



GEF-6 REQUEST FOR PROJECT ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Project

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF Trust Fund

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PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: The Restoration Initiative, DRC child project: Improved management and restoration of agro-sylvo-pastoral resources in the pilot province of South-Kivu			
Country(ies):	Democratic Republic of Congo	GEF Project ID: ¹	9515
GEF Agency(ies):	FAO	GEF Agency Project ID:	642357
Other Executing Partner(s):	Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Sustainable Development (MEDD)	Submission Date:	16/02/18
GEF Focal Area (s):	Multi-focal Areas	Project Duration (Months)	60
Integrated Approach Pilot	IAP-Cities <input type="checkbox"/> IAP-Commodities <input type="checkbox"/> IAP-Food Security <input type="checkbox"/>	Corporate Program: SGP <input type="checkbox"/>	
Name of Parent Program	TRI- The Restoration Initiative	Agency Fee (\$)	324,000

A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK AND OTHER PROGRAM STRATEGIES²

Focal Area Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
			GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
BD-4 Program 9	Increased area of production landscapes and seascapes that integrate conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into management	GEFTF	950,000	2,661,537
CCM-2 Program 4	Accelerated adoption of innovative technologies and management practices for GHG emission reduction and carbon sequestration	GEFTF	550,000	1,981,416
LD-3 Program 4	Integrated landscape management practices adopted by local communities based on gender sensitive needs	GEFTF	850,000	2,683,721
SFM-3	Integrated landscape restoration plans to maintain forest ecosystem services are implemented at appropriate scales by government, private sector and local community actors, both women and men	GEFTF	1,250,000	5,054,856
Total project costs			3,600,000	12,381,530

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Project Objective: Reforestation and sustainable management of natural resources by local communities using an FLR approach in South-Kivu province, DRC

Indicators: (i) Hectares of land restored or under improved management in the two selected chiefdoms;
(ii) tCO₂eq emissions avoided/sequestered in targeted landscapes as a direct result of TRI child project interventions

Indicative targets: (i) At least 4,800 ha; (ii) At least 1,064,457 tCO₂eq

Project Components/ Programs	Financing Type ³	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
					GEF Project Financing	Confirmed Co-financing
1. ENABLING ENVIRONMENT: Policy development to promote FLR at the provincial level	TA	1. An enabling policy framework for FLR is in place in a pilot province of DRC, South-Kivu. Indicators:	1.1 Provincial Forest Restoration Strategy developed using the Restoration Opportunities Assessment	GEFTF	445,500	3,308,730

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

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

³ Financing type can be either investment or technical assistance.

		<p><i>(i) # and type of relevant FLR-related policies/ legislation/plans etc. identified/supported by the TRI child project, and progress towards mainstreaming FLR into policy and regulatory frameworks (Scales 1 to 6)</i></p> <p><u>Targets:</u> <i>(i) At least one policy in the forest sector (Provincial Forest Restoration Strategy and Action Plan), at least one in the agricultural or environmental sector (Environment provincial policy or programme for sustainable agriculture) and two Chiefdom Development Plans, drafted and submitted for adoption (Scale 1: FLR considerations are mentioned in sector policy)</i></p>	<p>Methodology (ROAM) approach in South-Kivu</p> <p>1.2 Workshops organised with relevant stakeholders to address the barriers within the national and provincial policy environment to promote FLR</p> <p>1.3 Development Plans integrating Forest and Landscapes Restoration options developed for Kabaré and Ngweshe Chiefdoms respectively within the territories of Kabaré and Walungu</p>			
<p>2. DEMONSTRATION: Forest and Landscape Restoration options and sustainable livelihood based on natural resources demonstrated at the chiefdom level in the mountain region of South-Kivu Province</p>	TA	<p>2. Forest and land degradation in Kabaré and Ngweshe Chiefdoms is reduced through the promotion of FLR good practices (including agroforestry) in pastoral lands, agricultural lands, forest lands and on hillsides</p> <p><u>Indicators:</u> <i>(i) # of people directly benefiting from project activities (including capacity building events) (m/f)</i> <i>(ii) Average annual household income from forest and from tree products, and increased agricultural and pastoral</i></p>	<p>2.1 Site-specific restoration plans developed in the targeted Chiefdoms including the identification of priority zones, species, restoration practices and land-tenure systems</p> <p>2.2 4,800 ha of forest, agricultural and pastoral ecosystems under improved landscape management practices using APFS and Dimitra clubs approaches</p> <p>2.3 70 micro-projects for the development of cost-effective and sustainable livelihoods based on the sustainable management of natural resources in the</p>	GEFTF	2,131,370	5,278,560

		<p><i>productivity</i></p> <p><u>Targets:</u> <i>(i) 30,000 people or 6,000 households including 50% of women</i> <i>(ii) TBD</i></p>	<p>intervention sites implemented to increase the economic value of forest, pastoral and agricultural resources thereby promoting natural resources' conservation</p>			
<p>3. UPSCALING: Institutional and funding capacity to upscale FLR at the Provincial and National levels</p>	TA	<p>3. Institutional and financial capacity is strengthened to enable implementation of FLR in South-Kivu Province and at the country scale</p> <p><u>Indicators:</u> <i>(i) # of investment plans, strategies and action plans that include FLR in their set of interventions</i> <i>(ii) # of bankable projects developed & submitted (according to the scorecard matrix)</i></p> <p><u>Targets:</u> <i>(i) At least two investment plans, strategies or action plans (e.g. FONAREDD investment plan, REDD+ strategy, INDC strategy) include FLR in their set of interventions</i> <i>(ii) Four bankable projects</i></p>	<p>3.1 Training events on best practices and methods for planning, implementing and monitoring FLR organised for government and non-government entities in South-Kivu</p> <p>3.2 An independent observatory led by civil society to monitor FLR progress in South-Kivu</p> <p>3.3 Four bankable, large-scale restoration projects submitted to appropriate funding sources</p>	GEFTF	343,750	1,630,000
<p>4. KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT: Knowledge sharing on FLR, partnership, and monitoring and evaluation of FLR interventions</p>	TA	<p>4. Awareness, long-term monitoring, and knowledge sharing on FLR interventions are increased to promote the sustainability and replication of the TRI child project interventions</p> <p><u>Indicators:</u> <i>(i) # of TRI knowledge products developed, disseminated and accessed through relevant knowledge platforms</i> <i>(ii) Child project</i></p>	<p>4.1 Awareness-raising events and education campaigns on the value of natural resources particularly forests implemented for pupils, students and adults in South-Kivu</p> <p>4.2 A long-term Monitoring and Evaluation strategy implemented for FLR interventions beyond the TRI child project implementation in South-Kivu</p>	GEFTF	507,950	1,663,000

		<i>monitoring system established and providing relevant information to managers</i> Targets: <i>(i) At least 2 university curricular chapters, 1 school curricula booklet, 2 short-documentaries, 1 pamphlet, 2 radio talks, 1 theatre play and 2 kids games</i> <i>(ii) One project-specific M&E system and one provincial M&E system for FLR interventions</i>	4.3 Knowledge sharing events on FLR implemented at the national and regional scales to promote the replication of the project interventions in other territories and provinces within DRC			
Subtotal					3,428,570	11,880,290
Project Management Cost (PMC) ⁴				GEFTF	171,430	501,240
Total project costs					3,600,000	12,381,530

C. CONFIRMED SOURCES OF CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY NAME AND BY TYPE

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

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Cofinancing	Amount (\$)
Bilateral agency	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)	Grant	9,424,800
Donor agency	Louvain Cooperation for Development (LCD)	Grant	626,730
Recipient government	Provincial Coordination of MEDD	Grant	1,900,000
Recipient government	Provincial Coordination of MEDD	In-kind	30,000
FAO	UNREDD and FLRM teams through projects funded in DRC/HQ	In-kind	400,000
Total Co-financing			12,381,530

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

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country Name/Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in \$)		
					GEF Project Financing (a)	Agency Fee ^{a)} (b) ²	Total (c)=a+b
FAO	GEFTF	Democratic Republic of Congo	Biodiversity	BD	950,000	85,500	1,035,500
FAO	GEFTF	Democratic Republic of Congo	Climate Change Mitigation	CCM	550,000	49,500	599,500
FAO	GEFTF	Democratic Republic of Congo	Land Degradation	LD	850,000	76,500	926,500
FAO	GEFTF	Democratic Republic of Congo	Multi-Focal Area	SFM	1,250,000	112,500	1,362,500
Total Grant Resources					3,600,000	324,000	3,924,000

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

E. PROJECT'S TARGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS⁵

Provide the expected project targets as appropriate.

Corporate Results	Replenishment Targets	Project Targets
1. Maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society	Improved management of landscapes and seascapes covering 300 million hectares	30,000 hectares of KBNP
2. Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)	120 million hectares under sustainable land management	4,800 hectares of forest, agricultural and pastoral ecosystems
4. Support to transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path	750 million tons of CO _{2e} mitigated (include both direct and indirect)	8,392,404 metric tons CO _{2e} mitigated (direct and indirect – see EXACT calculations)

F. DOES THE PROJECT INCLUDE A “NON-GRANT” INSTRUMENT? NO

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

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

The targets of the TRI child project have been significantly reduced compared to the initial estimations made in TRI PFD in order to improve alignment of the project with the budget availability and priority needs of the beneficiaries and stakeholders. A piloting approach that enables to raise significant, visible and sustainable benefits was preferred to large-scale interventions that would be more difficult to manage and maintain in a challenging country like DRC.

The corresponding changes are presented below for each focal area.

- BD: The project will benefit a specific portion of KBNP equaling 30,000 ha through promoting the sustainable management of natural resources in the buffer zone of this specific portion of the national park in two targeted chiefdoms.
- LD: Because of budget availability and to set a realistic target regarding the capacity available in the country, reforestation, restoration and conservation interventions will be undertaken over at least 4,800 ha. In addition, the focus was directed towards the management of forest resources rather than mainly agriculture. The target for the agricultural interventions was therefore reduced to at least 1,300 ha to take into consideration the real cost per hectare of restoration of agricultural terrasses and agroforestry options in similar landscapes such as Rwanda.
- CCM: The mitigation benefits of the project will be 1,064,457 tCO_{2eq} in direct mitigation impact of FLR efforts and avoided degradation in the two targeted chiefdoms and 7,327,947 tCO_{2eq} in indirect mitigation impact at provincial level.

A.1. Project Description.

A.1.1. The global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed

1. The causes of forest degradation in DRC fall into two categories: direct and indirect causes. Direct causes are human-induced and climate-induced causes. Human-induced causes of forest degradation in DRC are mainly deforestation, use of unsustainable practices for subsistence agriculture, overgrazing, uncontrolled land-clearing, bushfires, artisanal and industrial mining activities, and inappropriate rainwater management systems. A strong belief among farmers raising livestock is that trees and shrubs compete with pastoral resources therefore reducing the availability of pastoral resources. Consequently, most of the vegetation has been cleared. This leads to land transformation into bare soil exposed to erosion, landslides and rock falls. Land degradation is also the result of an increased incidence of droughts, temperature extremes, intense rains and acidic rainfalls.

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

2. Indirect causes of degradation in DRC including the selected intervention sites are linked to the socio-economic, political and institutional situation. A major socio-economic effect of degradation is population growth, particularly close to urban areas, and poverty. In rural areas, the only livelihood option is land exploitation. Education level is low among local communities as well as their awareness of environment problems, and the role of natural ecosystems and biodiversity. This results in low concern for biodiversity and ecosystem health. In addition, forest degradation is induced by the political context such as the gaps, weaknesses and discrepancies within the policy frameworks relative to the management of natural resources, and insufficient capacity for the enforcement of the existing policies. Law enforcement is hindered by the inadequate transfer of power and limited involvement of local authorities in the management of natural resources. Urbanisation is also poorly controlled and anarchic. Limited technical, planning, coordination and monitoring capacity, and shortage in knowledge on the state of natural ecosystems prevent the sustainable management of natural resources. Another major factor of unsustainable land use is civil unrest.

3. Forest degradation and unsustainable agricultural practices are leading to major land degradation in South-Kivu, which is leading as previously mentioned to erosion, landslides and decreasing agricultural productivity among others. The absence of integrated landscape approach to land management in South-Kivu results in three categories of degradation of soil resources: chemical, physical and biological degradation. Chemical degradation is the reduction of soil nutrient content and organic material, and increasing salinity. Physical degradation including soil compaction, asphyxia and crusting is also visible in rural areas. Finally, soil vegetation cover is reducing because of an unsustainable exploitation of natural resources and fires, which results in a reduction of flora and fauna diversity, and gives opportunity for the development of pest species. Consequently, ecosystem services such as water regulation and nutrient cycling are hindered with major consequences on the entire landscape (e.g. reduction of agricultural productivity on hillsides, flooding downstream).

4. In South-Kivu, the main causes of forest degradation are slash-and-burn agriculture (77 to 81%), wood exploitation for charcoal production, fuelwood and wood for construction (12.1 to 13.5%), and deforestation to establish monospecific woodlots (5 to 8.5%)⁶. These practices constantly reduce forest cover and associated carbon sequestration thereby inhibiting climate regulation capacity. In addition, the agricultural activities undertaken make use of traditional practices throughout the targeted sites, which are not adapted to the current and future effects of climate change such as short and intense rainfall and longer drought periods: highly dependent on rainfall, inadapted agricultural varieties (i.e. non-climate resilient, vulnerable to pests), and inadequate soil management practices (e.g. slash-and-burn, absence of crop rotation, monospecific plantations, decreasing use of fallow-land practice). Agriculture is undertaken on slopes in a disorganised manner. Each plot is separated by eucalyptus or ditches. The resulting low agricultural productivity leads to increasing food insecurity and the transformation of wooded lands into agricultural land. Increasing demand for agricultural land combined with limited awareness of the population on the importance of natural ecosystems and biodiversity results in encroachment on protected forests such as PNKB for fuelwood or agricultural activities, and threatens the survival of endemic and endangered species. Eucalyptus trees are increasingly planted as a source of fuelwood. These practices result in further reduction of biodiversity and land fertility.

5. The five main barriers remaining to address the above mentioned environment threats are described below.

Inadequate policy environment to address ecosystem degradation in a strategic and cohesive manner:

6. **Knowledge availability** on current land uses, degradation and restoration activities, and restoration needs is insufficient. The absence of precise maps delineating the borders of the different state domains prevents the efficient management and monitoring of degradation and restoration activities. The only maps available are developed at the national scale and represent macro-zones. This is one of the main reasons why one forest zone can have two contradictory uses. As a result of insufficient monitoring of land uses, the documentation available on restoration interventions and the state of forest landscapes is limited. Deforestation maps have been developed for several provinces including North-Kivu but excluding South-Kivu. The Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) is currently being used by MEDD to identify opportunities for restoration at the national scale with support from IUCN and WRI. High Resolution Carbon Maps showing the distribution in DRC forests have also recently been finalized (April 2017) with the support of WWF, the International Climate Initiative of the German Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, and the German Development Bank KfW. However, these national maps are insufficient to identify local restoration needs at the provincial scale.

7. **Gaps in the policy environment** prevent a coordinated governance. This was raised by multiple stakeholders during the project preparation phase. These gaps include for example the absence of a National Land-Use Strategy that would define the national orientations for the sustainable management of natural resources and would apply to all sectors. This creates misunderstanding and mismanagement, which leads to further degradation of natural resources. Multiple gaps have also been identified in the forest and agricultural sectors (i.e. no national or provincial agriculture strategy, no national or provincial forest

⁶ Serre Duhem C. & Ntoto M. R., 2012. Analyse de la filière Bois-Energie dans la province du Sud-Kivu. PBF/GIZ. Bukavu.

strategy). In addition, some of the existing policy documents are outdated (i.e. urbanism decree). These gaps in the policy framework lead to the mismanagement of natural resources. Some efforts are under way to start filling these gaps: the development of a national agricultural policy has been initiated mid-2017 with the support of FAO, a National Forest Strategy is currently developed by MEDD with the support of FAO and mining and land-use reforms are currently being drafted.

8. **Low harmonisation between sectoral policies** such as the agricultural, land-tenure, forestry and mining codes gives scope to different interpretations and unsustainable management of natural resources. For example, discrepancies within the Forestry Code and between the Forestry Code and the Mining Code make unclear the regulations regarding rights and conditions for forest exploitation as well as reforestation and restoration requirements. As a result, these regulations are unclear and cannot be efficiently enforced, which leads to further degradation and loss of forest resources.

9. There is insufficient knowledge on the potential of FLR to raise multiple environment and socio-economic benefits. The prioritisation of **restoration interventions in development plans** is therefore insufficient. In Kabaré Chiefdom, a Chiefdom Development Plan (CDP) was developed for the period 2013-2017 to guide all interventions in the chiefdom. The priority interventions identified included *inter alia* promoting employment, securing land property, promoting agro-sylvo-pastoralism, increasing civil security and good governance and improving socio-economic infrastructure. However, ecosystem restoration is not considered as a possible option to provide both socio-economic and environmental benefits in this plan. In addition, the implementation of this plan has been limited because of insufficient institutional capacity and budget. In Ngweshe Chiefdom, the CDP is currently under development with the support of GIZ.

Limited opportunities to adopt sustainable livelihoods:

10. **Poverty** is predominant in South-Kivu Province. Overexploitation and erosion have led to a major loss in soil fertility. Indeed, agriculture is mainly undertaken on slopes without implementing erosion-control techniques. This is further aggravated by unsustainable agricultural practices such as the use of non-adapted varieties, slash-and-burn practices and continuous monocultures leading to soil depletion. There is currently limited capacity to select appropriate species according to the needs and local conditions, the collection and manipulation of seeds, and on vegetative propagation. For example, afforestation attempts are currently being undertaken in an *ad hoc* manner by farmers who plant *Eucalyptus* trees in their fields because they do not have knowledge of agroforestry. The efforts of local communities therefore contribute to soil depletion as *Eucalyptus* trees use a lot of water and impoverish the soil. In addition, community capacity for the processing and preservation of their agricultural production is insufficient. As a result, most of the rural population in the targeted chiefdoms is maintained in a severe state of poverty.

