project Completion Report*

The Project Completion Report will be prepared by the National Coordinator and MAWR during the last three months of the project. It will include: a) an analysis of the costs and benefits of the project; b) an analysis of the degree of achievement of the project objective and outcomes; c) a report on project execution by the implementing parties, and; d) lessons learned; e) recommendations on any further steps that may be needed to ensure sustainability and replicability of the Project's activities.

Independent Evaluations

The project will be subjected to at least two independent external evaluations as follows:-

(i) *Mid-Term Evaluation*

The Mid-Term Evaluation will determine progress being made towards the achievement of outcomes and will identify course corrections if needed. It will focus on the effectiveness, efficiency and timeliness of project implementation; will highlight issues requiring decisions and actions; and will present initial lessons learned about project design, implementation and management. Findings of this review will be incorporated as recommendations for enhanced implementation during the final half of the project's term. The organization, terms of reference and timing of the mid-term evaluation will be decided after consultation between the parties to the project document.

(ii) *Final Evaluation*

An independent Final Evaluation will take place during the last three months of the project, and will focus on the same aspects as the mid-term evaluation. The final evaluation will also look at impact and sustainability of results, including the contribution to capacity development and the achievement of global environmental goals. The Final Evaluation should also provide recommendations for follow-up activities.

Estimated M&E Budget

(For a detailed indicative M&E work plan and budget, please see Project Document Appendix D)

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. DESCRIBE THE PROJECT RATIONALE AND THE EXPECTED MEASURABLE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS:

The vast majority of Tunisia's total land area (15 million ha) is classified as desert-type with a predominantly hyper-arid climate, while steep lands amount to 46%. Only 14% of the area is considered arable 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 severe amounting to some 50% of the total country area, and among the highest in the Middle East North Africa (MENA) region.

Due to geographical location and climatic characteristics, Tunisia is considered very sensitive to adverse effects of CC² being a country which already faces a hydrous stress situation with only about 500 m³ of water/capita/year. The average surface water volume available annually is of 2700 Mm³ but with ample

² See Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MESD) communication (2001) to the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change.

variations (from 2230 Mm³ once every two years to 1250 Mm³ once every ten years), which obviously affects water resources dependent ecosystems and agricultural based livelihoods. Modification of evaporation and precipitation rates by global warming will likely affect the hydrous climate balance of Tunisia. Rain pattern changes in terms of frequency and distribution would also worsen inherent erodibility conditions of soils.

The GOT has made substantial achievements by implementing its social and economic policies, which have facilitated the decrease of the national poverty rate to only 5% of the population (total population 10.2 million, 2006), and have allowed an average GDP annual growth rate of over 4% (1996-2006). In addition, the public investment in favour of the agricultural amounts to 7% of the national budget targeting productivity development and, at the same time, addressing conservation and management needs of the natural resources (which absorb about 14% of sector-dedicated investments). Unemployment is however still high at 15% and the primary source of income for a large segment (77%) of the rural population of the country (37% of the total) depends on the crop and livestock output. The agricultural sector, in turn, has an annual productivity that is subject to the high variability of the dry sub-humid/semi-arid climate, which has worsened due to global climate change, and which has suffered from further degradation of the natural resource base due to unsustainable agricultural and sylvo-pastoral practices. The sector is also characterized by a number of structural constraints comprising: (a) inadequate holding sizes (out of a total 471 000 farm enterprises, 53% are not larger than 5 ha occupying 9% of the agricultural land area, while only 3% are larger than 50 ha and hold more than 90% of the land); (b) an over-fragmented land tenancy structure (40% of the cultivated land is held by 85% of the enterprises); (c) lack of access to financial resources to maintain bulk investments that protect and manage natural resources; and (d) insufficient farmers' up-to-date technical know-how particularly, on sustainable use of the natural resource base due to an inadequate and limited extension system. Furthermore, notwithstanding the GOT efforts and policies in favour of less endowed areas in terms of social and economic basic infrastructure, regional disparities are still significant.

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). 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 targets for support twelve (in *toto* or in part) 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), comprising 63% of the Governorate. The area has been selected based on prevalence of small landholding sizes, erosion vulnerability, underemployment, migration rates, and deficit of infrastructures. A supplementary assessment by IFAD has narrowed down the project scope in terms of poverty issues to 15 000 households that by the end of the project life would need to be targeted directly through project activities. The Siliana region is also characterized by gender inequality features as other parts of Tunisia. Major issues consist in lower access to the labor market (women active population accounts only for 20% of the total) and education (illiteracy is prevalent among 29 % of women as opposed to 15 % for men). In addition, cultural restrictions to women's physical mobility is still very high in this region and few if any rural-agricultural-sylvopastoral development activities try to address the specific concern of women.

Until the middle of the 19th Century, the predominant land use in Siliana was extensive grazing on common lands. As population grew strongly in the past century, and with it, sedentary agriculture, more marginal lands (in terms of soil conditions and steepness) 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 deforestation, overgrazing of rangelands, and changes in the vegetation structure in pastoral areas. Out of the total area of Siliana (467,000 ha), 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 erosion. Land degradation processes continue because of the high pressure on the resources by the local populations. These need to seek more sustainable uses of the limited resources that form the basis for their livelihoods. Experience in Africa and elsewhere has shown that land users are induced to adopt a holistic approach known as Sustainable Land Management (SLM) when they perceive that investments on their own resource base improve return to land and labour. Thereafter, they also become prime players for the conservation and maintenance of SWC works.

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, increasing the rate of erosion. Unsuitable tillage operations have increased soil inherent erodibility contributing to further land degradation. Long term cereal quasi-monocropping, inadequate rotations, and insufficient nutrient replenishment have all together impoverished fertility leading to de-structured soils. Declining or stagnant crop yields constitute a first sensible indicator of the land degradation process.

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 ground water table recharging, and the discharge pattern of springs and wadis. Springs have reduced discharge or have dried up threatening, at times 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 to only 4.8% of the total agricultural and forest land (about 280,000ha). However, livestock raising continues to provide in Siliana 63% of the value-added as compared to 37% coming from crop output. This has induced 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 forest-mountainous ecosystem of the Governorate, is a biodiversity sanctuary for rare examples of flora and fauna. Due to high a sylvo-pastoral population density, the biotope is subject to threats such as irrational 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 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 the Maple of Montpellier, Cypress of Makthar, Cork Oak, Cotoneaster, Sorbus, Rosa Canina, and the Carub. In terms of fauna, Jebel Esserj hosts the Hyaena, Wild Boar, Jackal, Porcupine, Pilgrim Falcon, 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. In line with the commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the 11th Plan, the GOT intends to expand the protected area to about 3000 ha of State-lands, and to upgrade the status of the Reserve into that of a National Park. This would include areas to be designated as restrictive protected zones, and large buffer and transition zones to be jointly managed with local populations under SLM and sustainable use of biodiversity conditions.

The current policy and strategic framework of Tunisia related to NRM is substantially robust. The country is endowed with a list of strategies encompassing soil and water conservation; forestry and pastoralism development; rural and agricultural integrated development programmes; water resources' management; and rangeland maintenance. 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 in always tune, and at times 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 putting 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 *Commissariat Régional du Développement Agricole* (CRDA) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources (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 on coordination roles for the public sector service providers; establish renewable, performance-based contracts with private sector service providers for SLM related services; assist private sector suppliers of inputs to provide basic extension materials to their clients; help the Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) to develop basic capacities for service provision to small farmers; involve farmers and sylvo-pastoral families and CBOs in the participatory development of new, diversified agricultural extension packages that integrate sustainable agricultural practices.

The project would address the above issues by:

A) **Strengthening Policy and Planning Frameworks for SLM Mainstreaming** by (1) reviewing the legal framework and making proposals for its alignment to the prevailing strategies and policies of the country and to improve the context for SLM and BD conservation adoption and mainstreaming; (2) putting in place the conditions for the creation of comprehensive and integrated (among all concerned institutional partners) Knowledge Management System (on LL from the relevant completed/on-going and pipeline projects/programmes; best SLM practices and technologies; advisory systems; etc), which ought to network national stakeholders at different levels among themselves and with the regional and other international contexts. Such a KM system should be linked and thus contribute to the building of the national M&E system on environmental issues; (3) strengthening the institutional framework in the direction 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 the community-based organizations such as the GDAs and GFICs; and (4) integrating SLM issues in participatory planning (by contributing to the development of at least 15 Local Development Plans with a special focus on SLM issues to be reviewed annually) and M&E system being established by the IADP-II.

B) supporting Siliana farmers to **Mainstreaming SLM in Agricultural Activities** by (1) implementing demonstrative SLM on-the-ground Investments (including farmer training) to be identified during the preparation of the participatory Local Development Plans envisaged adopted by over 6000 farming households with direct on-the ground investments in about 6000 ha, which would include improving farmers' profitability in the "clarières forestiers" also through conservation of agrobiodiversity by enhancing plantation (over about 200ha) of local fruit species (e.g. the Bargou Peach, the Kesra Fig, the Bigaro Cherry); promoting introduction and certification of formal organic farming in earmarked cluster areas for bio-agriculture (about 1000 ha); implementing participatory extension on IPM and GAPs (with 200 farmer groups capable of a cascading positive effect on about 25 000 ha); experimenting (on about 1500 ha) diverse Conservation Agriculture techniques (including direct sowing); utilizing soil water deficit mitigating measures like productive shelterbelt plot fencing (about 200 ha); (2) integrating SLM norms on Land re-grouping operations (over about 1500 ha); (3) Green Consolidation of Existing SWC bunds through Crop Diversification (over about 1600 ha); (4) improving knowledge and perception of benefic effects of SWC investments to induce farmer-led maintenance, and introduction of farmer awarding events for best SLM practices as a means to develop SLM incentives for farmers.

C) supporting NR livelihood-based families in Siliana to **Mainstreaming SLM in Sylvo-pastoral activities** comprising 7500 livestock herders, by (1) developing participatory NR and rangeland/forestry management systems assisting also 'company' registration of GFIC and other CBO forms to allow for commercial enterprising; (2) developing SLM on-the-ground investments (with community training), which may include (over 1000 ha) rangeland vegetation (fodder bushes and herbaceous plants) improvement (which also brings bio-diversity benefits); spring water management/rehabilitation and implementation of water harvesting investments (on some 50 spots, as a means to induce also rational rangeland rotation); Green Consolidation of Existing SWC bunds (on about 200 ha); (3) rangeland improvement on common-rights sylvo-pastoral highly degraded areas (about 500 ha) including support to specialized nurseries; and (4) development of Micro-Enterprises (about 5 to be actually established) for natural products (e.g. medicinal, aromatic and nutritious food) and environment-friendly activities, which can compensate loss of range and animal productivity. Actual activities and common-interest groups would be identified during the elaboration of the Local Development Plans.

D) launching the creation of the new national park for the **Conservation of Bio-diversity in Jebel Esserj**, and including (1) as a first step the elaboration of a full-sized Park Participatory Management Plan involving also 1 500 families and their livelihoods improved in buffer/transition zones of Jebel Esserj Park; (2) Park Staff capacity building and training activities; the establishment of a specific M&E system and the promotional actions such as an awareness campaign and dissemination publications; and (3) the implementation of specific ecotourism infrastructure investments (ecomuseum, tourist welcoming interventions, children facilities, water management, renewable energy devices, animal gathering and bird watching facilities, guided itinerary signs, etc.). And

E) contributing to the **Project Management**

The project will target the most severely degraded areas in one of the most degraded regions of the country. The GEF incremental funding would be targeting through "on-the-ground" and training investments about 6 000 farming households, the entire herding population of 7 500 families in the 54 target districts, and all 1 500 families living or making a livelihood in the Jebel Esserj concerned area. In such terms, the same number of beneficiaries of the IADP II (15,000 households) would be covered by the GEF activities. In addition, a number of 'soft' activities and induced effects (policy research, M&E, Knowledge Management, resource use planning, institutional development, improvement of ecosystem services, and biodiversity protection) would also have a broader national as well as global benefit.

In parallel with the baseline project, the GEF incremental investments would contribute addressing gender issues through different activities including the preparation of the LDPs (highlighting women's roles and needs); earmarking specific indicators in both project and national M&E systems; considering gender differentiation in the engineering of the Knowledge Management system; improving the advisory support services; and facilitating women's full involvement in training activities and in micro-enterprise promotion. SLM technologies and systems developed in Siliana will have broad application in Tunisia and beyond.