11. Similarly to agriculture, livestock husbandry is currently leading to erosion and desertification of hillsides as well as conflicts between community members. This is because of poor delineation of grazing areas and overexploitation of pastoral resources. Kabaré Chiefdom for example was initially a major pastoral area because of climate, vegetation and landscape. However, due to demographic pressure and land clearing, the availability of pastoral resources is decreasing in the selected chiefdoms.

12. Another major factor of poverty is the limited opportunities for local communities to adopt sustainable livelihoods and practices, and diversify their sources of income. Local communities – including Pygmy groups – mainly rely on natural resources to meet the needs of their households such as forests for fuelwood and subsistence, and agricultural and pastoral land for subsistence and to generate income. Poor communities have insufficient capacity to adapt to climate conditions by preferring one income-generating source or another. They have limited access to communication tools and knowledge sources for experience sharing. Local communities are therefore particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

13. The aforementioned situation applies to the majority of the population. However, some initiatives have already been implemented to address these barriers, which resulted in the adoption of alternative sources of income by a small proportion of the population. For example, bee-keeping is currently undertaken in both chiefdoms. Producers are grouping into associations to better organise the collection and processing of honey. The sales are done through mobile trading or small offices. The price varies between 8 and 10 US\$ per litre. However, the production remains at a very small scale and rudimentary techniques are being used often without protection equipment.

14. The production of improved cook stoves is another alternative livelihood encountered in the targeted chiefdoms. Clay stoves – the most affordable ones – are generally made by Pygmies. Metal stoves can also be purchased from blacksmiths. Bricks production is common in the targeted area, particularly in Ngweshe. A large variety of people produce bricks including teachers, farmers, policemen and government staff. However, cooking bricks uses a lot of wood, which makes them difficult to produce and contributes to deforestation. In addition, improved cook stoves are only used by a small portion of the households.

15. The **financial opportunities to invest in sustainable income-generating activities are insufficient and difficult to access** by local communities. Indeed, some sources of funding are in place but accessing them necessitates to meet the requirements of the Micro Finances Institution (IMF) regarding time schedule and interest rates. For example, reimbursement schedule – generally three months – are not in line with agricultural cycles (i.e. six months or more for subsistence crops). This prevents the sustainable development of the agricultural sector because farmers are unable to invest in agricultural inputs, raw material, equipment or infrastructure to increase productivity and become competitive. Other financial systems exist within local communities such as “Likelemba” or collective saving where all members pay contributions to the fund and benefit from it one after the other (i.e. tontine). Community-based saving and credit systems such as Village Associations for Savings and Credits⁷ (AVEC) are found in South-Kivu and have been proven efficient (see Annex 8 for more information on AVEC). Such flexible financial systems are not sufficiently developed in the targeted chiefdoms.

16. Another barrier to the adoption of sustainable livelihoods by local communities is the **precarious land-tenure situation**. Until recently, the law did not enable local communities to own land. According to the Bakagika Law (1966), the land belongs to the state, however, in practice it belongs generally to the Mwami. This is the case in the targeted chiefdoms. The land is mainly owned by the Mwamis and can only be bought by rich community members. Some state-owned land is found in smaller proportions. As a result, the majority of local communities’ members have limited access to land. Property contracts or agreements are mainly short-term, precarious and often unclear. This situation is particularly severe for Pygmy groups that have no own land to undertake agricultural activities and no rights to claim land (see Section 2.3.3). For example, conflicts are occurring in Kabaré Chiefdom over the limits of each agricultural plot. These conflicts induced by inadequate land-tenure systems are aggravated by the increasing population size in both chiefdoms. This situation prevents communities from making investments and hinders their motivation to adopt sustainable practices that would enable them to maintain production in the long term. A new decree signed in 2016 gives the right to local communities to become land owners but this is very recent. The first deed of ownership was given in September 2016: 1,200 ha have been allocated to Madouda community. However, this remains until now an isolated case.

Institutional and technical capacity is insufficient to enable the use of FLR:

17. There is **insufficient institutional and technical capacity** to adopt an integrated and efficient approach to restoration at the provincial and local levels both within government and non-government organisations in South-Kivu. The majority of on-going projects have little focus on sustainable land management, natural resources management, climate change or disasters despite the prioritisation of these themes within the national policies. The **technical capacity** on specific methods to address land degradation and achieve sustainable land management (e.g. soil amendments techniques to increase and maintain soil fertility) is limited. Local authorities have insufficient institutional and technical knowledge to guide local communities to adopt climate-resilient and sustainable income-generating activities. The technical capacity to select **climate-resilient, beneficial species** is limited. *Eucalyptus* trees are used widely and few local species are found on the list of species used for forestation and reforestation in South-Kivu. The programmes working toward sustainable land management are *ad hoc* and isolated from each other. Similarly, knowledge management systems for these programmes are not centralised. Land degradation and its consequences are also poorly monitored, documented and understood. In addition, existing knowledge is inadequately disseminated. As a consequence, there is a shortage in technical capacity from the government staff to local communities.

18. Some initiatives have been implemented to increase the capacity to design, implement and maintain interventions for the sustainable management of natural resources at the local level. Community-based Conservation Committees (CoCoCos) have been established around the KBNP by ICCN with the support of WCS, GIZ and USAID to reduce sustainably the dependence of local communities on the park using a conflict-sensitive and gender-sensitive approach and considering communities’ needs. Their micro-enterprises programme where micro-credits are allocated to CoCoCos was initiated in 2010. To date, 600 people have directly benefited from this programme. In exchange of this financial support, CoCoCos undertake the patrolling in the park together with the guards. This system has been successful in improving the relationship between local communities and conservation entities. However, the institutional and technical capacity of these local institutions is limited and the support to indigenous communities has been low to date.

19. The **coordination between all institutions and sectors** involved in exploitation and protection of natural resources is inadequate at the provincial level thereby creating partition between interdependent sectors including environment, agricultural, forestry, land affairs and mining sectors. For example, decision making regarding land use is undertaken separately by different sectors without consideration of the immediate and future impacts of these land uses on interdependent sectors such as the environment. Limited knowledge sharing between sectors is also a contributing factor to unsustainable land management. Coordination is undertaken at the national level by thematic groups who meet approximately every three months to discuss and address issues within specific economic sectors including agriculture and rural development, environment, and forests. These

⁷ Associations Villageoises d’Épargne et Crédit

coordination platforms include representatives of the government, the private sector, the civil society and funding agencies. There is currently no cross-sectoral mechanism at the provincial level.

20. The **civil society** can play an important role in advocating the sustainable use of natural resources and landscape restoration. It is also the main witness of the activities undertaken in the field to inform higher instances. However, its efficiency is currently limited by insufficient technical capacity and a shortage in monitoring equipment.

21. Similarly to government institutions, the **capacity of community-based institutions** in the intervention sites is low. More than 80% of the associations in the targeted chiefdoms were created five years ago or more. In Kabaré Chiefdom, community associations are present mainly in the agricultural sector. Existing associations include mixed, women, and youth associations. Almost all of them have an official administrative status. However, few on-the-ground interventions are being undertaken by these associations. In Ngweshe Chiefdom, a lot of mixed, women and youth associations exist as well. Most of them focus on livestock husbandry and human rights. A large association of bricks producers also exists. However, similarly to Kabaré Chiefdom, there are currently no on-the-ground interventions. The main capacity shortages of local associations identified during project preparation are: no or few qualified technicians, the structure is not operational, collective work is ineffective, financial management is not transparent, financial benefits are limited or null, absence of bank, savings or credit account, insufficient financial capacity to process the products, and limited capacity to monitor and evaluate their activities.

Economic and financial barriers hinder the implementation of FLR:

22. Because of the **political crisis** faced by DRC, government funds allocated to the relevant institutions to implement restoration and sustainable land management interventions are limited. As a result, government institutions have insufficient institutional and financial capacity to enforce their sectoral regulations. Two major consequences of inadequate law enforcement regarding environment management are: i) on-going unsustainable management of natural resources and ii) financial gap from non-applied fines for illegal exploitation.

23. Existing **public funding sources** such as the National Forest Fund and the Mining Reforestation Fund are not currently funding restoration interventions. According to the preliminary analysis undertaken during project preparation, limited funds are generated because of insufficient law enforcement, and the funds are transferred to the government budget without guidelines to restrict their utilisation.

24. The National Forest Fund was created to fund the interventions for the restoration of forest capital in DRC to contribute to achieving the government objective of restoring 3,000,000 ha of degraded forest landscapes by 2025. The “Programme to Support the Restoration of the Forest Capital” was therefore developed and is under implementation. It is organised around four pillars: i) agroforestry; ii) reforestation; iii) forest management and iv) institutional capacity strengthening. In South-Kivu, the fund was implemented at the provincial level in August 2016 by the MEDD through the establishment of an office and a technical staff. The role of this provincial office is to collect taxes from tree cutting and deforestation. The responsibilities of the provincial branch include three main categories of activities: raising awareness of forest dwellers on the forest protection laws and enforce these laws, collect tax money from legal tree cutting and deforestation, and support and fund reforestation projects in the province. 50% of these taxes go to the National Forest Fund and 50% go to the provincial budget with no specific guidelines for the use of the funds. However, limited law enforcement and control of forest exploitation in South-Kivu enables forest dweller to avoid paying government taxes. As a result, the official consumption of fuelwood is 6,000t according to the report of the Provincial Environment Coordination of South-Kivu from August 2016. On the other hand, GIZ field surveys resulted in a higher estimation of 90,000t per year. The Provincial Coordination does not have the required financial, technical and institutional capacity to monitor and maintain a database on legal and illegal exploitation activities. Taxes for illegal logging go to local governments, and can be used without restrictions. As a result, no funding is allocated towards reforestation to compensate forest degradation in South-Kivu.

25. The Mining Restoration Fund has a limited budget because big companies such as BANRO pay taxes in Kinshasa. Mining companies pay taxes as well for reforestation, but the reforestation interventions are not actually implemented at provincial level. In South-Kivu, in 2016, 400,000 US\$ of the fund managed by the Ministry of Environment was used to build community infrastructure. No budget was allocated to Forest and Landscape Restoration interventions.

26. There is no system to channel **private sector funding** towards restoration interventions in an organised and systematic manner. Several private companies have been identified as potential sources of funding for reforestation activities based on their stated approach. For example, BANRO states that environmental norms – including *inter alia* minimising environment impact of

their activities and promoting community-based reforestation – are a major element of their approach⁸. PHARMAKINA Company – based in Bukavu – plants systematically 20% to 30% of the total land exploited with fuelwood fast growing species such as Eucalyptus to meet its needs in fuelwood in the long term for the production of quinine. OLIVE Company works in the agriculture, environment, mining and building sectors. OLIVE’s interventions in the agricultural sector focus on the production of subsistence and perennial species over 4,000 ha located between the territories of Uvira, Walungu, Kabaré and Kalehe. The main staple crops that are promoted are maize and rice. Regarding perennial species, OLIVE Company grows quinquina, and Arabica and Robusta coffees. They undertake mining activities since 1991 and have obtained Exploration and Small Mines licences. They are also involved in reforestation interventions. Nurseries have been established in the four targeted territories for the production of improved tree varieties adapted to climate conditions (e.g. *Mesopsis*, *Grevillea*) to be distributed to farmers. The opportunity to use the willingness of these private companies in contributing to the sustainable management of natural resources is currently underexploited in the South Kivu.

27. Regarding international funding sources, CAFI currently focuses on climate change mitigation through reducing deforestation and implementing reforestation interventions. However, their investment plan does not prioritise enough provinces with high potential for FLR interventions such as South-Kivu. In addition, it does not fully consider the multiple socio-economic and environmental benefits of FLR and the cost-effectiveness of FLR interventions for climate change mitigation in DRC.

Limited knowledge availability on the role of natural ecosystem and lack of knowledge sharing on restoration initiatives:

28. The goods and services provided by natural ecosystems, and their role in people livelihoods is currently absent from the **school curricula**. Some modules on agricultural planning have been integrated at the university level by the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and a chapter on FFS is currently under development. However, FLR remains absent from the curricula of universities and forestry/rural development institutes such as ISDR (Institut Supérieur de Développement Rural) in Bukavu.

29. **Community awareness** on the role of natural resources for environment health and human health is insufficient. Similarly, the majority of local communities are aware of the uses of wood resources and the corresponding economic opportunities but little is known about the opportunities offered by Non-Wood Forest Products (NWFPs). This limited knowledge of the sustainable economic opportunities generated by healthy natural ecosystems is an important factor of degradation of natural resources.

30. Current monitoring systems are sectoral and project based. As a result, the knowledge generated by the past and on-going projects is not capitalized enough because of the absence of systematic information gathering, compilation, and dissemination systems and is therefore mostly inaccessible to other sectors. One example of the negative effects of the absence of centralised monitoring and evaluation systems is the **FFS approach in DRC**, which has been used in the agricultural sector since 1998 to fight the “Manioc mosaic”⁹. All agricultural projects use this approach including in South-Kivu. However, the success and sustainability of this approach has been limited by insufficient control and monitoring of the implementation of the approach. For example, according to the FFS approach, the training should be for 21 days and some schools provide training on a much shorter period.

A.1.2 The baseline scenario, associated baseline projects and the GEF TF incremental value

31. Several initiatives for erosion control are being implemented to address the aforementioned threats. The main initiatives aligned with the project interventions are described below.

32. In South-Kivu, the main programme identified that is aligned with the project interventions is the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)’s **Programme on Biodiversity and Forests (PBF)**. It was created by the Germano-Congolese Cooperation in 2005. The objective of PBF is to promote the sustainable use of natural resources and contribute to biodiversity protection within and on the surroundings of protected areas and generate benefits for rural communities surrounding these forests and protected areas. The financial cooperation (i.e. Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau – KfW) and the technical cooperation (i.e. GIZ) collaborate with the MEDD and the Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation (ICCN). PBF also provides financial support to the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC). The four components of PBF are: i) advising to improve the sectoral policy; ii) strengthening the ICCN; iii) implementing the National Policy for Nature Protection in the selected province; and iv) promoting the sustainable exploitation of forests in the selected provinces. The implementation sites of PBF are Maniema

⁸ It is important to note that according to a report of the Mining House of Kivu from May 2015 on the impact of BANRO Corporation investments on human rights in DRC, the mining activities of BANRO have had negative effects such as family displacement, and loss of agricultural and pastoral land that were the main sources of income of the surrounding communities.

⁹ As in the TRI child project this approach will not be limited to agriculture but will also be applied to pastoralism, agroforestry and reforestation. The terms Agro-pastoral Field School (APFS) will be used in the rest of the document.

and South-Kivu. The main interventions of PBF in South-Kivu are as follows: i) support for the development of updated local development plans that promote reforestation and conservation in the buffer zone of KBNP; ii) community-based reforestation in the buffer zone of KBNP; iii) mapping of forest cover in Kabare and Ngweshe Chiefdoms based on satellite images; iv) alignment of the provincial laws and legal frameworks with the national ones regarding forest management in DRC and v) support for the development of national and provincial policies, strategies and programmes in the environment sector. The new phase of PBF will run from September 2017 to August 2019 with a budget of US\$ 28,560,000. A third of this budget (US\$ 9,424,800) will be allocated to South-Kivu province and is considered as cash co-financing for the TRI child project. Considering that the PBF programme and the TRI child project have very similar objectives, an ongoing collaboration between both projects has been initiated during the project development phase and will be continued through the project implementation phase. The main focus of this collaboration between the two projects will be to share knowledge continuously and to identify main opportunities for synergy and complementarity as possible in particular in the two selected chiefdoms.

33. GIZ and KfW collaborates closely with international NGOs including WWF and WCS who are using the approaches elaborated as part of PBF implementation in other sites such as KBNP and Itombwe Nature Reserve. Local NGOs are also engaged in the programme and provide technical skills and local knowledge. GIZ also collaborates with the Central African Satellite Forest Observatory¹⁰ (OSFAC) on land-use planning using remote sensing methods.

34. **Louvain Cooperation for Development (LCD)** is an NGO funded by the Louvain Catholic University based in Belgium. Since 2008, this NGO funds interventions for the sustainable use of natural resources in South-Kivu. The project entitled "Promoting a more efficient and sustainable use of forest, agricultural and pastoral resources – particularly through family-based agriculture – in DRC" was recently launched for the period 2017–2021 with a budget of US\$ 626,730. Its objective is to support small producers and vulnerable groups to increase food availability and improve sustainably their economic situation. The targeted territories are Kabaré, Kalehe and Walungu. The interventions focus on increasing agricultural productivity through using environmentally-responsible practices and strengthening the capacity of micro-entrepreneurs for products transformation, preservation, storage, and commercialisation. The components of this project are as follows: i) improving functioning and performances of local partners and beneficiaries; ii) increasing agricultural production and food security of vulnerable households; iii) improving income and professionalism of the beneficiaries; iv) protection and sustainable management of the environment by the beneficiaries; and v) Research-Action processes and systematic valuation of the project experiences. LCD interventions that are particularly interesting for the TRI child project include increasing financial opportunities for rural communities through the development of solidarity funds¹¹, promoting improved agro-sylvo-pastoral practices focused on environment protection (e.g. agroforestry, erosion control, organic fertilisers, improved varieties, access to land and livestock husbandry in stalls), organising knowledge-sharing events between communities and promoting agricultural entrepreneurship. They support approximately 480,000 small producers and have created/strengthened 4,000 solidarity funds. In addition, they use the Farmer Field School (FFS) approach for the training of the beneficiaries. The budget of the LCD project (US\$ 626,730) is considered as cash co-financing for the TRI child project, which will make use of the experience of LCD to maximise the success of the GEF-funded interventions.

35. As the implementing agency, the **MEDD** will co-finance the project through allocating required experts to address the needs of the project throughout the implementation phase. The **Provincial Coordination of MEDD** will also co-finance the project through hosting the PMU. They will provide office space and furniture for a total of US\$ 30,000 considered as in-kind co-financing. Regarding current and planned on-the-ground interventions, the Provincial government of South-Kivu will implement small-scale projects in agroforestry, reforestation and agriculture in the territory of Walungu during the implementation phase of the TRI child project. These projects and their allocated budget are summarised below.