Through the GEF investment, in Siliana about 8000 ha will adopt immediately SLM techniques and further 25 000 ha will follow due to the resource users' capacity built by the investment. SLM technologies and systems developed in Siliana would also have have broad application in Tunisia and beyond. The main global benefits generated by the project interventions include: protection and re-integration of agricultural-forestry-range ecosystems functional capacity (components 1, 2 and 3); contribution to carbon sequestration over about 8000 ha (Component 2 and 3); conservation, protection and enhancement of bio-diversity (component 4; 2 and 3 for agro-biodiversity); adaptation to climate change (component 2 and 3); protection of socio-cultural diversity and valorization of local knowledge (components 1, 2, 3 and 4). In terms of biodiversity conservation the project will protect habitats of forest-mountainous ecosystem of the project area, hence leading to the conservation of severely threatened species of global value such as: *Acer monspessulanum.*, *Cupressus semervirens f. numidica*, rare outlyer population of *Quercus suber* and exceptional populations of *Cotoneaster racemiflora var tomentella*, *Sorbus aria* subsp *meridionalis*, and *Rosa canina* subsp *pouzini*. Among the fauna, the Pilgrim Falcon and the Booted Eagle.

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, forestry, rangeland, agricultural land, and livestock resources, with full involvement of the concerned populations. All such goals are confirmed in the current 11th ESDP (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 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 for the initiated 11th Plan. The projects/programmes concerning Siliana, and which are included in the 11th Plan encompass interventions for (a) water management (US \$32 million); (b) forest and rangeland improvement (US \$16 million); (c) soil and water conservation (US \$ 7 million); (d) integrated rural and agricultural development (US \$ 40 million); and (e) environment; and other issues (US \$ 3 million).

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

The dry sub-humid agro-ecological zones such as those occurring in Siliana are considered high priority zones for GEF-4 investment in the LD focal area. The project specifically addresses the two strategic objectives and one strategic program enlisted in the Land Degradation GEF-4 strategy, namely, LDSO1, LDSO2, and LD-SP1. SO1 will be addressed through (a) efforts to target the policy and institutional bottlenecks by reviewing the legal framework and proposing alignments with the current strategic an policy package, and (b) mainstreaming of SLM objectives into the national planning, M&E, Knowledge Management frameworks; and by (c) capacity building within key institutions responsible for SLM. SO2 will be accommodated through investments in the field aimed at adapting and up scaling SLM (in agricultural and sylvo-pastoral integrated

ecosystems), 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 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 BDSO1 and its BD-SP3 directly through the creation of the Jebel Esserj Park, to increase the representation of this park main ecosystem (forest-mountainous) in the national protected areas, hence filling an important gap in the system.

Priority is similarly accorded to integrated approaches across GEF focal areas where multiple benefits may be generated through cross focal areas linkages such as with sustainable sylvo-pastoral management. Such inter-linkages may include protection of groundwater recharge zones or to reduce erosion and soil loss in watersheds with benefits in flow regulation and the hydrological balance of upper watersheds.

D. OUTLINE THE COORDINATION WITH OTHER RELATED INITIATIVES:

The GEF project would be considered as an individual project of the overall MENARID pipeline initiative. In 2005, the regional level anchoring of the NAPCD was launched through the drawing up of 12 regional action plans to combat desertification with support from the Global Mechanism (GM), UNDP, and GTZ. MENARID is a natural follow on initiative to this regional perspective. MENARID intends to be a programming framework with the objective of promoting integrated SLM and BD in the drylands of the MENA region while improving the economic and social well-being of the targeted communities through the restoration and maintenance of ecosystem functions and productivity. Actions will mainly contribute to the systematic large-scale application and dissemination of sustainable, community-based farming, rangeland management and forest management systems in critical ecosystems of local and global importance in the MENA. Specifically, the GEF project foreseen outputs are aligned with the results intended through the MENARID programme i.e. (a) harmonized approaches and coordinated SLM investments; (b) SLM mainstreamed, enabling environment promoted and good practices up-scaled/disseminated; and (c) restored ecosystem integrity and improved livelihoods.

The project will also liaise with other relevant initiatives such as the World Bank/GEF-funded Protected Areas Project (on agro- and natural- biodiversity conservation matters) and the regional UNEP/GEF/FAO Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands Project (LADA) (on SLM mainstreaming and Knowledge Management systems). In addition, IFAD with others, is supporting the MASHREQ and MAGHREB project, which includes Tunisia, for the development of integrated crop-livestock production systems in low rainfed areas. This practice has revealed itself as good mechanism also to promote training and exchange of experience and expertise specifically, on animal nutrition, policy research and property rights, small ruminant and rangeland management. Lessons would be drawn from the achievements of this Project³ specifically, through the policy research studies on institutional options for rangeland management and the participatory technology development and adoption experiences. In this regard, the Tunisian (Zoghmar, Central Tunisia) experience of this project is very relevant showing the positive partnerships that have established between international and national development and research organizations, regional public institutions (CRDA, OEP), NGOs (LANCER and ACT) and farmers/herder community institutions.

E. DESCRIBE THE INCREMENTAL REASONING OF THE PROJECT:

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 with 2.5USD million. 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

³ See <http://www.mashreq-maghreb.org/> and <http://www.ifad.org/lrkm/tans/9.htm>

be 5 USD million. The project area coincides with the target area of PDAI-II project. 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. In addition, the GEF investment will strongly contribute to the increase of protected areas for bio-diversity conservation (bringing the number of national parks from the current 8 to 9).

In the absence of the GEF investment a number of opportunities would not occur. 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 pasture and livestock productivity. Agro- and natural biodiversity conservation (by enhancing local fruit species, improving vegetation quality of rangelands and protecting unique flora and fauna in Jebel Esserj) are a value-added *per se* but also constitute an 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 for a SLM mainstreaming enabling environment would also move forward substantially the building of a national Knowledge Management and environmental M&E system, which would comprehend otherwise insufficiently considered, LD and SLM matters. Finally, the GEF project will strengthen considerably interaction and coordination between the MAWR and MESD.

F. INDICATE RISKS, INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS, THAT MIGHT PREVENT THE PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S) FROM BEING ACHIEVED AND OUTLINE RISK MANAGEMENT MEASURES:

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>Time action plans will be required and included in legal amendment proposals. Further assessment of risks and mitigations for proposed innovations will be required.</p> <p>The project contributes to a system that is being built by GOT through the MESD. It is considered a national priority.</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>Integration and interaction has proven somewhat successful during PDF-B stage. The project's institutional and organizational arrangements have been discussed and agreed upon.</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 well-aware that a change in mind set is a national and governmental commitment.</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 to 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>

Risk	Mitigation
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).	The on-the ground demonstration investments of the GEF project are centered to 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 evapo-transpiration mitigation) and rangeland resilience (water harvesting, vegetation improvement). Positive experiences would enable local, national and regional up scaling. GHG emissions balance is also improved.
Legal framework cannot be amended in time to allow the proposed innovations. M&E and KM systems are inadequate.	Time action plans will be required and included in legal amendment proposals. Further assessment of risks and mitigations for proposed innovations will be required. The project contributes to a system that is being built by GOT through the MESD. It is considered a national priority.
Low capacity of local, national and regional institutions to efficiently contribute to project objectives and drive its implementation processes.	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.
Interagency coordination and integration fails.	Integration and interaction has proven somewhat successful during PDF-B stage. The project's institutional and organizational arrangements have been discussed and agreed upon.
The GEF project is all about changing methods, approaches and 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.	The baseline IADP-II project put a lot of emphasis and resources on participatory approaches. Local implementers are well-aware that a change in mind set is a national and governmental commitment.