- In Businga, the Provincial government is planning to: i) establish nurseries for agroforestry species in five villages; ii) support local communities for the development of agroforestry activities over 118 ha; iii) implement community-based reforestation interventions over 501 ha and iv) undertake the monitoring and evaluation of the interventions (US\$ 812,235).
- In Cisheke, similar activities are planned which include: i) establishing nurseries for agroforestry species in six villages; ii) supporting local communities for the development of agroforestry activities over 245 ha; iii) implementing community-based reforestation interventions over 581 ha; iv) supporting local communities for the cultivation of subsistence crops over 5 ha and v) undertaking monitoring and evaluation activities (US\$ 1,036,025).
- In Kamayola, nurseries for agroforestry species will also be established and planting interventions will be undertaken by agroforestry technical staff (US\$ 51,740).

The total budget of these interventions (US\$ 1,900,000) is considered as cash co-financing for the TRI child project. The lessons learned from the implementation of community-based agroforestry and reforestation interventions by the Provincial government will be of great value to maximise the success of the TRI child project interventions under Component 2.

¹⁰ Observatoire Satellital des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale

¹¹ Mutuelle de Solidarité – MUSO

Other interventions of FAO in the province include promoting good practices for the restoration of forests and landscapes, supporting the establishment of Dimitra clubs and supporting the FFS approach including the establishment of Junior Farmer Field School (JFFS). As part of FAO interventions, a Global Farmer Field School Platform was created to enable knowledge sharing between all actors involved in FFS globally to improve the quality and efficiency of FFS activities. The information available on this platform includes *inter alia* background information on FFS, regional pages showcasing regional activities, a knowledge repository, a global roster of FFS experts, a partners' page and a global email discussion group. Partners include IFAD, CARE International, Biodiversity International and Oxfam Novib among others. Currently, more than 50 countries are included in the Platform, 350 documents are available in the database and 250 FFS experts are included in the Platform roster. The Global FFS Platform and the knowledge products available will greatly support the efficient use of the FFS approach for the implementation of the TRI child project. FAO also collaborates with the **Union for Indigenous Women Emancipation**¹² for the implementation of a project against malnutrition and food insecurity. FAO Headquarter will provide US\$ 400,000 as in-kind cofinancing (FAO UNREDD team for US\$ 250,000 with funds from a project funded by the FONAREDD on MRV issues and FAO FLM team for US\$ 150,000 with funds from a project funded by KFS) through which FAO experts will be made available to the TRI child project in the South Kivu and at national level (C1, C2, C3 and C4).

Close collaboration between the TRI child project and the baseline projects will be ensured through the participation of baseline project representatives to: the Project Steering Committee (PSC) meetings and the Local Technical Monitoring Committee (LTMC) meetings. The participation of baseline project representatives as well as representatives of other relevant initiatives to these meetings will enable continuous knowledge and experience exchange, and coordination between projects (please see Section 3.2 for more information on these committees).

A.1.3 The proposed alternative scenario, GEF focal area¹³ strategies, with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project

36. DRC is aiming towards a reduction of deforestation at the national scale both to promote sustainable development and to make their contribution to the global development objectives. National and provincial policy documents converge towards preventing the degradation and promoting the sustainable use of forest, soil and water resources.

37. The **development objective** of the project is to increase development opportunities in DRC through the sustainable exploitation of natural resources. The interventions will contribute to achieving the commitment of DRC to the Bonn Challenge and the AFR100, which is the restoration of 8,000,000 ha of deforested and degraded land by 2030. The use of an integrated approach to ecosystem restoration will enable to raise multiple, sustainable economic opportunities for local communities. Knowledge sharing from the community to the government level will be promoted in order to build on the experience available in DRC as well as in other countries for the implementation of the project interventions and beyond. The participatory approach used throughout the interventions and increased economic value of natural resources will enable to reduce ecosystem degradation in the long term thereby maintaining ecosystem services and productivity.

38. The **objective of the TRI child project** is to contribute to the restoration of the natural ecosystem through the reforestation and sustainable management of natural resources by local communities in South-Kivu using a Forest and Landscape Restoration (FLR) approach. The interventions will focus on reducing the degradation of forest, agricultural and pastoral land to prevent further erosion and loss of soil fertility, restore ecosystem functioning and sustainably increase productivity. Restoration and conservation interventions will be undertaken over a minimum of 4,800 ha and direct benefits will be raised for at least 5,000 vulnerable households. South-Kivu will be used as a pilot province to demonstrate the benefits of the FLR approach thereby promoting its implementation in other provinces in the country.

Component 1: ENABLING ENVIRONMENT: Policy development to promote FLR at the provincial level

39. Component 1 addresses the barrier related to gaps and discrepancies in the policy framework that prevent the efficient use of an integrated approach to restoration in the province. The interventions will focus on promoting a coordinated response to ecosystem degradation through improving the policy framework from the provincial to the chiefdom level. At the provincial level, the required improvements to the policy environment will be identified and prioritised. Both provincial and national policies might be prioritised as part of this exercise. These priorities will then be addressed by the government stakeholders using a participatory approach, where the participants will be supported in identifying the gaps and prioritising the improvements required during interactive workshops. One of the policy gaps to be filled in by the project is the absence of a Provincial Restoration Strategy and

¹² Union pour l'Emancipation de la Femme Autochtone

¹³ For biodiversity projects, in addition to explaining the project's consistency with the biodiversity focal area strategy, objectives and programs, please also describe which Aichi Target(s) the project will directly contribute to achieving..

Action Plan to enable coordinated restoration efforts. At the chiefdom scale, Chiefdom Development Plans (CDPs) will be updated to include restoration interventions.

Outcome 1: An enabling policy framework for FLR is in place in a pilot province of DRC, South-Kivu

Output 1.1: Provincial Forest Restoration Strategy developed using the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) approach in South-Kivu

40. The first activity under Output 1.1 will therefore be the micro-zoning of forest types (i.e. classified, protected and permanent production forests), agricultural land, mining sites and urban areas in the South-Kivu. This mapping exercise will be undertaken using a participatory approach with government stakeholders at the provincial level and non-government stakeholders at the provincial and local levels (i.e. NGOs, community associations, and local communities). A major partner for the implementation of this intervention is the Inventories and Forest Management Directorate (DIAF) and OSFAC.

41. The mapping initiatives undertaken at the national scale will be built on as part of the TRI child project interventions to produce detailed maps at the provincial level to identify restoration opportunities in South-Kivu in collaboration with WRI and IUCN. This will include mapping all on-going and planned restoration initiatives at the provincial scale. As a result, the priority restoration sites will be defined to guide on-going and future FLR interventions in South-Kivu. These maps will be used to guide the use of funding sources for FLR under Component 3.

42. The priority restoration areas identified will be integrated in the Provincial Forest Restoration Strategy and Action Plan. The provincial strategy to be developed under the TRI child project will be based on the National Forest Strategy that is currently under development and build on the experience from the implementation of the 10-year reforestation plan 1989-1999. This document will enable the sustainable management of forest resources.

Output 1.2: Workshops organised with relevant stakeholders to address the barriers within the national and provincial policy environment to promote FLR

43. The gaps, strengths and weaknesses of the policies, strategies and plans in the environment, forest, agriculture, water, mining and land affair sectors will be identified using a participatory approach. Some major gaps pre-identified during project preparation include the absence of policies to support the implementation of the Environment law (2011) including a decree to establish the Environment Intervention Fund, the law for Nature Conservation (2014), and the law defining the basic principles for agriculture (2011) including *inter alia* a provincial policy for agriculture, a decree to establish a Provincial Advisory Committee for Agriculture. The Mining Code, Forestry Code, Investment Code and related provincial decrees will also be investigated. After undertaking a stocktake of the progress in addressing gaps in the policy framework (see Section 1.2.3), some priority interventions to address the remaining gaps in the policy framework will be identified in a participatory manner and the relevant stakeholders will be supported by the TRI child project in addressing these priorities through the organisation of workshops and provision of required tools and expertise.

Output 1.3: Development Plans integrating Forest and Landscapes Restoration options developed for Kabaré and Ngweshe Chiefdoms respectively within the territories of Kabaré and Walungu

44. The CDPs of Kabaré and Ngweshe Chiefdoms will be updated under Output 1.3 to integrate restoration interventions. These plans will include the priority interventions, a five-year work plan and a business plan. This will be done using a participatory approach with the administrative authorities of the territories, the Chiefs of chiefdoms and the Chiefs of the groupings. Consultations and workshops will be organised with the aforementioned stakeholders and with the participation of the MINAGRIPEL, MATUH, IPAPEL, IPDR and FAO. Mapping exercises will be undertaken where necessary to clearly define the priority interventions. The CDPs will be updated in close collaboration with GIZ – who also plan to support the development of CDPs in South-Kivu in the new phase of the PBF project – to maximise complementarity and experience sharing. Local Development Committees (LDCs) will also be supported under the TRI child project. The role of these Committees is to provide a collaboration and knowledge-exchange framework for the development of the villages within the groupings and to defend the interests of local communities. The required training and tools will be provided to these committees to capacitate them in integrating and implementing FLR approaches in their respective CDPs.

Component 2: DEMONSTRATION: Forest and Landscape Restoration options and sustainable livelihood based on natural resources demonstrated at the chiefdom level in the mountain region of South-Kivu Province

45. Under this second component, the FLR approach will be demonstrated in the targeted chiefdoms of South-Kivu. The design of the local interventions will first be refined – based on the maps developed under Component 1 – through a further analysis

of the current state of natural resources and of the socio-economic and land-tenure context in the two targeted chiefdoms. The on-the-ground interventions will then be undertaken in the targeted forest, agricultural and pastoral lands. These will include building soil conservation infrastructure, implementing reforestation interventions, promoting climate-smart agriculture practices and improving sustainably of the productivity of pastoral land. An Agro-Pastoral Field School (APFS) approach will be used throughout the implementation of these interventions to promote the maintenance of the required technical knowledge within the local communities. For these interventions to be maintained in the long term and to promote sustainable development, local communities will be supported to develop income-generating activities based on the sustainable management of natural resources in the restored areas including the production of NWFPS. This intervention will be accompanied by the development of the value chains for the products selected by local communities in order to maximize economic benefits in the long term. Last, financial options will be strengthened to increase access of all community groups to economic opportunities thereby promoting replication and upscaling of the practices promoting under the TRI child project within the targeted communities and in neighbouring communities.

46. Guidelines on the best practices and relevant methods/tools promoted by the TRI child project in South Kivu will be produced as supporting documents for the training sessions, and distributed to the participants and their institutions. This will maximise the efficiency of the capacity building activities and encourage the dissemination of the practices beyond the project direct beneficiaries.

Outcome 2: Forest and land degradation in Kabaré and Ngweshe Chiefdoms is reduced through the promotion of FLR good practices (including agroforestry) in pastoral lands, agricultural lands, forest lands and on hillsides

Outputs 2.1: Site-specific restoration plans developed in the targeted Chiefdoms including the identification of priority zones, species, restoration practices and land-tenure systems

47. The design of the interventions will be based on the Provincial Forest Restoration Strategy of Output 1.1. A complementary, finer analysis of the state of forest, agricultural and pastoral resources as well as the local socio-economic context in Kabaré and Ngweshe Chiefdoms will be undertaken under Output 2.1. Local communities, local government authorities, and traditional Chiefs at the chiefdom and grouping levels will participate in the data collection process and data analysis. This will help delineate the priority areas to be restored by the project including areas in the buffer zone of KBNP in Kabaré Chiefdom (Annexe 7). An analysis of potential land-tenure issues in the identified areas will be undertaken before implementation of restoration initiatives.

48. The interventions of the TRI child project under this output will contribute to securing long-term exploitation rights for local communities in the restoration sites in order to enable the sustainable management of natural resources by these communities in the project sites. Several adequate land-tenure systems have been pre-identified during the project preparation phase. The first one is the allocation of titles of property to local community members by the Mwamis. Community-based forest management systems where two or three groupings come together to manage forest land will be promoted where appropriate. In such system, the community officially requests ownership of the targeted land to the state or the Mwami. However, this will have to be complemented by an official agreement involving a third party as a witness for these rights to be maintained despite political changes and new Mwamis. For example, an official contract could be signed between local communities, traditional authorities and government authorities. Provincial decrees could also be developed to promote the attribution of property titles to local communities by the Mwami. As property titles are recognized by the land-register, it would promote their sustainability. The most appropriate system for each specific site will be identified during the project inception phase.

49. Dimitra clubs approach is a major element of the community-based and gender-sensitive approaches of the project. An assessment of the capacity and functioning of existing Dimitra clubs will first be undertaken, and gaps will be identified. Based on this analysis, Dimitra clubs will be strengthened – and established where needed – for these structures to be able to take ownership and support the project interventions. Each club will include men, women and youth members. This approach has been successfully implemented by FAO and other organisations in several provinces of DRC and other countries. Dimitra clubs will raise the following benefits to local communities: i) improved access to information; ii) improved community mobilisation to implement concrete interventions; iii) improved participation in decision making including for women and youth; iv) increased autonomy and ownership and v) improved knowledge sharing with other communities. The TRI child project will use this approach to trigger active participation and long-term ownership of the interventions for ecosystem restoration, natural resource protection and food security. The development of contracts between the Dimitra clubs and local media will be supported by the project for information sharing. Exchange visits with other community groups that have relevant experience and can show visible benefits from improved practices relevant for the TRI child project will be organised both as a powerful tool to raise awareness of local communities and their willingness to adopt improved practices.

50. The Steps toward the establishment of new Dimitra clubs will include: i) organising workshops with local government representatives and local leaders to discuss the local situation; ii) organising awareness-raising events on the principles and objectives of the approach as well as on previous experiences in other sites; iii) training group leaders on the principles of the approach to enable them to continue supporting and monitoring the Dimitra clubs beyond the project; iv) overseeing the establishment of the clubs and the implementation of their priority activities; v) supporting the clubs in resolving issues throughout the project to strengthen their capacity. A workshop will be organised with all the Dimitra clubs two years after their creation or strengthening to share achievements and experiences.

51. Based on the list of species pre-identified during the project preparation phase (see Annex 8), the set of tree, shrubs and crop species to be planted as part of each type of interventions will be finalised under this output based on traditional knowledge and communities preferences within the specific groupings and taking into consideration the latest research findings on restoration, agriculture, pastoral and agroforestry species of the Environment and Agricultural Research Institute (INERA)-Mulungu, the Natural Sciences Research Centre¹⁴ (CRSN)-Lwiro, the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and universities. The selected species will meet *inter alia* the following criteria: climate-resilient, indigenous (or naturalized), globally significant and/or threatened, fire resilient, soil fertilizer, promoting biodiversity and offering economic returns. Potential species to be selected include species supporting honey production, fodder trees, trees providing bio-pesticides for agriculture, trees providing valuable fruits, nuts and oils for consumption or commercialisation, soil fertilising crop and tree species.

52. The last step before launching the on-the-ground interventions will be to undertake an Environment and Social Impact Risk Analysis of the planned interventions. One of the main focus of this analysis will be to ensure that the improved sources of income selected under Output 2.3 have a positive impact on the environment.

Outputs 2.2: 4,800 ha of forest, agricultural and pastoral ecosystems under improved landscape management practices using APFS and Dimitra clubs approaches

53. Prior to starting the implementation of the interventions, a long-term management plan for the ecosystems targeted by the project will be developed with local communities. Committing to implementing the long-term management plan will be a requirement to obtain the support of the project. This plan will enable the project actors to ensure that all the required systems and elements are in place for all the interventions implemented by the project to be maintained in the long term after the project end. No access zones will be identified as part of this plan to enable natural regeneration in the sites that are not benefiting from direct planting interventions. Guarding and delimitation of reforestation areas until the young trees planted as part of the project have reached a threshold size that enable them to resist to grazing and harvesting will also be integrated in this plan. The role of local communities and other relevant actors in the implementation and monitoring of this plan will be clearly identified in the plan. After validation of this plan by all the actors involved, the on-the-ground activities will be initiated, building on the range of options already pre-identified during the preparation phase by national consultants (See annex 7).

54. The first category of on-the-ground activities aims to reduce erosion and increase soil productivity for agriculture and reforestation on hillsides. The best soil conservation techniques will be selected with local communities based on the experience in the country and in neighbouring countries such as Rwanda. The selected soil conservation infrastructure will include *inter alia* terraces on hillside and living fences to reduce water run-off and erosion and increase infiltration. This intervention will build on the experience gained in Nyangezi through various initiatives such as the Diobass. The APFS approach will be used to train farmers on the use of these techniques. The project beneficiaries will then be supported in the adoption of these techniques on their own land. An expected target of at least 500 ha will benefit from specific soil conservation interventions in the CDPs of the two selected chiefdoms.

55. Reforestation interventions on hillsides will be undertaken in collaboration with local communities with the objective to provide multiple goods and environmental benefits (e.g. increase carbon storage, reduce pressure on forest resources within KBNP, reduce erosion in agricultural land downstream, develop alternative sources of income through relevant NWFP value chains). Using a participatory approach with local communities, several reforestation methods will be identified including direct reforestation and indirect reforestation. Local communities will be supported by the project to implement direct reforestation through tree planting at high altitude and on steep slopes in the priority sites they will have selected. The target is to implement reforestation over at least 500 ha. Indirect reforestation will be implemented through the delimitation and guarding of specific areas with high potential for natural regeneration or assisted natural regeneration. Enrichment planting will be undertaken as part of the assisted natural regeneration interventions where necessary. The target for assisted natural regeneration is at least 1,500 ha to be identified in the buffer zone of KBNP. Training and support will also be provided to local communities on monitoring and maintaining the reforestation sites. Firebreaks will be built within and on the surrounding of reforestation sites to reduce bushfire

¹⁴ Centre de Recherche en Sciences Naturelles

risk inducing mainly by slash-and-burn agriculture. Examples of tree species to be planted include *inter alia Entandrophragma excelsum*, *Maesopsis eminii*, *Markhamia lutea* and *Podocarpus usambarensis*. Grass species such as *Tripsacum* could also be selected to increase soil stability and fertility. Some reforestation interventions will be undertaken through small community-based restoration initiatives. The design and implementation of reforestation activities will be undertaken in close collaboration with the Provincial Coordination of MEDD who will host the PMU, as they are already undertaking small-scale community-based reforestation activities in Walungu Territory. The Provincial Coordination of MEDD is also expected to play a major role in supporting local communities during and beyond the project, and in monitoring the mortality rates and tree growth rates in the long term.

56. Climate-smart agriculture practices on hillsides will be promoted. Community training on the selected techniques will be done using the APFS approach. This approach will be used to facilitate buy-in of local communities on some improved practices by enabling farmers to learn from experimenting the practices and directly observing the results. It will also provide an additional platform for knowledge sharing between farmers to maximise the number of beneficiaries of the project interventions. These structures are already established but need to be strengthened to provide efficient training on climate-resilient agriculture, agroforestry and forest restoration. Approximately 300 APFSs will be strengthened or established as part of the project. Training will be provided on the production and use of organic fertilisers, compost, manure and green waste. Farmers will subsequently be trained on the cultivation of climate-resilient varieties. The selected varieties will grow on hillsides and be suitable for agroforestry or crop rotation systems. At least 60 ha will be targeted by this activity, which corresponds to 2000 household as each household has approximately 0.03 ha (i.e. 300 m²). Other agricultural techniques to be promoted include no tillage, mulching, use of catch crops, crop rotation and companion planting to increase the resilience of agricultural systems. In addition, agroforestry practice will be promoted over 440 ha. Improved agricultural practices will therefore be demonstrated over a total of at least 500 ha in the targeted sites.

57. Sustainable pastoral activities will also be supported over at least 300 ha. Fodder trees and shrubs as well as adapted agrostology species will be promoted on pastoral land. Farmers will be supported to improve the management of pastoral land through awareness raising and training on the benefits of tree species for soil stabilisation and productivity, no-access plots, limit livestock concentration and grazing rotation. Awareness raising will also focus on dismantling the local belief that trees are competitors to pastoral resources which fuels tree cutting in the targeted chiefdoms.

58. Thanks to the work on the buffer zones of the Kahuzi-Biega National Park it is estimated that the project will have a direct impact to improve the forest conservation status on 1,500 ha on the border of the National Park. Along the same lines, the assumption is made that through the project, as indirect impact, 30,000 ha will benefit from improved protection/management, considered. Out of these we estimate that 15,000 ha are in the more external part of the Park and therefore moderately degraded and 15,000 ha are in the centre of the Park and therefore having a low percentage of degradation.

59. The set of natural resources' restoration practices will be implemented in such a way to benefit sustainably and equally all groups within the community including women, youth and indigenous people which represent the most vulnerable community groups.

Outputs 2.3: 70 micro-projects for the development of cost-effective and sustainable livelihoods based on the sustainable management of natural resources in the intervention sites implemented to increase the economic value of forest, pastoral and agricultural resources thereby promoting natural resources' conservation

60. Sustainable livelihoods will be developed directly by local communities with support from the project. This output will be designed and implemented in collaboration with Louvain Cooperation who has extended experience in supporting the development of sustainable income-generating opportunities for rural communities in South-Kivu. The approach to be implemented is to train local communities in the development of cost-effective and sustainable micro-projects. Funding will be attributed to community associations and groups rather than individuals. Local communities will therefore be supported in organising themselves into groups where needed. The selection of these projects will be based on a set of criteria including the direct application of the practices promoted by the project, the social and environmental benefits, the cost-benefit ratio and the financial contribution of the communities from 20 to 30% of the amount. Overall criteria will also be to benefit 50% of women and a number of indigenous people proportional to the number of indigenous people in the population. Youth groups will also be supported by these micro-projects. The selection process will be led by the PMU and the Local Technical Monitoring Committee (LTMC). Based on the information collected in the field by the PPG team, the following economic opportunities will likely be selected by local communities: apiculture, bricks production for improved cook stoves, small livestock raising and tree production. Based on community consultations, the priority needs in the targeted sites regarding apiculture are reforestation on hillsides, technical support to adopt improved practices, and hives. The establishment of nurseries for the production of agroforestry trees has been identified as

another income-generating opportunity in the targeted sites. Women associations and schools have been identified as relevant structures for tree seedlings production/small-scale nurseries.

61. Both more efficient production of bricks through better use of natural resources and reduction of use of fuelwood and more organised production of improved cook stoves to increase the benefits generated could be supported by the project as it was raised as a priority need during project preparation. GIZ has experience in supporting the production of improved cook stoves in South-Kivu and would therefore be an important partner in such micro-projects. This is another opportunity to focus on women who are generally in charge of cooking and of collecting fuelwood.

62. Another priority economic need identified during project preparation is to improve livestock production. During the consultations, local communities suggested the development of small livestock husbandry (e.g. goats, chicken and rabbits) in stalls to increase productivity per land unit and, consequently, decrease the pressure on pastoral resources. This activity would have to use exclusively sustainably produced fodder resources as promoted under Output 2.2. This type of income-generating activity seems to be practiced by women more than men in the two targeted chiefdoms. For such small grants, the positive impact on natural resources will have to be clearly demonstrated and specific training and support in veterinary care will be needed to ensure the sustainability of these small-scale livestock husbandry micro-projects.

63. The implementation of the selected micro-projects by local communities will be complemented by the development of value chains for the forest, agricultural and/or pastoral products generated from the micro-projects. Examples of products to be supported include honey, fruits, nuts, oils and chicken. This activity will include support for the processing and preservation of the product as well as their marketing, to maximise the income generated from their production and minimise the loss. The corresponding sub-activities will therefore include: i) supporting producers in processing their products; ii) identifying potential markets and raising awareness of sellers on the improved production in the intervention sites through workshops between producers and sellers (local market places); iii) contributing to the development of appropriate storage facilities for the production and iv) supporting producers in complying to the standards of quality, quantity and delivery time.

64. To support the sustainability of these interventions and promote the adoption of improved techniques by communities who have not received funding for a micro-project, training will be provided to local associations to increase their capacity to maintain or adopt improved practices. To address the needs identified during project preparation, training will be provided to at least 240 community associations, including 115 in Kabaré and 125 in Ngweshe. The average number of members in each association is 40 and women represent on average 45% of the members. The sub-activities include: i) undertaking an inventory of existing community associations, assessing their functioning, and selecting the ones to be targeted by the project; ii) supporting farmers associations to form cooperatives for forest, animal or agricultural products where needed; iii) undertaking a full capacity assessment and identify the needs of the selected associations using a participatory approach and iv) providing required training. Based on the preliminary capacity needs assessment, the training workshops will focus on: leadership, team work and role distribution, management, structuration and gender, slopes management including establishing living fences and terracing, erosion-control techniques, ecosystem restoration and FLR approach and best agricultural, agroforestry and livestock husbandry practices. These workshops will be complemented with visits to other local associations for knowledge exchanges. In order to promote participatory monitoring in the selected sites/chiefdoms, specific training events will also be organized on data collection and monitoring for agricultural and restoration interventions.

65. Innovative financial options will be developed to further enable adoption of improved income-generating activities based on the sustainable use of natural resources. Collaboration with LCD will be established for the implementation of this activity to benefit from their experience in the development of financial opportunities for local communities in South-Kivu. Meetings between IMF and small-scale farmers associations will be organised to develop financial options such as micro-loans adapted to small producers regarding the time schedule for reimbursement and interest rates. Adequate and flexible financial systems such as AVEC and resilience funds will be promoted by the project to facilitate access to micro-loans.

Component 3: UPSCALING: Institutional and funding capacity to upscale FLR at the Provincial and National levels

66. Component 3 will be focused on strengthening the capacity of government and non-government partners to adopt the FLR approach and to increase the financial flow at the national and provincial levels to fund FLR interventions. Firstly, both technical and functional capacity needs of decentralised government and local Chiefs to implement the FLR approach will be addressed. The coordination mechanisms between government institutions from all sectors related to FLR will be strengthened to enable knowledge sharing on the implementation of restoration interventions and coordination of all the initiatives undertaken in South-Kivu during and beyond the project. The capacity to monitor all on-going activities affecting positively and negatively natural resources will also be increased for the civil society and the government through the establishment of an independent observatory for South-Kivu. Last,

domestic and international sources of funding will be strengthened to increase the future allocation of funds through increasing the focus on Forest and Landscape Restoration interventions within investment frameworks.

Outcome 3: Institutional and financial capacity is strengthened to enable implementation of FLR in South-Kivu Province and at the country scale

Output 3.1: Training events on best practices and methods for planning, implementing and monitoring FLR organised for government and non-government entities in South-Kivu

67. The training contents will be developed based on the identified capacity gaps. According to the needs pre-identified during the project preparation phase, the technical training provided under Output 3.1 will mainly focus on: i) principles and use of APFS approach to disseminate sustainable practices for the management of natural resources at the local level and evaluation of interventions; ii) use of specific tools to calculate carbon sequestration and emission (e.g. EX-ACT); iii) terracing methods and other erosion-control methods and iv) planning and undertaking monitoring and evaluation through the use of recognized methods/tools such as Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands (LADA), Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM), and Collect Earth Open Foris (CEOF) and its application Collect Mobile. Technical guidelines will be developed together with training sessions to maximise the efficiency of these multiple capacity building events and to enable people not participating to the training events to learn on the best practices and relevant methods/tools promoted by the TRI child project in South Kivu.

Institutional capacity building will also be undertaken based on the needs identified. This capacity building will focus on supporting the institutions to have all the systems in place to work efficiently and meet their goal, starting with defining clearly the role and responsibilities of each actor towards meeting the objective of the institution. For example, the project interventions will support the Provincial Consultative Council on agriculture in fulfilling its role regarding grouping all public, private actors as well as local communities involved in the agricultural sector therefore providing a collaboration framework on all questions related to agriculture and a platform for conflict solving. This will be done *inter alia* through reviewing and improving the institutional structure and providing management training.

68. Provincial authorities to be targeted by these training activities include *inter alia* Rural Councils for Agriculture Management¹⁵ (CARG), Provincial Consultative Councils, Provincial Coordination of MEDD, DDD of MEDD, Provincial Inspection of Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock Husbandry¹⁶ (IPAPEL), Provincial Inspection of Rural Development (IPDR) and National Extension Services. The territorial authorities of Kabaré and Walungu, the Chiefs of Kabaré and Ngweshe Chiefdoms, the traditional authorities of the targeted and neighbouring groupings, NGOs and CoCoCos around the KBNP will also be targeted by these training interventions. Capacity strengthening of these committees – with a focus on increasing the number of members from indigenous communities – will increase opportunities for all community groups to improve their livelihoods. CoCoCos will play an important role in the maintaining good relationships between the government and local communities in the project sites throughout the implementation phase and in the maintenance of the project outputs beyond the project end.

69. Cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms for the management of natural resources, particularly forests, in South-Kivu will also be strengthened under Output 3.1. The coordination of a thematic group on forest and landscape management including the public sector, the private sector, active development partners and the civil society at the provincial scale will be supported by the project.

Output 3.2: An independent observatory led by the civil society to monitor FLR progress in South-Kivu

70. The TRI child project will support the establishment of an observatory in charge of collecting and analysing data on degradation as well as restoration efforts in the region and their effects. It will then report to provincial and national authorities of all relevant sectors. Annual workshops will be organised between the observatory, relevant government institutions and other stakeholders to share the information collected in the field. The observatory will be led by an independent institution such as a private university or a research institute. It will be the witness of FLR progress and negative trends leading to the degradation of natural resources in South-Kivu and will contribute to the monitoring of FLR progress beyond the project end.

71.

72. To establish the observatory, consultations with the civil society, research institutions and universities will be undertaken to identify the most suitable hosting institutions for the observatory. The structure of the observatory, its role and responsibilities, and its priority action plan will be defined in a participatory manner. Small IT equipment and required softwares will be provided to the team of the observatory together with training on data collection, data analysis and independent reporting. Gaps in technical knowledge to monitor the positive and negative trends on ecosystems will be fulfilled through training. As a result, the civil society

¹⁵ Conseil Agricole Rural de Gestion

¹⁶ Inspection Provinciale de l'Agriculture, la Pêche et l'Élevage

will have the tools to better integrate the protection of natural resources in their campaigns to protect local communities' livelihoods. Collaboration with the team of the Miombo GEF project – which is also led by FAO – will be particularly important for the implementation of Output 3.2 in order to benefit from the lessons learned in Katanga.

73.

Output 3.3: Four bankable, large-scale restoration projects submitted to appropriate funding sources

74. Under Output 3.3, existing funding sources at the national and provincial scale that includes the management of natural resources in their mandate will be reviewed. These will include the provincial branch of the National Forest Fund and the Mining Reforestation Fund. The project will support the identification of means of improvement with government stakeholders and will provide targeted support for their implementation. To improve the funding supply for the National Forest Fund and the Mining Reforestation Fund, support will be provided by the project to create a database of forest dwellers in the province and raise awareness of forest dwellers on the forest exploitation rules. Funding opportunities for restoration within the private sector will also be investigated with private company active in South-Kivu (e.g. PHARMAKINA, OLIVE, BANRO).

75. Private companies showing an interest for environment protection will be engaged to identify means to increase the funds from the private sector allocated to FLR.

76. In addition to national and provincial funding sources, international sources of funding for FLR will also be increased. For example, the national REDD+ investment plan will be updated to integrate better the multiple benefits of FLR interventions. Experts will be appointed to evaluate the potential for climate change mitigation (including co-benefits) through FLR interventions and support CAPI partners in strategic and investment framework planning. The REDD+ investment plan will then be updated with the National REDD+ coordination team with support from the project. To support the implementation of the investment plan, provincial institutions and key partners will then be supported in the development of bankable project proposals well aligned with the priority interventions identified in the updated investment plan for future submission to the FONAREDD. This will include undertaking with the trainee all the required calculations to justify the mitigation potential of the proposed projects such as assessing the carbon emissions to be avoided and sequestered thanks to the implementation of these projects.

Component 4: KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT: Knowledge sharing on FLR, partnership and M&E of FLR interventions

77. The last component of the project will focus on sharing the knowledge generated through the implementation of the TRI child project on FLR interventions. Awareness-raising campaigns will be developed and implemented for pupils at the provincial scale, for students both at the provincial and national scales and for the general public at the provincial scale. A variety of approach and tools will be used from the implementation of tree nurseries in Junior Agro-pastoral Field School (JAPFS) to the development of documentaries on successful FLR interventions. A multi-stakeholders strategy for monitoring and evaluation of FLR interventions in South-Kivu will be implemented to generate knowledge on FLR. Thereafter, continuous sharing of knowledge and experiences on FLR will be promoted at the national scale between DRC provinces and at the regional scale with other countries facing similar issues (e.g. Rwanda).

Outcome 4: Awareness, long-term monitoring, and knowledge sharing on FLR interventions are increased to promote the sustainability and replication of the TRI child project interventions

Output 4.1: Awareness-raising events and education campaigns on the value of natural resources particularly forests implemented for pupils, students and adults in South-Kivu

78. Pupils will be the first community group to be targeted by the awareness-raising campaign. Communication tools will be developed on the importance of functioning ecosystems for people livelihood and health, climate change mitigation and adaptation and landscape restoration opportunities. These tools will be integrated by teachers into their teaching courses after receiving training on these tools through the TRI child project. In addition, the JAPFS approach will enable to raise awareness and knowledge of pupils on the sustainable management of natural resources. In the JAPFSs pupils will learn how to grow and maintain NWFP trees, and to benefit from them sustainably. Nurseries will therefore be established and sustainable management plans will be developed, using a participatory approach, in the targeted chiefdoms.

79. The education of future professionals on FLR will also be strengthened. After consultations with universities and technical training institutions such as ISDR in Bukavu, the Regional School for Integrated Management of Tropical Forests¹⁷ (ERAIFT) and UCB, training modules on FLR adapted to the need of the targeted institutions will be developed and integrated into the education

¹⁷ École Régionale d'Aménagement Intégré des Forêts Tropicales

programmes. CAADP will be engaged in the development of these modules. Another relevant partner will be the African Forest and Environment Training Network¹⁸ (RIFFEAC) based in Cameroon. Master students will also be encouraged to undertake the research thesis to complete their degree on FLR interventions, more specifically on some technical aspects of the monitoring and evaluation of the project such as erosion rate and soil fertility. Their research activities and fieldwork will be part of the M&E plan of the project and the sites selected for FLR interventions in the two targeted chiefdoms will be used for student fieldworks.

80. An awareness-raising campaign will be implemented to promote and support the FLR approach throughout the province. The content of this campaign will include: i) the role of natural ecosystems; ii) the existing laws for the protection of natural resources including forests and related penalties; iii) the existing laws enabling land-ownership for local communities including community-based forests' management and iv) the project interventions and results. A diversity of community tools will be developed to maximise the number and the diversity of people to be reached. The tools to be developed include: short documentaries made available online for broadcasting by local radios, newsletters, theatre plays and games. Guidelines will also be developed for communication agents and trainers on FLR. Dimitra clubs will also be a major vector for knowledge dissemination. The establishment of contracts between Dimitra clubs and local radios will be supported by the project.

Output 4.2: A long-term Monitoring and Evaluation strategy implemented for FLR interventions beyond the TRI child project implementation in South-Kivu

81. In order to monitor medium-term and long-term benefits of the TRI child project and the benefits of other on-going and future restoration projects, a long-term Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) strategy will be developed and implemented within MEDD. This system will go beyond the usual project M&E systems because in addition to monitoring the TRI child project interventions during its 5-year implementation period, it will monitor on-going and future restoration project during and beyond the TRI child project implementation phase. The full set of environmental, social and economic benefits of ecosystem restoration will be monitored. The selected set of indicators will include indicators aligned with the Bonn Challenge Barometer of Progress¹⁹ and the Guidance Document for a Framework for Monitoring Forest and Landscape Restoration jointly developed by FAO and WRI in 2017. This M&E strategy will be developed using a participatory approach will all the actors to be involved including among others the Directory of Inventory and Forest land-use of MEDD, Provincial Coordination of MEDD, IPAPPEL, IPDD, the Civil Society through the independent observatory and local communities. As emphasised during the Validation Workshop, a clear definition of the role of each institution is crucial for this M&E system to become and remain functional beyond the implementation of the TRI child project in South Kivu. Consequently, the implementation arrangements of the M&E system will be clearly defined including for each task, the institutions in charge as well as one person responsible and one assistant within each institution. Each institution will have ToRs corresponding to their tasks and all these documents will be officially validated and endorsed by each institution. Within this system, local communities will be in charge of daily data collection on the ground including monitoring tree growth rate and health in reforestation sites, and transfer of these information for integrate in the M&E system. The required tools for data collection and storage will be provided as part of the project (e.g. GIS softwares, GPS, Collect mobile Application). Several tools will be used for efficient data analysis such as Collect Earth Open Foris, EX-ACT, capacity assessment and socio-economic household surveys. Corresponding training and equipment will be provided. This long-term M&E strategy will also enable to account for the fact that restored ecosystems can take up to several decades to reach full productivity. The knowledge generated through the implementation of the long-term M&E strategy will be a major source of information to prepare the communication material for the awareness-raising, education and knowledge-sharing events to be implemented under Component 4.