G. EXPLAIN HOW COST-EFFECTIVENESS IS REFLECTED IN THE PROJECT DESIGN:

The project primarily looks at cost-effectiveness options that would lead to a maximum impact for each GEF dollar. Considering that the baseline/GEF incremental investment ratio is 5:1, the effectiveness of the GEF investment is highest by reaching an equal number of beneficiaries allowing for additional and more sustainable benefits. 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 investment 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 Medium Size Project (MSP) 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 actions of the MENARID MSP on Knowledge Management 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 GEF impact will include increasing the conservation area from the current 100 ha to about 2500-3000 ha with a minimum allocation for capacity building and training.

In terms of global benefit the GEF investment would also allow for a contribution to improved carbon storage change⁴ (through plantation of tree crops; GAPs; reduced erosion/leaching/runoff; restitution to grassland of forest cleared areas (@ 0-5 t carbon/ha); conservation agriculture and zero tillage, etc) on about 8000 ha, which would have a positive effect on CC due to decreased GHG emissions (reducing NO₂ emissions through lower nitrification; reduced use of nitrogenous fertilizers; decreased mineralization of organic materials, etc.).

PART III: INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION AND SUPPORT

A. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENT:

The GEF implementing agency (IA) for this project will be the IFAD. The implementation modalities will be in line and tied to those for the IADP II umbrella-project with few integrations. The Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources (MAWR) of the Government of Tunisia (GOT) will have overall oversight and authority for project execution. The MAWR will appoint a National Coordinator (NC), and the other concerned government authority, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MESD), will appoint a special Task Coordinator (TC) in charge of the coordination for specific project activities under this Ministry.

The actual executing agency will be the *Commissariat Régional du Développement Agricole* (CRDA) in Siliana. The General Director of the CRDA will be the Project Director (PD). The PD will have direct, overall responsibilities for project execution, including both technical and financial management of the project. The PD will have direct responsibility for overall supervision and guidance of all of the CRDA professional staff. He will have direct responsibility for the awarding of contracts and the management, maintenance and inventory of project goods and equipment. The PD will be the official representative of the project before the regional administration and other government bodies.

The administrative units below the Governorate are the delegations and the districts or *imadats* (lowest level). Field activities will be planned and executed primarily at the *imadat* level. The population of each *imadat* is represented by a District Development Committee (DDC). The project will assist each DDC to prepare a participatory Local Development Plan (LDP) for the imadat. The DDC will become formally registered as *Groupement de Développement Agricole* (GDA). The project will be implemented largely through the annual Work Program Contracts (*contrats programmes*) or WPC that will be established each year between the GDA and the CRDA. The staff of the technical units (*arrondissements*) of the CRDA will have participated in the development of the LDP and the WPC and will establish the work plans and budgets of their technical units in conformity with the WPC.

The project will be executed primarily by the existing personnel of the CRDA. The staff of the technical units will be responsible for the implementation of the activities identified in the WPC in line with their established responsibilities as defined in the 1989 decree defining the organization of the CRDA. The technical units will be reinforced with additional personnel and equipment as needed to properly implement the additional activities generated by the project.

A Project Team called the Local Planning and Coordination Unit (LPCU) is created under the direction of the PD as a new technical unit (*arrondissement*) within the CRDA to implement new functions not presently covered under the existing CRDA organigramme (such as local development planning, M&E and training). If this unit proves its merits, it may become a permanent part of the CRDA structure. Other activities that do not fall directly under the mandate of the CRDA may be subcontracted to other specialized operators in the region. The creation of the National Park at Jebel Esserj, the conservation of its biodiversity and all activities related to knowledge management and environmental monitoring will be the responsibility of the MESD.

⁴ Available inventories (following IPCC approved methodology and guidelines) show net GHG anthropogenic emissions of Tunisia at 23.4 million tons equivalent (TEq) CO₂; absorption totaled at 5.5 million TEq CO₂; and agricultural contribution representing 6 million TEq CO₂ (projected to become 8.7 million in 2020 however with a decreased influence (14%) to the foreseen overall net gas emissions (62.4 million TEq CO₂).

The LPCU is a cross-cutting, multi-sectoral support unit under the direction of the PD. LPCU will be charged with the coordination of all project activities and will be headed by the Regional Coordinator (RC). The main tasks of the LPCU will be the following:

- Develop annual work plans and budgets, coordination with the CRDA and the preparation of call for bids and contracts with service providers;
- Conceptual development of the project approach and methodological tools; initial conception, capitalization of experiences and lessons learned, development of adaptive management tools, fine tuning of project approach and tools;
- Promotion and development of partnerships, support to project partners in the development of the project approach; development of a spirit of teamwork amongst the network of project partners;
- Communications

The RC is assisted by a multi-disciplinary support staff of mid-level professionals whose profiles are carefully selected to provide expertise that is not already found in the existing CRDA staff. Five positions are foreseen:

- Participatory planning and programming
- Operations
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Sustainable land management

A new position to the current IADP-II structure will be created to coordinate activities under the present project:

- GEF activities coordination

The GEF Coordinator will be the one full-time, GEF-funded position on the project. He/she⁵ will have the following responsibilities for GEF-related activities:

- drafting of the annual work plans with budgets;
- Lead author for the drafting of reporting as foreseen by the monitoring and evaluation system;
- Lead author for the drafting of TOR and contracts for all national and international consultants and for all grants and competitively awarded contracts to service providers;
- Coordinate the selection process for recruitment and outsourcing;
- Lead responsibility for the development of new partnerships with participating institutions;
- Lead responsibility for ensuring the effective coordination of project activities between the local, *Governorate* and national levels.

The NC appointed by MAWR will:

- Coordinate all donor missions during the life of the project;
- Coordination with all national-level agencies;
- Support as needed to the regional level units;
- Serve as interface between the donors and the executing agencies;

The TC appointed by MESD will:

- Coordinate the biodiversity conservation at Jebel Esserj;

⁵ The Regional Coordinator shall have a university degree in a field directly related to sustainable land management (agriculture, forestry or range management) and biodiversity conservation, and at least 10 years experiences in these fields. He/she shall also have the following qualifications: i) Excellent interpersonal and communication skills; ii) Proven experience in coordinating complex initiatives involving a diverse range of government and non-government entities; iii) Excellent writing skills; iv) Proficient in word processing and spreadsheets; v) Good analytic capacities

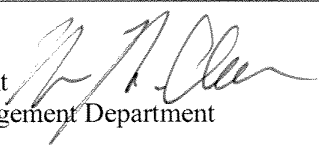
- Support the development and the functioning of the Knowledge Management Network;
- Coordinate the national environmental monitoring;

A National Coordination Committee (NCC) will be chaired by the Minister of Agriculture or his representative and will meet at least twice a year. The committee will ensure oversight, overall coordination, and will approve the AWP. MESD will act as a *primus inter pares* member of the NCC. This committee will also include the main general directorates of MAWR, the Office of Support for Rural Women in MAWR, the National Agency for Employment and Private Sector Work (ANETI), the Ministries of Finance; of Economic Development and International Cooperation; and Tourism and Artisanat. This committee will monitor project progress, will analyze problems of resource mobilization as they arise and will facilitate the coordination between all agencies concerned with project execution. Likewise, at regional level a consultative Regional Coordination Committee (RCC) will be chaired by the General Director of CRDA, which will also meet twice a year and will include amongst its members the directors of the CRDA arrondissements, the Office du Développement du Nord Ouest, and regional representatives of ANETI, private sector and rural / farmer organizations.

PART IV: EXPLAIN THE ALIGNMENT OF PROJECT DESIGN WITH THE ORIGINAL PIF:

There have been no major changes to the project design as compared to the approved Project Information Form

PART V: AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for CEO Endorsement.	
Kevin Cleaver Assistant President Programme Management Department IFAD 	Khalida Bouzar Coordinator Global Environment and Climate Change Programme Management Division Tel: +39.06.54592151 E-mail: k.bouzar@ifad.org
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Please do not forget to copy the IFAD/GECC Registry on all official communications, GECCregistry@ifad.org	

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK –

Narrative Summary	Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification	Assumption/ Risks
<p>PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE</p> <p>The project goal is to address the processes of land degradation that are threatening the biodiversity of the country's northern ecosystems by achieving the following objectives: (i) adopting integrated land use [an water management] planning, (ii) enhancing the protection of examples of the montane-forest system presently in the national protected area system and (iii) up-scaling SLM investments in productive areas, while improving the living conditions of low- and average-income households.</p>	<p>Impact Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase of 8000 ha in areas where best practices of sustainable agriculture and rangeland management are applied. (out of a total 140 000 ha cropped land and 13 400 ha rangeland) • Further 25000 ha will incorporate GAPs through farmers' specific training. • Increase in resilience to climate rigor is manifested (sustained productivity) in the same area of 8-9000 ha • About 15 000 resource user families improve livelihoods (income, production, enterprises) (out of a total 28 000 house holds) gender disaggregated when possible • 2,500 - 3,000 ha increase of under-represented sylvo-pastoral mountainous ecosystem in the national PA system (the current protected area in Tunisia is of about 22, 000 ha) (100 ha for the baseline) • Number of poor households whose income and/or asset accumulation index are increased (gender disaggregated when possible) • A national SLM and BD friendly Information and KM system, including environmental M&E, is operational by PY2 and is harmonized w/ MENARID M&E and KM's supported approaches (none at baseline) • By end-of-project, the national extension/advisory system is adopting SLM and BD conservation approaches that reflect ecosystem principles (none at baseline) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline surveys conducted by MAWR and MESD • Mid-term and ex-post evaluations • Basic statistics by the National Agricultural Studies Centre (CNEA) • Parliamentary act • Analysis of land use information • Use of field surveys • Project management reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GOT and Donors assistance and support materialized and maintained • Implementation of economic and social plans continue • Policy Dialogue leading to positive results • Political stability • Implementation of Government strategy for poverty alleviation as well as environmental strategies would continue
<p>OUTCOMES (Component Purposes)</p>	<p>Outcome Indicators</p>	<p>Means of Verification</p>	<p>Assumption/Risks</p>
<p>Component 1: Strengthening Policy and Planning Frameworks for SLM Mainstreaming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reasonable influence to improve country legal framework is exerted • A national multi-stakeholder environmental and SLM information and knowledge management (KM) system is being set in place, including environmental M&E • Country's strategy to implement a pluralistic advisory system is strengthened • Land users actual participation to planning and assessing value of ecosystem and sustainable development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By PY3, 1-2 proposals for SLM barriers amendment developed and acknowledged at policy level (none at baseline) • A national SLM and BD friendly Information and KM system designed in PY1 and operational at the project area (PY2) and national (PY4) levels, and aligned with MENARID (none at baseline) • By end-of-project, the national extension/advisory system is adopting SLM and BD conservation approaches that reflect ecosystem principles • Number of on-going Integrated Agricultural/Rural Development Projects including SLM, IWRM and BD (if feasible) approaches and measures among their key components and activities • 15 Local Development Plans (LDP) formulated during PY1 (10) and PY2 (5), including ecosystem principles and with strong participation of land and water users (a total of 54 LDPs are foreseen under the IADP II) (6 at baseline) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project monitoring and evaluation reports • Participatory impact monitoring • Project management reports <p>Baseline surveys</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid-term and ex-post evaluations • Project monitoring and evaluation reports • Participatory impact monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LDPs continue operational • Community leaders and elites do not dominate community participation • The GDA and GFIC (DDCs) associations remain operational beyond project life