Output 4.3: Knowledge sharing events on FLR implemented at the national and regional scales to promote the replication of the project interventions in other territories and provinces within DRC

82. In Output 4.3, knowledge-sharing events will be organised at the national and regional levels to share the experience and lessons learned generated during the TRI child project implementation. Knowledge-sharing events between provinces will include field visit for decentralised authorities in provinces facing similar issues to the interventions sites of the project. Workshops will also be organised at the central level with the authorities of other provinces facing similar restoration issues

Knowledge-sharing events with neighbouring countries will be organised using the existing networks such as COMIFAC and South-South Cooperation with the support of the TRI global child project. Knowledge exchange will include: i) visits to other countries implementing similar interventions such as Rwanda and vice versa; and ii) regional workshops with other TRI countries facing similar problems to share FLR experiences. The annual meetings organised as part of the Global Child project will also provide a relevant platform for experience sharing between the TRI countries.

A.1.4 Global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)

¹⁸ Réseau des Institutions de Formation Forestière et Environnementale de l'Afrique Centrale

¹⁹ <https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/content/documents/2016/bonn-challenge-barometer.pdf>

The project intends to deliver the following global environmental benefits:

- **Biodiversity:** Under Outputs 2.1 and 2.2, a set of indigenous species that promote biodiversity and soil restoration will be planted in priority sites and conservation activities will be undertaken. The corresponding target of the TRI child project at the Objective level is at least 4,800 ha of land restored or under improved management in the two selected chiefdoms. In particular, part of the project interventions will be implemented in the buffer zone of KBNP. These interventions aim to reduce the dependence of local communities – including indigenous communities – on natural resources within the park boundaries thereby preventing future degradation of KBNP natural resources. The project interventions are therefore expected to support biodiversity conservation in a section of 30,000 ha of the KBNP that is included. In addition, under Output 2.3, training and equipment will be provided to promote the adoption of sustainable practices for the exploitation of natural resources. Last, CDP will be updated under Output 1.3 to support the sustainable management of natural resources including no-access zones.
- **Climate Change Mitigation:** The project interventions will contribute significantly to this CCM objective through the SLM practises on at least 4,800 ha of degraded land and avoided degradation of at least 1,650 ha. Another expected target is 1,064,457 tCO₂e emissions avoided/sequestered in targeted landscapes as a direct result of the project interventions. Furthermore, the awareness-raising and education campaigns to be implemented under Output 4.1 will promote an increase of carbon sequestration through improved management of forest resources beyond the project intervention sites. The corresponding target is to produce at least 2 university curricular chapters, 1 school curricula booklet, 2 short-documentaries, 1 pamphlet, 2 radio talks, 1 theatre play and 2 kids games. In addition, the adoption of improved technologies that increase carbon sequestration will also be promoted under Component 1 through the development of policies, programmes and development plans that integrate FLR. The corresponding target is that at least one policy in the forest sector (Provincial Forest Restoration Strategy and Action Plan), at least one in the agricultural or environmental sector (Environment provincial policy or provincial programme for sustainable agriculture development) and two Chiefdom Development Plans are drafted and in the process of being validated by the end of the project.
- **Land degradation:** The FLR approach will be promoted in all interventions of the FAO child project. The integration of FLR into policy frameworks will be increased under Component 1, stakeholders' capacity to use the FLR approach will be strengthened under Component 3, and awareness and knowledge on this approach will be raised under Component 4. These interventions will all be gender-sensitive. For example, the participation of women to each training and awareness-raising events will be monitored in order to reach a final target of approximately 50% of women participation. The on-the-ground interventions to be implemented under Component 2 will focus on the actual adoption of FLR practices by local communities. This will be measured as part of the M&E strategy. The corresponding gender-sensitive targets are 30,000 people including 50% of women are directly benefiting from project activities (including capacity building events and trainings). The effects of the adoption of sustainable management practices using an FLR approach on annual household income will also be measured. The target will be defined during the inception phase of the project.
- **Sustainable Forest Management:** In addition to the on-the-ground interventions to be implemented under Component 2 for the sustainable management of natural resources including forests which will contribute to this SFM Outcome, the project interventions under Component 3 will focus on building institutional and financial capacity to enable government institutions to implement large scale FLR plans. By the end of the project, at least three investment and action plans will prioritise FLR interventions. The project will also support the development of at least four bankable projects and their submission to appropriate funding sources. The project-specific M&E system and one provincial M&E system for FLR interventions to be established under Output 4.2 will provide all the relevant tools and information to government institutions to identify and replicate successful interventions. Last, Output 4.3 will contribute to achieving this SFM Outcome through increasing knowledge sharing within DRC and between countries to further facilitate the development and successful implementation of FLR plans in and beyond DRC.

A.1.5 Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up

Innovativeness

83. The project and programme currently implemented in DRC are generally compartmented per sector with limited coordination between government institutions. The TRI child project will adopt an integrated approach that equally involves all the sectors that play a primary or secondary role in the management of natural resources in the targeted landscapes in the project implementation. To support this integrated approach within the TRI child project and for future projects, means to promote an integrated approach within the policy framework related to the management of natural resources will be identified and their implementation will be initiated.

84. Multiple projects in the countries have been unsuccessful or unsustainable because of insufficient buy-in by local communities. The project will use a bottom-up approach throughout the decision-making process for the implementation of the on-the-ground activities under Component 2. This will result in the ownership of the project by local communities. This approach will include addressing the worries of local communities such as insufficient clarity in land-ownership and land-use rights, and other worries raised during the implementation phase via Dimitra clubs or other meetings with PMU. In addition, the engagement of indigenous communities that has been insufficient in several recent programmes and projects such as the CoCoCo initiatives will be a particular focus of the TRI child project.

85. The experience in DRC regarding the development and implementation of community-based micro-projects is limited to the experience generated through the implementation of the SGP programme. This innovative approach will be demonstrated in South-Kivu province. It is an efficient approach to ensure ownership of local communities, which has been introduced in Latin America, Africa, Central Asia, Asia and North Africa, and was highly successful in Mongolia, Lebanon, Brazil and Haiti, amongst others. In addition, the use of RuralInvest is an innovation in the country. Training and demonstration on the use of this tool is expected to facilitate the selection of successful and sustainable micro-projects in DRC beyond the GEF-project sites and lifespan, to address efficiently rural poverty issue.

Sustainability

86. The project will be implemented in a province where natural resources are severely degraded. All the interventions of the project will work towards creating an enabling environment to maintain healthy ecosystems, promoting socio-economic development through the sustainable use of natural resources thereby reducing the pressure on natural ecosystems, and protecting areas of high conservation value. Environment benefits will include increased carbon storage, reduced erosion, increased soil fertility, decreased pressure on forest resources, and increased biodiversity. The interventions of the TRI child project will be developed in a participatory manner to create ownership of the project by local communities and local authorities. This is the primary element to promote the maintenance of the project outputs in the long term. Institutional and technical capacity building of community structures – including community associations, groups and clubs – will further increase communities' ability to benefit sustainably from the interventions. In addition, the CoCoCos will be strengthened to maintain communities' awareness on the importance of biodiversity and promote community-based conservation interventions. As part of the project interventions, all the required frameworks and processes will therefore be established to enable the environment benefits generated by the project to be maintained in the long term.

Potential for scaling up

87. South-Kivu was selected as the pilot province for the TRI child project. This province has important security problems and ecosystems are severely degraded. The set of interventions to be implemented under the TRI child project in South-Kivu – including the improvement of the policy framework, capacity building and demonstration of improved practices for the management of forest, agricultural and pastoral resources – aims to demonstrate the use of an integrated approach (i.e. FLR approach) for improved management of natural resources in a difficult province and promote their replication by the government to other provinces. To do so, knowledge- and experience-sharing will be a major focus of the project at the national, provincial and local levels. Regarding the financial capacity to upscale the GEF-funded interventions, the financial resources allocated to the restoration of forest landscapes both from national (e.g. National Forest Fund) and international (i.e. REDD+ fund named FONAREDD) funding sources will be increased under Component 3.

88. Policy framework improvement and training undertaken at the provincial scale will support the upscaling of the interventions implemented in the selected chiefdoms within South-Kivu to other provinces. Technical guidelines will also be developed and disseminated to facilitate the uptake of improved practices by government and non-government staff outside of the selected chiefdoms. At the local scale, APFS and Dimitra clubs will also promote the dissemination of the improved practices to local communities beyond the project sites.

A.1.6 Cost-effectiveness of the FLR interventions

89. Forest restoration is recommended under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as a cost-effective approach to increase carbon storage and reduce carbon emission while supporting the sustainable development of local communities. Ecosystem restoration is an inherently cost-effective approach and ensuring cost-effectiveness of each intervention

will be a core principle of the TRI child project. Indeed, the on-the-ground interventions will be designed using ROAM, which has the analysis of restoration costs and benefits as a core element in the prioritisation of restoration interventions²⁰.

90. Ecosystem restoration interventions have the potential to provide benefits towards biodiversity protection, climate change mitigation and land degradation mitigation simultaneously. Adopting a landscape approach will enable to optimize the use of the funds thanks to the interdependence of the targeted ecosystems. For example, improved agricultural productivity will reduce the pressure on pastoral land and forest resources, and vice versa. In alignment with the landscape approach, the restoration interventions and the livelihoods development interventions will be developed jointly with the objective that each element supports another. The livelihood development interventions that will be supported by the project will be selected based on the cost-benefit ratio of the interventions as a mandatory criteria (see section 1.3.2 of the PD).

91. The benefits of restoration interventions through improved management of forest, agriculture and pastoral resources will significantly increase land productivity under a climate change scenario and generate net economic benefits. As an example, the cost-benefit analysis of improved grassland management interventions in Peru and Nepal resulted in a benefit:cost ratio of ~1.3 compared to the unsustainable business-as-usual practices that were leading to continuous economic loss (BCR lower than 1)²¹. Even stronger results were obtained by the economic analysis of 2,000 case studies of restoration interventions in 9 different biomes. This analysis has demonstrated that restoration interventions in tropical forests, temperate forest, woodlands and grasslands have an Internal Rate of Return ranging from 20% to 60% and a benefit:cost ratio between 2:1 and 35:1. In other terms, forest and grassland restoration in this analysis systematically generated a financial profit²². In addition, the TRI child project's interventions will have global benefits such as increasing carbon storage and biodiversity conservation that have not been considered in the aforementioned assessments.

92. To guide the development of future initiatives related to FLR, long-term monitoring of the benefits and cost-effectiveness of the project interventions will be promoted under Output 3.1. The results of these analyses will be made available at the provincial and the national scales to inform on-going and future interventions in the country (Output 4.3).

A.2. Child Project

93. The project is nested within the overarching The Restoration Initiative (TRI) program designed and led by IUCN, FAO and UNEP, to make a significant global contribution to restoring ecosystem functioning and improving livelihoods through the restoration of priority degraded and deforested landscapes, in support of the Bonn Challenge. The TRI program consists of 11 National Child Projects (NCP) in 10 countries of Africa and Asia, and it is supported by a Global Learning, Financing, and Partnerships project (GCP) aimed at: developing and disseminating best-practices and tools; catalyzing investment in restoration; expanding the scope of countries and actors engaged in forest and landscape restoration, and achieve global environment benefits at scale. The DRC child project will benefit from the set of skills and experts made available to all NCPs through the program. In return, the DRC project will contribute to meeting the TRI program objective through implementing climate-resilient soil management, agricultural, agroforestry, pastoral and reforestation practices to restore degraded landscapes over at least 4,800 hectares. These practices will be thoroughly monitored using a M&E strategy that will be applied to each NCP. This harmonized strategy will enable to generate lessons learned in a systematic manner and facilitate their dissemination between all TRI countries. In addition, under Component 4, specific knowledge sharing events will be organized using regional networks such as COMIFAC, which includes three of the TRI countries. This will enable to extend knowledge sharing under the TRI program to COMIFAC members that are not part of the TRI program. The DRC child project will therefore contribute to meeting the objective of the TRI program of having a significant impact at the global scale in the context of the Bonn Challenge.

For more information, please refer to Annex 12 of the ProDoc

A.3. Stakeholders

²⁰ IUCN and WRI, 2014. A guide to the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM): Assessing forest landscape restoration opportunities at the national or sub-national level. Working Paper (Road-test edition). Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 125pp

²¹ UNDP, 2016. Making the economic case for Ecosystem-based Adaptation. Learning Brief 3 - Making the economic case for Ecosystem-based Adaptation

²² De Groot et al., 2013. Benefits of investing in ecosystem restoration. *Conservation Biology* 27: 1286-1293.

Stakeholders engagement during project preparation

94. The project preparation phase was initiated by a project inception workshop on 15 November 2017 in Bukavu during which the outlines of the project were presented and discussed. The 70 participants of the workshop included the governor of the province, decentralised government authorities (e.g. IPAPEL, Provincial Assembly, Provincial Ministry of Mines, Hydrocarbons and Environment²³ – PMMHE, Provincial Ministry National Institute of Statistics), research institutions (e.g. CRSN-Lwiro, IITA), universities (e.g. Official University of Bukavu²⁴ (UOB), Evangelical University of Africa – UEA), local NGOs (e.g. Diobass), international partners (e.g. Caritas, GIZ, FAO, WCS, WWF, Union for Indigenous Women Emancipation, and UNDP), and representatives of the civil society.

95. Following the inception workshop, two field missions have been undertaken by the national PPG team from 13 to 25 November 2016 and from 19 to 26 February 2017 respectively. These missions focused on the territories of Kalahe, Kabaré and Walungu (see Section 1.1.2). Two types of consultations were undertaken: one-on-one meetings with key institutions and focus groups to identify the priorities and concerns of local communities.

96. During the first field mission, meetings were organised with representatives of the following institutions: Provincial Coordination of MEDD; Provincial Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Livestock Husbandry, Rural Development and Land Affairs²⁵; IPAPEL; IPDR; Provincial Division of Planning Ministry; South-Kivu branch of the National Forest Fund; Environment, Peace and Development Network; CRSN/Lwiro; Superior Institute of Agriculture and Veterinary Studies²⁶ (ISEAV); National Extension Service; UCB; INERA-Mulungu; IITA-Kalambo; National Statistical Institute in South-Kivu; representatives of the Climate Working Group REDD+; Union for Indigenous Women Emancipation; Indigenous People Development Programme²⁷ (PIDP); South-Kivu Civil Society; Mothers Association for Development; Anti-Bwaki Committee; GIZ; and WCS. Local authorities have also been consulted including the Katana grouping's Chief (Kabaré Chiefdom), Kaherwa village's Chief, assistant for the development of Mushinga grouping, secretary of Cikerana sub-grouping (Lurhala grouping, Walungu Chiefdom). Other experts such as agricultural experts have been consulted to discuss specific questions.

97. During these meetings, the discussions focused mainly on:

- Selection of the sites to be prioritised: early-on during the first meetings, the territories of Kabaré and Walungu stood out as the priority areas;
- Main land degradation issues faced in the area;
- Main land conflicts/affairs issues;
- Local availability of government staff and functioning local associations;
- Activities undertaken by other partners in the area such as GIZ;
- Priority interventions;
- Experience in agroforestry, species use and successes, and availability of seedlings and saplings;
- Gender situation and issues; and
- Update on the policy documents in the pipeline.

98. During the second field mission, additional consultations were organised with: the NGO Support to Initiatives of Families Well-being²⁸ (AIBEF), the Mwami of Kabaré Chiefdom, the Mwami of Ngweshe Chiefdom, the Administrator of Kabaré territory, CNRS-Lwiro, Bugore Civil Society, the Administrator of Walungu territory and the Environment Supervisor of Walungu.

99. A workshop with 19 representatives of associations in Kabaré territory was organised on 22 February 2017. Similarly, a workshop was organised in Walungu with 44 representatives of associations in Walungu territory. Another workshop was organised with 25 representatives from Nyangezi territory. During these workshops, the priority sites, and the current land degradation situation and priority interventions, and potential restoration sites were pre-identified. Annex 7 was prepared based on the information collected during these workshops.

100. Field visits were undertaken in Masimangu to agricultural fields and to community-based nurseries (*i.e.* 22,000 Eucalyptus trees) managed by a women group with support from the Provincial Coordination of MEDD. Communities stated that their favourite tree species is Eucalyptus.

²³ Ministère Provincial en charge de l'Environnement, des Hydrocarbures et des Mines

²⁴ Université Officielle de Bukavu

²⁵ Ministère Provincial de l'Agriculture, Pêche, Elevage, Développement Rural et Affaires Foncières

²⁶ Institut Supérieur d'Études Agronomiques et Vétérinaires

²⁷ Programme de Développement du Peuple Pygmée

²⁸ Appui aux Initiatives de Bien Être Familial

101. During project preparation, local communities were given the opportunity to express their needs, expectations and concerns regarding the project. Three focus groups were undertaken in Businga grouping (i.e. in Ibambiro, Mubumbano and Itsonda) during the first field mission where communities expressed the main problems they face. At total of 43 people including approximately 50% of women participated to these focus groups. During the second field mission, two focus groups were organised in Kabaré (i.e. one focus group in Bughore grouping with Pygmy groups including 25 people among which 50% were women, and one focus group in Miti grouping) and three focus groups in Walungu territory. During these focus groups, communities expressed their priority needs. These include small inputs/equipment for agricultural activities (e.g. fertilizers, pesticides, watering cans), support for erosion control, increase access to improved crop varieties resilient to sicknesses such as mosaic virus, technical and planning support for agricultural activities, support for the creation of cooperatives, and improve access to financial opportunities such as micro-loans. Last, they mentioned their need for more livestock, pharmacies to access veterinary care products, restore pastoral resources, support to raise livestock in stalls and support for the creation of cooperatives for pastoral products. One of the main concerns raised during all these focus groups was land-tenure. They are worried that these issues might prevent the project from raising sustainable benefits.