<p>is evident</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonization and alignment with MENARID's enabling environment activities 			
<p>Component 2: Mainstreaming SLM in Agricultural Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact-oriented and locally adapted SLM incentives are promoted in rain-fed crop areas to reduce pressure on land resources • Land resources' value added by linking SLM in land re-grouping activities and by consolidating Soil and Water Conservation (SWC) works • Local land users' livelihoods improved • Alignment with foreseen MENARID outcome 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact-oriented and locally adapted SLM incentives are promoted in rain-fed crop areas to reduce pressure on land resources and best SLM practices adopted by over 6000 farming households with direct on-the-ground investments in about 6000 ha; including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Specific SLM investments are made on 1000 ha in terms of organic farming practices; conservation agricultural approaches on 1500 ha; agro-biodiversity conservation on 200 ha; and evapo-transpiration mitigation on further 200 ha; ▪ Land resources' value is added by linking SLM in land re-grouping activities and by consolidating SWC works; 1500 ha of land re-grouped and 1600 ha with consolidated SWC works; ▪ Local land users' livelihoods improved; 5-6 best farmer awarding annual events on SLM practices celebrated; CRDA, NGO and GDA staff/members extending SLM approaches beyond project activities; (awarding by gender disaggregate) ▪ GAPs promoted through training of 200 farmer groups capable of a cascading positive effect on about 25 000 ha; (including number of women trained) • Alignment with foreseen MENARID outcome. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project monitoring and evaluation reports • Participatory impact monitoring • Baseline and mid-term surveys using PRA tools and focused group discussions • Use of PRA tools on an annual basis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutions implement the recommendations • Training motivates land users, communities, extension and other trained staff to engage in project community development and SLM/BD approaches • Extension staff training is adequate for the tasks required • Small farmers engaged in SLM adoption and actively participate in construction and maintenance of soil and water conservation measures
<p>Component 3: Mainstreaming SLM in Sylvo-Pastoral Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable sylvo-pastoral management systems and organizational forms are identified • Impact-oriented and locally adapted SLM investments are promoted in rangelands; • Degradation and unsustainable use of common-rights land is reduced • Local land users' livelihoods improved • Micro-enterprises of natural and environmentally friendly activities developed to reduce pressure on rangelands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable sylvo-pastoral management systems and organizational forms are identified and sylvo-pastoral area (on private and public/common rights land) is being managed following SLM practices as a result of project range improvement practices adopted over some 1700 ha; • Impact-oriented and locally adapted SLM investments are promoted in rangelands; 50 water harvesting and spring rehabilitation investments carried out; 7500 livestock herders trained on range SLM; • Degradation and unsustainable use of common-rights land is reduced and local land users' livelihoods improved Sylvo-pastoralists with improved livelihoods in terms of income and/or asset accumulation • Micro-enterprises of natural and environmentally friendly activities developed to reduce pressure on rangelands and at least 5 group micro-enterprises of natural and environmentally friendly activities developed to reduce pressure on rangelands. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline surveys • Mid-term review evaluation and ex-post reports • Participatory impact monitoring • Sample surveys • Project monitoring and evaluation reports • Project management reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuity of governmental actions, particularly to the rural extension and research institutions • Appropriate extension messages developed and disseminated • Small farmers engaged in SLM adoption • Communities interested in implementing alternative livelihoods
<p>Component 4: Conserving Biodiversity Jebel Esserj</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved coverage of under-represented forest-mountainous ecosystem in the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A National Park of 2500-3000 ha created and its biotope management plan developed in PY 1, with regulations that include possibilities for eco-tourism enjoyment (currently the Jebel Esserj reserve area is less than 100 ha; the total protected area in Tunisia amounts to some 22 000 ha encompassing 8 National Parks and 16 Reserve Areas) • 1 500 families involved and their livelihoods improved in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project monitoring and evaluation reports • Participatory impact monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MESD coordination effective • Law to create park enacted • CRDA, GFIC trained • NGOs available

<p>national PA system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity for PA management and sustainable NRM developed and information disseminated Endangered bio-diversity conserved and asset management ensured in a sustainable manner 	<p>buffer/transition zones of Jebel Esserj Park; (data by gender disaggregate when possible)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Park staff (5) trained and Park information disseminated throughout the project area and at the national level Habitats protection in the forest-mountainous ecosystem of the project area, leading to the conservation of at least 5 priority flora species (<i>Acer monspessulanum.</i>, <i>Cupressus semervirens f. numidica</i>, <i>Quercus suber</i>, <i>Cotoneaster racemiflora var tomentella</i>, <i>Sorbus aria</i> subsp <i>meridionalis</i>, <i>Rosa canina</i> subsp <i>pouzini</i>) and at least 2 fauna species (Pilgrim Falcon, Booted Eagle) 		
<p>Component 5: Project Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project management is sound and integrated with SLM and Biodiversity conservation functions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A model for participatory management (building on the existing IADP-II's management structure) implemented capable of ensuring the achievement of the projects objectives and goals, while ensuring continuity of selected activities for SLM and BD conservation beyond project life. IADP-II PMU/UGP is up-graded in PY1 and qualified personnel re-deployed from other parts of MAWR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline surveys Mid-term review evaluation and ex-post reports Project monitoring and evaluation reports Minutes of project steering committees at all levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government counterpart funding is ensured. Full coordination between GEF and IADP-II activities is ensured at the LPCU and field levels Negotiable institutional and financial arrangements are identified and tested

Component 1. Promotion of an Enabling Environment for SLM Mainstreaming

Activities and Outputs (Sub-Component Purposes)	Output Indicators	Means of Verification	Assumption/Risks
<p><i>1.1. Creating an Enabling Environment</i></p> <p>1.1.1 Policy and strategies, and Legal Framework: Assessing major barriers in current legal framework; evaluation of impact of past/ongoing land regrouping;</p> <p>1.1.2 Knowledge management system: creating KM databases; web-based networking; awareness raising on SLM and Biodiversity</p> <p>1.1.3 Upgrading of national M&E system: assessing system needs; and developing system and capacity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By PY3, 1-2 proposals for SLM barriers amendment developed and acknowledged at policy level A KM system designed in PY1 and most of its components are operational in PY2 (2 databases and 1 web architecture developed) national environmental M&E system upgraded and nation-wide awareness campaign undertaken) Number of resources' users accessing and having benefit from new KM and M&E systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline surveys Mid-term review evaluation and ex-post reports Participatory impact monitoring Sample surveys Project monitoring and evaluation reports Project management reports 	same as see above (Component 1)
<p><i>1.2. Institutional Strengthening for SLM</i></p> <p>1.2.1 Upgrading extension and knowledge systems with SLM: assess needs and training plan; strengthening CRDA capacities; capacity building of NGOs; and training GDA/GFIC/CBO organizations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50 staff from MAWR, the Commissariat Régional du Développement Agricole (CRDA), 3-5 NGOs and 10-15 CBOs trained to mainstream SLM and ecosystem in their work (number of participants gender disaggregated) 		
<p><i>1.3. Mainstreaming SLM in Planning and M&E systems at local level</i></p> <p>1.3.1 Support to planning: development of LDPs; conducting annual reviews; and special studies</p> <p>1.3.2 M&E of project activities: SLM and BD activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 Local development Plans (LDP) developed, 5 participatory annual reviews done, and 4-6 studies performed (6 LDP at baseline and no annual review at baseline) 		

integrated in IADP-II M&E system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project M&E upgraded to host SLM and BD matters. 		
Component 2: Mainstreaming SLM in Agricultural Activities			
Activities and Outputs (Sub-Component Purposes)	Output Indicators	Means of Verification	Assumption/Risks
<p>2.1. <i>SLM on-the-ground investments</i></p> <p>2.1.1 Testing and demonstration with farmer training of SLM practices and management options: rare local fruit species plantations on deforested lands; formal organic farming promotion; Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques; Conservation Agriculture techniques; windbreaks to reduce ETp.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> About 200 ha fruit plantations established including Bargou Peach/Kesra Fig/Bigaro Cherry About 200 farmer groups (of about 20-25 farmers ea, 4500 HH) participated in intensive IPM and other Good Agriculture Practices (GAPs) training courses (equivalent to some 25,000 ha cultivated (gender disaggregated) Around 900 farmers trained on specific SLM practices, including (gender disaggregated) About 1000 ha formally practicing organic farming protocols acknowledged by IFOAM and certification network established. Conservation Agriculture approaches, including direct sowing tested and adopted over about 1500 ha Evapotranspiration reduction techniques for climate change adaptation (through e.g. windbreakes) over 200ha. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline surveys Mid-term review evaluation and ex-post reports Participatory impact monitoring Sample surveys Project monitoring and evaluation reports Project management reports 	same as see above (Component 2)
<p>2.2 <i>Land regrouping</i></p> <p>2.2.1: integrating SLM in land re-grouping activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1500 ha re-grouped and SLM measures integrated contextually (300 HH) 		
<p>2.3 <i>Consolidation of SWC investments</i></p> <p>2.3.1: planting trees along SWC works</p> <p>2.3.2: planting trees between SWC works</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consolidation of earth bunds with productive fruit species (along bunds) over 800 ha Consolidation of earth bunds with productive fruit species (between bunds) over 800 ha (total 300 HH) 		
<p>2.4 <i>Development of SLM incentives for farmers</i></p> <p>2.4.1 SWC works cost benefit analyses</p> <p>Output 2.4.2 Best practices awards to land users</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> participatory cost/benefit analysis on different SWC works performed with farmer acknowledgement of value and need for maintenace 5-6 best farmer awarding annual events on SLM practices celebrated (gender disaggregated) 		
Component 3: Mainstreaming SLM in Sylvo-Pastoral Activities			
Activities and Outputs (Sub-Component Purposes)	Output Indicators	Means of Verification	Assumption/Risks
3.1 <i>Promoting community NRM systems</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 participatory sylvo-pastoral management plan developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline surveys Mid-term review 	same as see above (Component 3)

<p>3.1.1 Tools and systems: developing sylvo-pastoral management system; legal issues solving; support to CBO registration</p> <p>3.1.2 Testing and demonstration of SLM practices: spring water management; water harvesting; consolidation of SWC works; vegetation improvement; training on SLM practices</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range improvement SLM practices adopted over 1000 ha in family-managed pastureland, and • 50 water harvesting and spring rehabilitation systems put in place • SWC works consolidation through tree/bush planting over about 200 ha • 7500 livestock herders trained on range SLM 	<p>evaluation and ex-post reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participatory impact monitoring • Sample surveys • Project monitoring and evaluation reports 	
<p><i>3.2 rangeland improvement on common-rights sylvo-pastoral areas</i></p> <p>3.2.1 Rangeland land improvement</p> <p>3.2.2 Nursery production enhancement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range improvement SLM practices undertaken over 500 ha of common-rights land; • Production capacity of 4 sylvo-pastoral nurseries enhanced; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project management reports 	
<p><i>3.3 Development of micro-enterprises</i></p> <p>3.3.1 Development of marketing and business plans</p> <p>3.3.2 Technical assistance and capacity building of micro-enterprises</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 5 group micro-enterprises developed 		
<p>Component 4: Conserving Biodiversity in Jebel Esserj</p>			
<p>Activities and Outputs (Sub-Component Purposes)</p>	<p>Output Indicators</p>	<p>Means of Verification</p>	<p>Assumption/Risks</p>
<p><i>4.1 Development of a participatory management plan for Jebel Esserj National Park</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Specific Park (Jebel Esserj) legal act negotiated and approved and 1 management plan developed • 1500 families involved in Park Management Plan in participatory manner and improved livelihoods incorporated. (gender disaggregated when possible) • Community participation in the preparation of the management plan (by gender) • # of PDPs integrating compensation schemes if any • Reduction in the number of conflicts around the park fenced areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline surveys • Mid-term review evaluation and ex-post reports • Participatory impact monitoring • Sample surveys • Project monitoring and evaluation reports • Project management reports 	
<p><i>4.2 Capacity building</i></p> <p>4.2.1 Capacity building for Park Staff</p> <p>4.2.2 Development of an M&E system for Park activities supporting the Park Mgmt Plan</p> <p>4.2.3 Ecotourism awareness and dissemination materials</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 Park staff trained in PA management • Park M&E system in place, including impact and process indicators monitoring, • information dissemination system in place, including production of leaflets and publishing of park documentation 		
<p><i>4.3 Ecotourism infrastructure</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum park infrastructure developed including: tourist welcoming facilities; eco- 		

	<p>museum; water systems; solar power system; user itinerary signs; bird watching posts; and animal management systems</p>		
Component 5: Project Management			
Activities and Outputs (Sub-Component Purposes)	Output Indicators	Means of Verification	Assumption/Risks
<p><i>Integration of PM costs</i> GEF coordinator; additional office facilities; one vehicle; incremental running cost for communications, travel, miscellaneous, and for M&E; MTR and final evaluation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capable GEF coordinator in place for entire project duration • Office functions improved • M&E reporting showing SLM and BD progress • MTR and FE contemplating SLM and BD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline surveys • Mid-term review evaluation and ex-post reports • Participatory impact monitoring • Sample surveys • Project monitoring and evaluation reports • Project management reports 	<p>IADP-II LPCU functioning</p>

ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF)
STAP REVIEW AT PIF: CONSENT

STAP advises that the global benefits need to be defined more explicitly and that the expected change in global benefits need to be measured and the progress tracked. The proposal states that the “main value-added of the GEF involvement will be linking SLM practices and approaches with the broader land degradation mitigation and poverty reduction objective of the baseline”. The baseline therefore will need careful attention at the outset perhaps as part of component 1 (creation of an enabling environment). The proponent is invited to approach STAP at any time during the development of the project brief prior to submission for CEO endorsement.