102. All the data collected during project preparation was integrated in the design of the project. As an example, the concern of local communities regarding land-tenure was addressed through the integration of a specific activities and allocation of corresponding budget to select the sites where these issues can be addressed during the implementation phase and address these issues in a participatory manner.

103. The involvement of the Mwamis from the project preparation phase is important because they own most of the land in the targeted areas. Their support is therefore crucial. The first meetings were encouraging: Both Mwamis fully support the project and are committed to allocate the required land to the communities to enable the implementation of the project activities as well as facilitating and catalyzing the implementation of the interventions including solving land tenure conflicts.

104. The project proposal was then presented to 60 participants on 19 May 2017 during the validation workshop held in Bukavu. All the participants – including the GEF National Focal Point – had the opportunity to give their opinion on the project institutional arrangements, components, work packages, proposed activities, targets and co-financing arrangements. Main conclusions of this validation workshop have been considered in the project document.

Key stakeholders engagement in project implementation

105. Multiple ministries are involved in land management including: MEDD; MATUH; MINAGRIPEL; Ministry of Public Work and Infrastructure; Ministry of Land Affairs; Ministry of Energy; Ministry of Transportation and Communication; Ministry of Internal Affairs; Ministry of Mines; Ministry of Planning; and Scientific Research. To coordinate the interventions of these ministries on environment matters, a **National Committee against Land Degradation and Deforestation**²⁹ (CNULD) was created via ministerial order in 2004. This technical and administrative entity is based under the General Secretariat of the MEDD. The responsibilities of CNULD are to: i) ensure the coordination and monitoring of the interventions linked to the convention by all groups (e.g. government and private institutions, universities, NGO, community associations); ii) review and organise workshops to discuss reports, and project and programme proposals addressing land degradation and deforestation; iii) participate to all coordination activities between the three Rio conventions and other relevant conventions; iv) support decision-making processes on land degradation and deforestation issues; and v) implement decentralised committees from the provincial to the community levels. The CNULD is not well functioning because of shortages in staff, equipment and financial capacity. Thereafter, the **National Council for Environment and Sustainable Development** was created in 2011 by law under the Prime Minister. Its main missions are to define and implement the National Environment Policy, and design sectoral plans and programmes for the environment. It is the main cross-sectoral coordination mechanism.

106. The main entities and institutions that will be involved in the implementation are presented in the table below:

Table 1. Main government and non-government entities to be involved in the implementation of the TRI child project

Institutions	Mandate	Role in the implementation of the TRI child project
Government representatives/institutions		
Governor of South-Kivu	Highest authority of the province. Agricultural and erosion-control interventions on slopes are undertaken over 50 ha in Nyangezi (Walungu	The governor will be consulted throughout the implementation phase to ensure his support for the project and contribute to coordinate the different

²⁹ Comité National de Lutte contre la Dégradation des Terres et la Déforestation

	Territory).	institutions to facilitate the implementation of the project interventions.
DDD of the MEDD	The MEDD was created in 1975 to promote and coordinate all activities related to environment, nature conservation and exploitation of forest and aquatic resources. It is also in charge of ensuring the protection and good management of water and forest ecosystems, the creation and good management of protected areas and reserves, and healthiness of human environment to prevent problems linked to water, soil and air pollution for fauna and flora protection. It is also in charge of implementing – in collaboration with other public and private institutions – the National Environment Policy, and coordinating the sectoral policies related to environment.	Supervision, and monitoring and evaluation will be the responsibilities of the MEDD regarding the TRI child project implementation. The Project Steering Committee meetings will also be led by this institution. In addition, MEDD will be responsibility for controlling that policies and regulations regarding the sustainable management of natural resources are followed in all project interventions.
DIAF of the MEDD	DIAF undertakes forest inventories, land-use and forest management plans, and monitor and evaluation forest cover using remote sensing.	DIAF will participate to initial identification of land use and mapping of the different forest types, and will also involved in M&E interventions.
Legal Service of the MEDD	It develops the laws and regulations in the environment sector.	This Service will play a major role in the interventions under Component 1 regarding strengthening the policy framework.
Provincial Coordination of the MEDD in South-Kivu	The Provincial Coordination is responsible for fulfilling the role of the MEDD at the provincial level including the coordination and monitoring of on-the-ground activities in the province. Part of its activities is the development of agroforestry in a 300 ha state land in Walungu.	The Provincial Coordination will support the implementation of the TRI child project on the ground. It will have a major role in information sharing and environmental education. It will also assist the project in the identification of service providers and partners needed for the project implementation. The PMU will be hosted by the Provincial Coordination of the MEDD, and will therefore take all the required dispositions to provide office space and furniture for the PMU.
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock Husbandry (MINAGRIPEL) via IPAPEL	IPAPEL is in charge of coordinating all the interventions in the agricultural, fisheries and livestock-husbandry sectors, and of implementing the corresponding sectoral Law, Strategies and Plans including PNIA at the provincial level. The promotion of agricultural, fish and livestock products, and controlling the respect of sanitary norms are also part of IPAPEL mandate. Last, it implements planning and monitoring mechanisms for all agricultural, fisheries and livestock-husbandry interventions and provide support for investors in these sectors. CARG are the decentralised structures of MINAGRIPEL at the local level.	IPAPEL will provide technical and organisational support to the beneficiaries particularly for the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices during the implementation of the on-the-ground interventions. CARG will also support the development of the guidelines and the implementation of the interventions related to agriculture development, agroforestry, erosion control and reforestation at the local levels.
Provincial Ministry of Rural Development via the Rural Development Inspections (IPDD)	IPDD focuses on elaborating and monitoring development projects in rural areas, and implementing the policies in this sector. This includes improving the organisation of the rural areas through the development of autonomous structures such as cooperatives, developing agricultural activities and connecting rural production zones to urban areas. As part its attribution, IPDD support women and youth associations.	IPDD will give strategic orientation and support the work with rural households to ensure their ownership of the project.
Provincial	The MATUH designs land-use plans, and monitor	The MATUH will participate to the elaboration of

Coordination of the MATUH	and control their implementation. It oversees the implementation of the national policies for improved distribution of human activities in the country.	the micro-zoning activities, identification of the priority reforestation zones, local development planning and potential land-use conflicts in the TRI child project areas.
Provincial Coordination of the Ministry of Land Affairs	This Ministry is responsible for applying Land Use and Property Laws. It manages and allocates property and land-use rights.	It will contribute to the analysis of strength, weaknesses and gaps in existing laws, defining the way forward, and solving Land Tenure conflicts. It will also be involved in mapping and delineation of micro (0,5 to 5 ha) and macro (5 to 500 ha) areas for the implementation of the project interventions.
Provincial Ministry of Planning	The Provincial Ministry of Planning prepares, plans and monitoring the implementation of the economic and social development plan in the country. It is also responsible for ensuring that all funds and investments are aligned with the development objectives of the government.	This institution will be involved in the decision-making for the project implementation, and in the monitoring and evaluation of the TRI child project interventions.
Ministry of Mining	It manages, monitors and controls all mining activities in the country. It also managed the issues related to environment protection in collaboration with MEDD.	The Ministry of Mining will be involved in micro-zoning activities, identification of the priority reforestation zones, local development planning and the identification of potential land-use conflicts in the TRI child project areas.
Provincial Coordination of the National Service for Agricultural Inputs ³⁰ (SENASEM)	Its role is to provide technical support in the production of agricultural inputs to technical staff and community associations. It also monitors the application of official production norms for input quality by producers.	SENASEM will be involved in the agricultural development interventions particularly regarding the interventions aiming to promote climate-resilient agricultural varieties.
Provincial Directorate of Statistics	This Directorate collects, analyses, publishes and disseminates all data necessary for decision making to government institutions as well as technical, research and financial partners.	It will be involved in defining the baseline situation for each intervention, and in the systematic data collection and analysis activities to be undertaken continuously during the TRI child project implementation phase for the monitoring and evaluation of the project.
National Extension Service	The main role of this Service is to disseminate all relevant information including in the agricultural sector to local communities.	It will be a major partner for the implementation of Component 2 and Component 4 of the TRI child project particularly for the knowledge-sharing on the project interventions and upscaling.
Research Institutions in Agriculture and Environment		
IITA in Kalambo	IITA focused on research to improve agricultural productivity in sub-Saharan Africa to combat poverty, malnutrition and natural resources degradation. In addition, IITA has implemented a lab to analyse soils and plants to support agricultural systems.	IITA will be a major partner for the development of technical guidelines and other training material to support the agricultural interventions of the project under Component 2.
INERA-Mulungu	This institution undertakes research in the agricultural sector at the local scale and produces local meteorological data. Its activities also include promoting seed production value-chain in the agricultural sector.	The TRI child project will collaborate with INERA-Mulungu for the design and implementation of the interventions for increase agricultural productivity. The TRI child project will also benefit from INERA-Mulungu's meteorological data.
University and Technical Training Institutions		
UOB	UOB undertake research and provide training on the management of natural resources.	It will be involved in the biodiversity assessments to prioritise the reforestation sites and in the development of training support on the sustainable land management and reforestation.
UEA, UCB, UERHA, ISEAV-	These institutions undertake applied research on environment and ecosystem restoration fields.	Their contribution will include sharing their experience, the latest research results and support

³⁰ Service National des Semences

Mushweshwe		the realisation of additional studies to fill in knowledge gaps in the intervention sites.
Cooperation Agencies and International NGOs		
FAO		It will work closely with the Provincial Coordination of MEDD, IPAPPEL and IPDD to provide technical support to address capacity gaps of government institutions and oversee the implementation of the project interventions.
GIZ, Food for the Hungry (FH), WCS, WWF	[See Section 1.2.2]	Knowledge exchange and coordination for the implementation of the capacity building, policy-strengthening, and on-the-ground interventions. Opportunities for synergies between the TRI child project and the interventions of these institutions will be investigated at inception and throughout the project implementation phase.
OSFAC	The activities of OSFAC include <i>inter alia</i> providing satellite images to the countries in the Congo Basin, capacity strengthening in remote sensing and GIS, and monitoring forest cover at the regional level.	OSFAC will be involved in the capacity strengthening activities of the TRI child project in the fields of GIS and forest cover monitoring. It will also participate to design and implementation of the interventions regarding improving knowledge-sharing at the regional level.
WRI	WRI monitor forest cover at the global scale. It also provides support to government institutions and local communities for improved forest management. WRI on-the-ground interventions focus on improving communities livelihoods, as well as on conservation, biodiversity and climate change mitigation.	WRI will participate to the design and implementation of the ROAM under Component 1 (Output 1.1) and planning at Chiefdom level under Component 2.
National NGOs		
Diobass, Action for Peace, Education and Development ³¹ (APED), NGO for the Promotion and Support of Community Development ³² (PADECO)	See Section 1.2.2	They will participate in the identification of pilot sites, households to benefit from the project, and support of local communities for the project implementation at the local level.
Union for Indigenous Women Emancipation	See Section 2.3.3	This association will be a major partner to work with Pygmy groups, particularly women.
Anti-Bwaki Committee	See Section 1.2.2	The TRI child project will benefit from their extended experience in local communities organisation and mobilization.
Private companies		
OLIVE, PHARMAKINA, BANRO companies		Their experience in crops production and reforestation will be used for the design of the project interventions. They will also be involved in the implementation of the interventions relative to increasing the funds available from the private sector (CSR) for FLR.
Local communities representatives		They will be the main actors in the design and implementation of the project as well as the beneficiaries. They will participate in each step of

³¹ Action pour la Paix, l'Éducation et le Développement

³² Promotion et Appui au Développement Communautaire

A.4. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

107. Gender disparity exists at three levels in South-Kivu: education, work and social participation. Access to school starts to be difficult for girls from secondary school. Indeed, the ratio of the number of girl divided by the number of boys is 91.5% in primary school (i.e. nine girls for 10 boys) while it drops to 55.5% (i.e. six girls for 10 boys) in secondary school. At university, this ratio is 8.6%, which corresponds to approximately one girl for nine boys. In total, the average number of years of education for women is 5.7 while it is 7.2 for men. The level of literacy is also significantly different between women and men with 36.2% and 48.2% respectively³³. Poverty, pregnancy and early weddings are the main causes for girls to abandon school. Regarding marriage, the family of the young man has to give a dot to the family of the young girl. This dot is usually discussed between the two families in term of number of cows but is sometimes converted into money (generally US dollars).

108. The disparity in access to education has an impact on women access to formal work. Women are almost absent from the formal public and private work sector. 97% of women work in the informal sector compared to 85% of men. 2.4% of women therefore receive a regular salary with an official work contract. Executive positions are occupied mainly by men (i.e. 4% of men in executive position and 0.1% of women). Women participation to politics is very low in DRC. Women generally have precarious positions with low remuneration. For example, 44% of working women are house workers³⁴. The average monthly income for working women is 15 US\$ and 20 US\$ for men. As a consequence, women have lower access to economic opportunities because they cannot meet the requirements to access micro-loans. Another constraint is to obtain authorisation from their husband. Decision making in the household is generally the role of men, women are rarely involved.

109. Within the two chiefdoms targeted by the TRI child project, men and women have different roles. Women are responsible for meeting the primary needs of the family. They work mainly in agriculture (i.e. 80% of women in some groupings of the province), livestock husbandry, forestry and food production for the household. This includes collecting wood or charcoal for cooking. It is estimated that 25% of charcoal producers are women in the targeted areas. Women are therefore a major actor in the degradation of forest and soil resources. Men – as the head of the household – are involved in all the income-generating activities of the family. They are also responsible for a large portion of natural resources degradation through the exploitation of wood for building, mining and agriculture. Women are also involved – to a lower extent – in income-generating activities such as the processing and selling of their production.

110. Regarding gender equity in the policy framework, the Family Code in place states that women has to ask for the permission of her husband to be allowed to undertake paid work. However, according to the Constitution, women have all rights, similarly to men. Based on one-on-one consultations during project preparation, the situation for women in rural families in the project area remains difficult. Women do most of the work in the agricultural fields, take care of the house, sell the agricultural products, and cook for the household, while men have little or no involvement in these activities. This was confirmed during the consultation of a women association in Masimangu. According to this consultation, men do not work in the agricultural fields. In this site, men do hand-crafting and bricks production. In other sites, they also work in livestock husbandry, bee-keeping and aquaculture.

111. During the focus groups undertaken as part of the project preparation phase, it was acknowledged that women have an important role in the degradation of natural resources (e.g. through the collection of fuelwood) and should therefore be strongly engaged in the restoration interventions of the project. For example, it was suggested to give the management of nurseries to women associations as well as schools. Promoting improved cook stove would also both reduce forest exploitation and improve women livelihoods. In addition, as a result of limited access to income generating activities, financial opportunities and social participation, women are particularly vulnerable to environment degradation and climate change. Similarly, Pygmy women face multiple challenges. Their access to land and financial opportunities is very low as well as their integration in community-based activities. As a result, they rely strongly on natural resources such as NWFPs for subsistence and income, which the availability thereof is decreasing because of ecosystem degradation. They are therefore particularly in need of the project interventions.

112. The activities undertaken by the project to maximise community participation will use a gender-sensitive approach. The use of Dimitra clubs' strategy will empower women through enabling access to information for all as well as increasing their opportunities to express their needs and priorities and to participate to decision-making. This approach has been successful in inducing behavioural changed regarding the roles of men and women in the community and the household, and in increasing

³³ PNUD – Unité de lutte contre la pauvreté, March 2009. du Sud Kivu, Profil Résumé – Pauvreté et Conditions de vie de Ménages

³⁴ PNUD – Unité de lutte contre la pauvreté, March 2009. Province du Sud Kivu, Profil Résumé – Pauvreté et Conditions de vie de Ménages

women leadership in several provinces of DRC (e.g. in Tshopo Province). A condition for Dimitra clubs to be established and strengthened by the project will be that women make up approximately 50% of the members. Information sharing through the network of Dimitra clubs will be complemented by the use of rural and community radios. Empowering women and youth through the Dimitra clubs is also expected to contribute to behavioural changes at the individual and community levels regarding gender and youth. According to the information collected, men and women themselves tend to underestimate their capacity. The project interventions will also build on the experience of existing women networks and associations in South-Kivu including Permanent Consultative Framework for Congolese Women³⁵ (CAFCO), Network for African Women working in Ministries and Parliaments³⁶ (REFAMP), Network for Women working in Congolese Enterprises³⁷ (REFEC), Gender network of Ministries, Gender Focal Point within the local government.

113. Considering that not all community members will be part of Dimitra clubs because participation is on a voluntary basis, awareness-raising campaign for the entire community will be implemented with women, men and youth on gender issues to further promote behavioural changes. The awareness-raising themes will include gender equity as well as women rights, which was raised as a knowledge gap particularly for Pygmy women. In addition, a particular focus will be given to environmental education for women to transfer this knowledge to their children and give the appropriate example (e.g. no illegal wood harvesting or bush meat hunting for Pygmy women). This campaign will use a participatory approach to encourage brainstorming, promote exchange of ideas, and increase understanding of each other.

114. Income-generating activities that are specifically suitable for women needs and lifestyle will be selected using a participatory approach. Furthermore, as part of the project, women – including Pygmy women – access to financial opportunities such as micro-loans will be increased. To ensure the increase of women capacity as well as men, training programmes delivered by the project will ensure that at least 40% of the participants are women. The project interventions will therefore contribute to improving their productivity, income, and living conditions.

115. The data collected as part of the M&E plan throughout the project implementation phase will be disaggregated by gender to monitor women participation and potential differential impacts of the project on female beneficiaries in all project activities. Women will make up at least 40% of the direct beneficiaries of the project. 50% of the micro-projects will be allocated to women associations. In addition, at least 40% of the PSC and LTMC members will be women.