Response:

- Global benefits are further defined and indicators to track progress are included – please refer to Box 3 pages 38 and 39 of the project brief (PB) and sections IV (page 36) as well as paragraph 16 (page 69) and paragraphs 25 to 29 (pp 71&72). Also Annex C on incremental cost analysis provides a comprehensive identification of global benefits that are likely to be yielded from each component of the project. The log frame (Annex A) also provides a comprehensive set of indicators that will track progress (along with the biodiversity tracking tool). Examples of indicators that would measure such progress is the Habitats protection in the mountainous ecosystem of Djebel esserj, leading to the conservation of at least 5 priority flora species (*Acer monspessulanum.*, *Cupressus semervirens f. numidica*, *Quercus suber*, *Cotoneaster racemiflora var tomentella*, *Sorbus aria subsp meridionalis*, *Rosa canina subsp pouzini*) and at least 2 fauna species (Pilgrim Falcon, Booted Eagle).
- Careful attention was paid to baseline assessment during project design. Please refer to section IV pages (17 to 24) in the project brief. Furthermore, the project brief includes an Annex (Annex E in the PB) offering a detailed assessment of the baseline gaps and roots causes for land degradation and biodiversity loss in the Siliana region. The assessment was used to carefully identify the entry points for an added value of the GEF interventions as suggested by the STAP review the added-value of the GFE intervention is further demonstrated in Annex C as well.

ANNEX C: CONSULTANTS TO BE HIRED FOR THE PROJECT

<i>Position Titles</i>	<i>\$/ person week</i>	<i>Estimated person weeks</i>	<i>Tasks to be performed</i>
For Project Management			
Local			
Project coordinator	460	260	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversee the overall implementation of the daily GEF project management activities , in close coordination and consultation with the Project Steering Committee; • Ensure that project annual implementation plans are prepared budgeted, implemented and duly monitored • Ensure overall supervision of subcontractors/consultants; • Supervise the procurement and maintenance of project equipment • Maintain close coordination/linkages with the other participating Ministries and relevant agencies; • Ensure that all project required evaluation reports and financial records are prepared in time and provided in due course • drafting of the annual work plans with budgets; • Lead author for the drafting of reporting as foreseen by the monitoring and evaluation system; • Lead author for the drafting of TOR and contracts for all national and international consultants and for all grants and competitively awarded contracts to service providers; • Lead responsibility for ensuring the effective coordination of project activities between the local, Governorate and national levels.
Assistant administration and finance	230	260	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that project financial data and records are prepared and submitted in due course. • Provide administrative assistance to the project coordinator
For Technical Assistance			
Local			
Consultant	1153*	1820	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TA on SLM in: Agriculture, Sylvo-Pastoral, M&E. TA on MSE and on Biodiversity. With specific reference to conservation agriculture, organic agriculture production and diversification. Specific TA on biodiversity would be required in the preparation of the park management plans and their implementation and monitoring/evaluation
International			
Technical supervision	2500	30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical project supervision and monitoring of innovative aspects such as implementation of conservation agriculture technologies or rangeland conservation modules using innovative technologies (i.e. cactus technology, rotations, reseeded etc) • Expertise will be also required for the design and implementation of innovative conservation efforts in Djebel Esserj and to provide training to the selected park staff.

(*) including co-financing sources

ANNEX D: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES AND THE USE OF FUNDS

MOST PPG ACTIVITIES ARE IMPLEMENTED.

A. EXPLAIN IF THE PPG OBJECTIVE HAS BEEN ACHIEVED THROUGH THE PPG ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN.

The PPG phase has entailed a very participatory project design process. It has involved representatives of all key stakeholders at all levels. At national level participants from the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development as well as their respective local representatives were involved in project design through workshops and consultation meetings. The planned PPG studies were undertaken by national consultants and helped in a better understanding of the root causes for land degradation and biodiversity loss in Siliana while suggesting possible options for project interventions in priority areas in Siliana. The project design is based on a strong barrier analysis and has been therefore comprehensive in offering a comprehensive package of activities that would help in removing institutional barriers and land tenure constraints while envisaging specific and well designed targeted investments that will be driven by local demand through the PDPs. The PPG phase has significantly helped in raising awareness and provided training for selected NGOs and private service providers in terms of SLM mainstreaming in local development plans (PDPs). Six PDPs were developed and have proven innovative as they have integrated SLM in the local development exercise which has offered an excellent basis for the forthcoming project start up. Continuous consultations with the government have been instrumental in designing a project that is aligned with the country priorities and vision and reflects its needs in terms of development and environmental protection in Siliana.

An important achievement of the PPG phase is a good quality of project design that captures lessons learned but also intends to be innovative notably in terms of mainstreaming biodiversity in Djebel Esserj and the co-management through the participatory local planning. The PPG phase has allowed for discussions with relevant stakeholders on what could work in terms of SLM and sustainable agricultural activities that could lead to win-win options (reducing poverty and increasing environmental sustainability while combating land degradation and biodiversity loss). The intensive consultation process during the PPG phase has also allowed for a better integration of this GEF component within its baseline IFAD project ensuring that operations are complementary and mutually leading to local development and global environmental objectives.

B. DESCRIBE IF ANY FINDINGS THAT MIGHT AFFECT THE PROJECT DESIGN OR ANY CONCERNS ON PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION.

Please see section F above

C. PROVIDE DETAILED FUNDING AMOUNT OF THE PPG ACTIVITIES AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION STATUS IN THE TABLE BELOW:

<i>Project Preparation Activities Approved</i>	<i>Implementation Status</i>	<i>GEF Amount (\$)</i>				<i>Co-financing (\$)</i>
		<i>Amount Approved</i>	<i>Amount Spent To-date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>	<i>Uncommitted Amount*</i>	
Stakeholders system and institutional assessment for SLM	Completed	10 000	9 831	-	-	6 622
Integrating SLM in the 11th National and Regional Developments Plans	Completed	10 000	8 174	-	-	6 622
Design, train and test tools for integrating SLM in community development planning	Completed	130 000	98 084	-	-	13 244
Demonstrate environmental value of diversifying economic activities	Completed	10 000	5 741	-	-	6 622
Design the management systems of communally-owned forests and rangelands in Jebel El Sarj to ensure sustainable use of its resources	Under completion	30 000	16 475	22 509	-	6 622
Analyze and design the information baseline of the project	Completed	10 000	8 498	-	-	6 622
Project design, preparation and stakeholder consultation	Under completion	87 000	106 402	5 000	-	33 110
Project management and coordination	Completed	63 000	69 286	-	-	52 977
Total		350 000	322 491	27 509	-	132 441
* Uncommitted amount should be returned to the GEF Trust Fund. Please indicate expected date of refund transaction to Trustee						