A.5 Risk

Risk No.	Risk statement	Overall ranking	Mitigating action
Political risk: Provincial, territorial and local authorities do not fully support the resolution of governance problems regarding land-use because of the development challenges faced by the province and economic stakes.	Local communities do not feel confident to invest in the land if they do not feel that their rights are secured. The benefits of the project are only raised in the short term.	Medium	Several workshops will be organised at the onset of the project to identify all the potential land-use issues. Mitigation strategies will be developed in a participatory with an implementation plan and official agreements with the responsible parties.
Institutional risk: Difficulties in institutional cooperation between Environment, Agriculture and Mines sectors preventing to improve the policy framework and resolve the contradictions for improved management of natural resources.	The project activities are not integrated and implemented in isolation, which affects the project results and prevent the project benefits from being sustainable.	Medium	Cross-sectorality has been promoted during project preparation through the participation of all the relevant sectors during the inception and validation workshops. It will continue to be promoted throughout the project implementation phase via the bi-annual multi-sectoral PSC meetings, multi-sectoral training workshops, and MoUs with relevant sectors for the implementation of specific activities. This will improve knowledge sharing.

³⁵ Cadre permanent de concertation de la Femme Congolaise

³⁶ Réseau des Femmes Africaines Ministres et Parlementaires

³⁷ Réseau des Femmes des Entreprises du Congo

			communication and coordination between the sectors involved in natural resources management.
Social risk: Indigenous communities leaving in the surroundings of PNKB do not support the project.	Indigenous communities will continue to exploit natural resources in PNKB and will not take the opportunity to benefit from the project.	Medium	The on-the-ground interventions of the project will be designed in collaboration with indigenous communities to enable their ownership of the project interventions and ensure that the project raise direct benefits for these communities.
Land-tenure risk: The unclear land ownership between the government and traditional authorities is likely to present the project from receiving the support of these major stakeholders.	Disagreements between government and traditional Chiefs prevent the success of the project regarding the sustainable management of natural resources.	Medium	Potential land ownership issues will be assessed as a priority as part of the design of specific on the ground interventions. Only the sites where government representatives and traditional Chiefs have clear responsibilities, ownership over land, and a good relationship will be selected.
Natural resources ownership risk: Property rights' conflicts between land owners, the government and traditional Chiefs over the trees planted on private land will likely arise.	The objective of erosion control and climate change mitigation are not met because the planted trees are degraded after the end of the project.	Low	Land and trees ownership systems will be clearly defined and signed off before starting the implementation of the interventions on the ground. A management plan for all the outputs of the project – including the planted trees – will be developed in a participatory manner and signed of by all the relevant actors.
Ecological risk: Climate change including short and intense rainfall, long drought periods (and correlated bushfires) prevent the restoration interventions from being successful in the long term.	The restoration interventions are not sustainable because of high mortality rate induced by climate hazards or competition with an invasive species. The income generating activities developed by the project – that depend on healthy ecosystems – are not viable. As a result, local communities' vulnerability to climate change remains unchanged.	Low	Observed climate changes and future climate scenarios will be taken into account when designing the restoration activities and selecting the set of species to be planted. Only climate-resilient species will be promoted by the project as well as species diversity and complementarity. The selection criteria for each species will include <i>inter alia</i> : climate-resilient, indigenous (or naturalized) and fire resilient.

A.6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

116. The MEDD will be responsible for the coordination of the project and the implementation of the interventions in collaboration with the relevant government institutions in the sectors of agriculture, rural development, land use, land affairs, planning and mining as well as decentralised authorities, NGOs, research institutions and partner projects. More specifically, the DDD of MEDD based in Kinshasa will be responsible for the coordination of the project and the Provincial Coordination of MEDD will be steering the implementation of the interventions. The Director of Sustainable Development will be responsible for the implementation of the project as the focal point of the project within the government without salary compensation. The DDD will be responsible for the achievement of the expected objectives and will participate to the procurement processes following FAO and GEF rules. It will host the PMU and will participate to the implementation and good functioning of the multi-sectoral PSC that will be chaired by this Directorate (see Figure 5).

117. The MEDD through the DDD will support the provision of office space and furniture for the PMU at the provincial level in Bukavu, and will commit to cover the maintenance costs for the equipment and other expendables purchased by the TRI child project. At the end of the project, the maintenance of the GEF-funded products will therefore be funded on the national budget. Last, the Directorate will be responsible for maximising the benefits generated from the TRI child project through the dissemination of the best practices identified and experience learned.

118. 112. FAO will be the GEF Agency responsible for supervision and provision of technical guidance during the project implementation. In addition, as requested by the Project Partner (see Annex 13 of the project document), FAO will provide a number of direct support services, including procurement and contracting services to the project using FAO rules and procedures, as well as financial services to manage GEF resources. The cost of these direct support services will be covered entirely from the grant for project management. FAO will be responsible for project oversight to ensure that GEF policies and criteria are adhered to and that the project meets its objectives and achieves expected outcomes and outputs as established in the project document in an efficient and effective manner. FAO will report on the project progress to the GEF Secretariat and financial reporting will be done to the GEF Trustee. FAO will closely supervise and carry out supervision missions, and monitor project progress and provide technical support. FAO will also support MEDD in overseeing the project activities. Last, it will play an important role in developing partnerships with national and international institutions implementing projects aligned with the GEF-funded interventions.

TRI DRC Project Implementation Arrangements

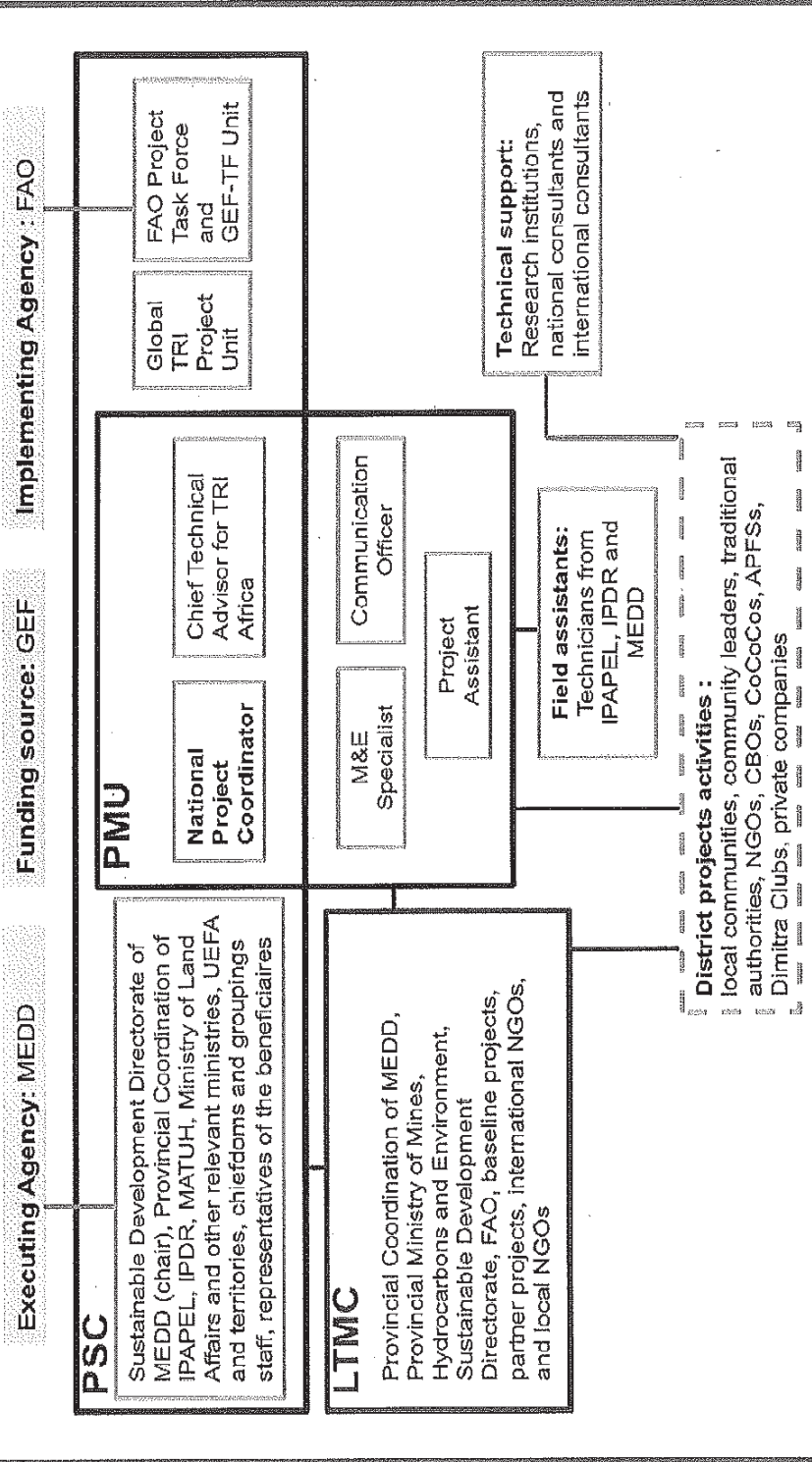


Figure 1. Implementation arrangements for the TRI Child project in DRC.

FAO: Food and Agriculture Organisation

GEF: Global Environment Facility

IPAPEL: Provincial Inspection of Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock Husbandry

IPDR: Provincial Inspection of Rural Development

MATUH: Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock Husbandry

MEDD: Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Sustainable Development

UEFA: Union for Emancipation of Indigenous Women

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119. A Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be established and the Chair will be designated by MEDD. It will meet at least twice a year in Bukavu and be comprised of:

- representatives from the Provincial Coordination of MEDD;
- representatives of the DDD of MEDD;
- representatives from FAO;
- representatives from IPAPEL (under MATUH);
- representatives from IPDR (under the Ministry of Rural Development);
- representatives of MATUH
- representatives from Ministry of Land Affairs;
- other relevant ministries;
- representatives of the Provincial Directorate of ICCN;
- representatives of the Union for Indigenous Women Emancipation;
- baseline projects representatives including including GIZ and LCD experts based in Bukavu;
- government authorities of Kabaré and Walungu Territories;
- Chiefs of Kabaré and Ngweshe Chiefdoms and other local traditional authorities;
- International organisations implementing partner projects including WWF, WCS and FH;
- Local NGOs; and
- representatives of the civil society.

120. The PSC will be responsible for guiding the project implementation, advise the National Project Coordinator and its PMU when needed, and validate work plans and reports. It will be the main decision-making platform of the project.

121. In addition to the fixed bi-annual meetings of the PSC in Bukavu, additional PSC meetings will be held in Kinshasa and in the cities closest to the intervention sites as needed.

122. The PSC responsibilities will include:

- Advise the PMU when needed;
- Oversee and ensure technical quality of outputs;
- Ensure alignment of the activities and products with the project document;
- Validate the selection of the community-based micro-projects of Component 2;
- Review the progress reports and financial reports;
- Ensure close linkages between the project and other relevant ongoing projects and programmes relevant to the project;
- Ensure timely availability and effectiveness of co-financing support;
- Ensure sustainability of key project outcomes, including up-scaling and replication;
- Ensure effective coordination of government partner work under this project;
- Modify where needed and validate the six-monthly Project Progress and Financial Reports, the Annual Work Plan and Budget;
- Provide contributions to the mid-term evaluation/review and final evaluation, analyse the conclusions and formulate plans;
- Assist the PMU is solving the any issues in the project implementation; and
- Facilitate the dissemination and integration of the results in national policies and programmes.

123. The members of the PSC will each assure the role of a Focal Point for the project in their respective agencies. Hence the project will have a Focal Point in each concerned institution. As Focal Points in their agency, the concerned PSC members will (i) technically oversee activities in their sector, (ii) ensure a fluid two-way exchange of information and knowledge between their agency and the project, (iii) facilitate coordination and links between the project activities and the work plan of their agency, and (iv) facilitate the provision of co-financing to the project.

124. In addition to the National Project Steering Committee, a LTMC will meet regularly in Bukavu, with meetings happening in the targeted chiefdoms when necessary, in order to ensure a close collaboration between the PMU and its main local partners. They will meet every three months. The principal role of this committee will be to provide technical assistance for the project

implementation, review technical reports and undertake technical monitoring of the interventions on site. These committees will have at least eight members from the relevant sectors including:

- one representative of the Provincial Coordination of MEDD;
- one representative of the PMMHE;
- one representative of the DDD;
- two representatives of FAO;
- at least one representative of baseline project;
- one representative of an international NGO; and
- one representative of a local NGO.

125. The main tasks of these committees include:

- advise the PMU on the technical and planning aspects of the project implementation;
- participate to development and validate the ToRs for the technical experts to be hired;
- participate to selection process for the technical experts;
- support the PMU with the selection of the community-based micro-projects of Component 2; and
- review, comment and validate the technical reports.

126. A PMU will be established in Bukavu under the supervision of the MEDD. It will include:

- a full time National Project Coordinator (NPC), leader of the NCU;
- a part time international Chief Technical Advisor;
- a full time M&E Expert;
- a full time Project Assistant;
- a part time Communication Expert; and
- a driver dedicated to the PMU members will also be hired by the project.

127. The PMU will be responsible for the daily management of project and for ensuring efficient and timely implementation of the project annual work plans. The PMU will be hosted and supported technically by the Provincial Coordination of MEDD who will allocate part time experts according the PMU needs as part of government co-financing. Memorandum of Understanding will also be developed with NGOs if required for the coordination of some specific interventions of the project. The PMU will work in close collaboration with FAO.

128. The ToRs of the PMU staff are provided in Annex 6. The PMU staff will be recruited by FAO and will send financial and technical progress reports (through the NPC) to the FAO Budget Holder (BH).

Some key functions of the PMU are:

- Technically identify, plan, design and support all activities;
- Liaise with government agencies and regularly advocate on behalf of the project;
- Prepare the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP/B) and monitoring plan, and submit them to FAO and PSC for validation;
- Play the role of the Secretariat of the PSC and the LTMC; and organise regular meetings and workshops with the PSC and LTMC members;

- Be responsible for day-to-day implementation of the project in line with the AWP;
- Ensure a results-based approach to project implementation, including maintaining a focus on project results and impacts as defined by the results framework indicators;
- Ensure close collaboration with baseline and partner project to maximise synergy and complementarity;
- Ensure the submission of appropriate yearly expenditure reports on the budget identified as co-financing by the baseline projects;
- Prepare and submit bi-annual progress reports and contribute to the preparation of FAO progress reports;
- Monitor and Evaluate continuously the project progress regarding the Results Matrix Targets according to a specific plan validated by MEDD and FAO, and submit M&E reports regularly to FAO and PSC;
- Be responsible for the elaboration of FAO Project Progress Reports (PPR) and the annual Project Implementation Review (PIR); and
- Facilitate and support the mid-term evaluation/review and final evaluation of the project.

PMU staff will be supported by national and international consultants who will be recruited during project implementation as needed.

129. Last, MoUs will be signed with government institutions identify as key partners in the project implementation to define specifically their responsibilities in the project interventions. For example, MoUs will be signed with the Provincial Coordination of MEDD, IPAPPEL and IPDD to allocate one local technician³⁸ each for Kabaré and Ngweshe Chiefdoms respectively (i.e. three field assistants per chiefdom) to monitor the interventions daily.

A.7 Benefits.

The project will raise direct socio-economic benefits to at least 30,000 people through the development of climate-resilient sources of income based on the sustainable use of soil, water and forest resources. The income-generating activities to be improved and developed under Component 2 include agriculture on hillsides, agroforestry, pastoralism, and production of NWFPs. The TRI child project interventions will enable all ethnic groups within local communities to raise long-term benefits from the project including technical and institutional capacity building, equipment and increased access to financial opportunities.

As an example, indigenous communities – pygmy groups – are one of the community groups that will benefit from the project. Pygmy groups are found in the groupings of Bugore (i.e. ~40,000 people) and Miti (i.e. ~240 people) in Kabare Chiefdom. They represent ~11 % of the total population³⁹ of Kabare Chiefdom. Based on the consultations undertaken during project preparation, Pygmy groups are mostly interested in receiving support for the production of NWFPs. They will therefore be supported for the sustainable production of NWFPs including the establishment and management of nurseries for tree production. In addition, the access of indigenous communities to financial opportunities will also be increased under Output 2.3 through identifying and strengthening financial systems adapted to their needs and capacity. Opportunities of indigenous communities to access land will also be investigated and strengthened. For example, the attribution of community-based forests' titles to indigenous groups will be promoted where appropriate. Pygmy groups will be engaged in the reforestation, leaving fence plantation and agroforestry interventions. Their traditional knowledge on plant species will be very valuable to implement interventions that maximise the benefits generated by the planted species, support the maintenance of their culture and traditions, contribute to biodiversity conservation through promoting indigenous plant species, and ensure their long-term support of the interventions. Existing associations of Pygmies at the local scale will also be supported under Output 2.3. Furthermore, the capacity of the Union for Indigenous Women Emancipation will be strengthened under Output 3.1. The set of communication tools developed under Output 4.1 will be designed in order to reach all community groups including Pygmies. Their awareness on climate change, adaptation and mitigation opportunities and existing rights for access to land among other themes will therefore be strengthened to empower them.

Among the direct socio-economic benefits to be raised by the project, capacity development is a major component of the TRI child project, which focuses on providing all the required tools from the provincial to the local levels for the implementation of FLR at the large scale beyond the project lifespan. A diversity of tools will be used to provide training to the government stakeholders, NGOs, research institutions, community associations, and community members. The training needs pre-identified during project

³⁸ Technicians of the Provincial Coordination of MEDD, IPAPPEL and IPDD are based in every main villages. They cover an area of approximately 20 km² each.

³⁹ These estimates are based on the Chiefdoms' reports of 2015.

preparation will first be refined using a participatory approach during workshops with the groups targeted by the training sessions. Institutional training will be organised during workshops from the provincial to the local levels. Technical training will be provided during theoretical workshops, learning-by-doing training sessions, APFSs, exchange visits to sites where a specific practice is already being used, and through exchange visits between Dimitra clubs. The policy strengthening interventions will contribute to create an enabling policy framework for FLR thereby promoting the application of the skills and experience acquired during the project implementation phase to other territories and provinces. This will also be facilitated by the development of knowledge products and knowledge sharing systems, and the training provided on proposal development together with the activities focused on increasing the financial capacity for FLR interventions in DRC.

The socio-economic benefits raised by the project will enable to reduce pressure on natural resources in the long term. Through the TRI child project landscape restoration will be implemented in at least 4,800 ha in the targeted sites, particularly in the buffer zone of KBNP, and carbon emissions will be reduced by 1,064,457 tCO₂eq. The TRI child project will therefore both contribute to climate change adaptation through the restoration of ecosystem services and the development of climate-resilient livelihoods, and to climate change mitigation through reducing forest loss and increasing land cover. The policy strengthening interventions focused on improving land management – particularly forest resources – under Component 1 and 4 of the TRI child project will contribute to better management, monitoring and law enforcement in DRC. These interventions combined with awareness-raising interventions will contribute to reducing current deforestation rates in DRC (please see Section A.1.4 for more information on the global environmental benefits of the project).

A.8 Knowledge Management

130. As this project focuses on demonstrating and upscaling FLR in DRC, knowledge management is a major element of its implementation. Knowledge sharing on FLR in general and on the project interventions specifically will be undertaken at several levels:

- At the household level: Contracts between Dimitra clubs and local radios will be developed to disseminate the information on the activities undertaken by these clubs including their benefits and lessons learned.
- At the groupings and chiefdom levels: All the project interventions will be undertaken in collaboration with government and traditional authorities of the targeted groupings and chiefdoms. Technical training will also be provided to give them the capacity to replicate the approach beyond the interventions sites. They will therefore have a full understanding of the project purpose and interventions.
- At the territory and provincial levels: Workshops will be organised with authorities of the targeted chiefdoms as well as neighbouring chiefdoms. Field visit to the demonstration sites will also be organised to showcase the FLR approach.
- At the national level: Workshops in Kinshasa will be organised with the authorities of other provinces to share the experience acquired in South-Kivu and initiate brainstorming on the application of the FLR approach in other countries. University modules on FLR will also be developed to raise awareness of students on FLR.
- At the regional and global levels: existing regional networks will be used to share the experience acquired in DRC with other countries of the Congo Basin and of the Southern Hemisphere. As previously mentioned, the Global TRI project will also play a major role in knowledge sharing between countries and continents, as it will bring together 10 African and Asian countries.

131. Guidelines on the best practices and relevant methods/tools promoted by the TRI child project in South Kivu will be produced as supporting documents for the training sessions, and distributed to the participants and their institutions. This will maximise the efficiency of the capacity building activities and encourage the dissemination of the practices beyond the project direct beneficiaries.

B. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:

B.1 Consistency with National Priorities.

132. The project is aligned with the multi-sectoral and sectoral strategies and plans related to environment in DRC. The specific content of those documents with which the TRI child project is aligned is described in Table 6.

Document	Ministry in charge	Expected implementation period/Status	Main content relative to natural resources' management
Action Plan for	Environment	1990-1999	PAFT main objective was to improve forestry and forest management.

Tropical Forests ⁴⁰ (PAFT)			To do so, 97 priority actions were identified among which 47 actions focus on community-based forestation and improved land use. The implementation of the PAFT has however been inefficient.
National Action Plan for Environment ⁴¹ (PNAE)	Environment	2002-2007 (Developed in 1997)	PNAE is the main document for environment planning. It focuses on addressing the problem of land degradation induced by demographic pressure, erosion and inappropriate agricultural practices, and unplanned urbanisation in rural and urban areas. Priority environmental actions were identified but they have not been implemented.
NBSAP	Environment	Developed in 1999 and revised in 2016	The NBSAP defines means to protect forest resources and biodiversity in order to implement the CBD. NBSAP was revised in 2016 for the period 2016-2020. The updated document focuses on: i) managing sustainably of protected areas; ii) reducing anthropogenic pressure on natural habitat; iii) increasing the benefits generated from the exploitation of genetic resources and Payment for Ecosystem Services and promoting sharing of these benefits in an equitable manner within local communities; and iv) restoration of critical ecosystem services. The implementation of this strategy has not yet started in DRC.
National Strategy for Biodiversity Conservation in DRC Protected Areas ⁴² (SNCB-AP)	Environment /ICCN	2012	The objective of SNCB-AP is to ensure conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity within and outside DRC protected areas. Nine programmes have been developed. Some of the interventions identified are being implemented by GIZ, WWF and WCS among others. However, according to ICCN, more support is needed for the management on KBNP including <i>inter alia</i> mapping buffer zones, management plans, improving the sharing of conservation benefits with local communities
National Strategy for Community-based Conservation ⁴³ (SCoCo)	Environment /ICCN	2008	The SCoCo promotes participatory management of natural resources for biodiversity conservation. In this way, both the needs for biodiversity conservation in protected areas and local community development would be improved. The 14 pillars aims to increasing involvement of local communities in the conservation of natural resources and promoting income-generating activities that improve livelihoods and biodiversity. Community Conservation Committee have been established to achieve SCoCo goal (see Section 1.3.2).
INDC	Environment	2015	RDC committed to achieve a reduction of its CO ₂ emission by 17% by 2030, which corresponds to 70 Mt emissions avoided.
National Strategic Framework for REDD+ (2012), and Preparatory and Investment Plans to reduce carbon emissions in the forestry sector (2013)	Environment	2012	DRC government engaged into the REDD+ process in 2009. The Strategy promotes the sustainable land use and management to address the drivers of deforestation and stabilise forest cover while ensuring economic growth, increasing population income and improving livelihoods. The objective is to stabilise forest cover to 65% by 2030 and maintain it thereafter. It is divided into seven pillars: land management, land tenure, sustainable agriculture and forest exploitation, mitigation of the negative effects of deforestation and mining, promotion of renewable sources of energy, management of demographic growth, and governance improvement. Under the Preparatory and Investment Plan, 14 programmes have been identified for reforestation and afforestation to fight climate change. For example, Programme 7 focuses on forestation and reforestation of degraded and deforested areas. Programme 11 supports the development and management of intensive agriculture to rehabilitate old and recent plantations in savannas. Programme 12 will reduce the demand for fuelwood through improving the energy production strategies, and increase the sustainable production of fuelwood.

⁴⁰ Plan d'Action Forestier Tropical

⁴¹ Plan National d'Action Environnemental

⁴² Stratégie Nationale de Conservation de la Biodiversité dans les Aires Protégées de la RDC

⁴³ Stratégie Nationale sur la Conservation Communautaire

10-year National Reforestation Plan	Environment	1989-1999	This plan focused mainly on planting fast growing trees in vulnerable areas with low forest cover. The activities planned included the implementation of nurseries for approximately 50 species (local and exotic) in the Forest Center of Kinzono. Reforestation activities were also planned in Luki, Mayumbe and Mbanza-Ngungu (Kongo Central), Baraka and Bukavu (Sud-Kivu), Kananga (Kasaï Occidental), Lubumbashi (Katanga), Kikwit (Bandundu), Mbuji-Mayi (Kasaï Oriental), Kinshasa and Kinzono. However, political and social instability as well as an inadequate legal framework for the forest sector, these interventions have not been implemented and this 10-year Reforestation Plan was not renewed.
Second National Programme for Environment, Forests, Water and Biodiversity ⁴⁴ (PNEFEB2)	Environment	2013-2023	The objective of this programme is environment protection and sustainable management of natural resources to maintain ecological, economic, social and cultural systems relying on them. The six pillars of PNEFEB2 include <i>inter alia</i> "Regeneration, reforestation, forestation and agroforestry" and "environment monitoring, climate change mitigation and valuation of environmental services". Based on PNEFEB2's implementation strategy, Provincial Programmes as well as Local Programmes for Environment, Forests, Water and Biodiversity should also be created. As part of the PNEFEB2 targets, a National Plan to restore the Forest Capital should be developed and implemented by 2018. In addition, best fuelwood transformation and use techniques are used by at least 50% of urban population by 2020. By 2023, at least 100,000 ha of forest capital is build or restored. For forest and agroforestry development, PNEFEB2 suggests the use of assisted natural regeneration techniques in highly degraded provinces and the duplication of MAMPU agroforestry models. Last, PNEFEB2 recommends the use of community-based forestry to promote the development of multi-beneficial plantations that produce fuelwood and NWFPs, and reduce erosion.
National Action Programme against Land Degradation and Deforestation ⁴⁵ (PAN-LCD)	Environment	2006	The PAN-LCD describes the factors contributing to land degradation and deforestation as well as specific actions to be undertaken by DRC under the United Nation Convention to Combat Desertification, namely restoring degraded ecosystems and improving production systems. This document guides the interventions of government, NGOs and international partners. The TRI child project is particularly well aligned with Sub-Programme 2 "Capacity strengthening for improved land use and sustainable management of forest resources" and 5 "Perfect knowledge of ecosystems, reconstitution of degraded ecosystems, and improvement of production systems". The interventions identified in the PAN-LCD are to promote local species that increase soil fertility, other soil improvement techniques (e.g. compost, manure, mulch), and establishing multiple-use, living windbreaks. Limited interventions have been implemented to date because of gaps in the national policy framework to enable strategic and sustainable management of natural resources particularly land.
National Programme for Food Security ⁴⁶ (PNSA)	Agriculture	2011-2020	The PNSA focuses on reducing food insecurity and improving community livelihoods through increasing productivity and income per household. PNSA objectives include: i) increase agricultural production through improved productivity, diversification of agricultural products and strengthening of production systems; ii) improve value-chains for agricultural, animal (fish and livestock) and NWFP products through improved storage, preservation and processing methods; iii) improve access to subsistence products, their nutritional value and their sanitary

⁴⁴ Deuxième Programme National Environnement, Forêts, Eau et Biodiversité

⁴⁵ Programme d'Action National de Lutte contre la Dégradation des Terres et la Déforestation

⁴⁶ Programme National de Sécurité Alimentaire

			condition; and iv) increase capacity of local communities in addressing all dimensions of food security issues within their household and their communities. The PNSA is the reference document for the relevant ministries to address the four dimensions of food insecurity, namely food availability, economic and physical access to food, utilisation of food items and the stability of the first dimensions over time.
Agricultural and Rural Development Master Plan ⁴⁷	Agriculture	1991-2000	The plan aimed to increase food security and combat poverty in rural areas through improving the agricultural sector.
National Programme to revive the Agricultural and Rural Sector ⁴⁸	Agriculture	1997-2001	The main objective of the programme was to collect information on the current state of the agricultural, livestock husbandry, fisheries and forestry sectors, and elaborate provincial programmes and action plans. An updated programme should be developed by 2018 to address the soil degradation problems faced in each province through the implementation of provincial action plans.
Master Plan for Rural Development	Rural Development	2003	The principal objectives of this Master Plan include: i) establishing the basic socio-economic infrastructure to facilitate the transportation of agricultural products and to develop renewable energies among others; ii) encouraging entrepreneurship among rural communities to improve livelihoods; and iii) promoting the development of local, hand-crafting production units.
National Plan for Agricultural Investment (PNIA) ⁴⁹	Agriculture	2013–2020	This plan is focused on supporting the growth of the agricultural sector to reduce poverty levels and unemployment, and increase food security. It is the national planning framework for national and international funds in the agricultural and rural development sector. It coordinates the on-going and planned programmes and projects in the sector. PNIA has five priority objectives, the fifth one is to reduce the vulnerability of the agricultural sector to climate change. Under this priority objective, Sub-Component 5.1 is to promote the integrated management of soil fertility, establish resilient agroforestry systems, improve watershed management including the implementation of erosion-control interventions, and support the REDD+ process (i.e. support natural regeneration of forests, tree planting on slopes against erosion and siltation of water bodies, implement community forests, and promote private and community-based reforestation activities).
Second Strategy Document for Growth and Poverty Reduction (DSCR) ⁵⁰	Planning and Monitoring of Modernity Revolution ⁵¹	2011–2015	This Strategy aimed at significantly improving community livelihoods while protecting the environment and combatting climate change to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. It includes an environment pillar acknowledging that air, water and soil quality are crucial to human, animal and plant lives, and that communities face major environment problem and livelihood deterioration, ecosystems are disturbed and biodiversity is threatened. It is also recognize that low environment quality controls, low consideration of environment issues as part of projects design and implementation, absence of environmental monitoring and increasing number of strong sources of noise pollution all contribute to ecosystem degradation.
National Strategic Plan for Development, vision for DRC by 2050	Planning and Monitoring of Modernity Revolution	2016–2050	One of the seven pillars of this plan targets environment protection, sustainable development, and access to water and sanitation. Under this pillar, the main objectives regarding the environment are to establish a balance between the exploitation of natural resources and ecosystems protection, and to restore the environment in degraded areas.

⁴⁷ Plan Directeur de l'Agriculture et du Développement Rural

⁴⁸ Programme National de Relance du Secteur Agricole et Rural

⁴⁹ Plan National D'investissement Agricole

⁵⁰ Second Document Stratégique pour la Croissance et la Réduction de la pauvreté

⁵¹ Ministère du Plan et Suivi de la Révolution de la Modernité

National Strategy and Action Plan on Climate Change		2016-2020	This strategy promotes the integration of climate change into socio-economic development within all the sectors affected by climate change – such as agriculture, forests and energy – to improve community livelihoods and reduce CO ₂ emissions by 17% by 2030. The four pillars of the strategy are: i) a multi-sectoral approach to climate change mitigation involving all relevant public and private actors; ii) implementing interventions for climate change mitigation and adaptation; iii) strengthening the development of innovations, research, and implementing existing and new technologies; and iv) developing a financial strategy.
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133. These documents show the willingness of the government to improve the management of natural resources and move towards a more sustainable economy. However, the level of implementation of these strategies and programmes also shows that the institutional and financial capacity of the government in DRC is very limited.

C. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M&E PLAN:


Type of M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Time-frame	Budget
Inception Workshop	PMU in consultation with the LTO, Budget Holder (BH) and PSC	Within 1 month after Start-up	USD 8,000
Results-based Annual Work Plan and Budget	PMU in consultation with the FAO Project Task Force	3 weeks after Start-up and annually with the reporting period July to June	Project staff time
Project Inception Report	PMU in consultation with the FAO LTO, FAO BH, FAO-Kinshasa and FAO-Bukavu Report cleared by the FAO BH, FAO LTO and the FAO GEF Coordination Unit and uploaded in FPMIS by the FAO BH	1 month after Start-up	Project staff time
Project M&E Expert	Full-time expert as part of Component 4, member of the PMU	1 month after Start-up	US\$ 60,000
M&E tools and equipment	GPS and other tools required by the Project M&E expert	Within 6 months after Start-up	US\$ 10,000
Data collection campaigns in the field	3 data collection campaigns per year in each chiefdom	For four years (Years 2 to 5 of the project implementation period)	US\$ 20,000
Supervision Visits	FAO	Mid-term	Project staff time
Chief Technical Advisor	FAO	60 days per year	US\$ 150,000
Project Progress Reports (PPR)	PMU based on the systematic monitoring of output and outcome indicators identified in the project's Results Framework ii) The PPR will be submitted to the FAO BH and FAO LTO for comments and clearance. The FAO BH will upload the PPR on the FPMIS.	No later than one month after the end of each six-monthly reporting period (30 June and 31 December)	Project staff time
Project Implementation Review report (PIR)	FAO LTO (in collaboration with the PMU) will prepare an annual PIR covering the period July (the previous year) through June (current year) to be submitted to the FAO BH and the GEF-Funding Liaison Officer	August 1, of each reporting year	Project staff time
Co-financing Reports (Disbursement, Output)	PMU	On a semi-annual basis, and will be considered as part of the semi-annual PPRs	Project staff time
GEF Tracking Tools	PM and reviewed by FAO HQ Technical Officer (LTU)	At mid-point and end of project	Project staff time

Type of M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Time-frame	Budget
Technical Reports	Project staff and consultants, with peer review as appropriate	As appropriate	Project time and consultant costs
Mid-term Review	External consultant, FAO Office of Evaluation in consultation with PMU, GEF Coordination Unit and other partners.	6 months before end of project implementation	US\$ 22,000
Independent Final Evaluation	External consultant, FAO Office of Evaluation in consultation with PMU, GEF Coordination Unit and other partner	3 months prior to terminal review meeting	US\$ 33,000
Terminal Report	PMU with assistance of other project staff and the FAO LTU	2 months before project end	US\$ 7,000
Lessons Learned	Project Staff, short-term consultants and FAO	As appropriate	
Total Budget			US\$ 310,000

PART III: CERTIFICATION BY GEF PARTNER AGENCY(IES)

A. GEF Agency(ies) certification

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies⁵² and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for CEO endorsement under GEF-6.

Agency Coordinator, Agency Name	Signature	Date (MM/dd/yyyy)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Alexander Jones, Director, Climate and Environment Division		16/02/2018	Christophe Besacier	+39 06 570 55508	christophe.besacier@fao.org
Jeffrey Griffin Senior Coordinator, FAO GEF Coordination Unit. Investment Centre Division.			Maude Veyret- Picot		

⁵² GEF policies encompass all managed trust funds, namely: GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF and CBIT
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ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

Results Chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term milestone	Target	Means of Verification (MOV)	Assumptions
Development objective: To increase development opportunities in DRC through the sustainable exploitation of natural resources						
Project Objective: Reforestation and sustainable management of natural resources by local communities using an FLR approach in South-Kivu province, DRC	1) Hectares of land restored or under improved management in the two selected chiefdoms 2) tCO2eq emissions avoided/sequestered in targeted landscapes as a direct result of TRI child project interventions	The FLR approach is not yet used for restoration interventions in the two targeted chiefdoms.	1) 1,000 ha 2) Not relevant for tCO2eq emissions	1) At least 4,800 ha 2) 1,064,457tCO2eq to be sequestered in the two targeted chiefdoms	1) • GEF TTs • Collect Earth complemented with biophysical survey (e.g. based on LADA local) and using Collect Mobile • InVEST and/or EX-ACT • Bonn Challenge Progress-Tracking Protocol • Gender disaggregated participation tracking data 2) • GEF TTs • InVEST and/or EX-ACT • Data from 2.1	• There are no major political changes that lead to a change in orientation of the national objectives and priorities during the project implementation phase. • No land reform that goes against the interventions of the project regarding the sustainable management of natural resources is adopted during or after the project implementation phase. Land-tenure clarifications supported as part of the project interventions are sufficient to secure land-use rights of the project beneficiaries in the medium to long term. • No major civil insecurity outbreak occurs during the project implementation phase. • Competent national experts can be identified and recruited following a transparent process for all the project interventions.
Component 1: ENABLING ENVIRONMENT: Policy development to promote FLR at the provincial level						
Outcome 1: An enabling policy framework for FLR is in place in a pilot	# and type of relevant FLR-related policies/legislation/plans etc.	Existing text are outdated or not	Gaps in the policy framework identified.	At least one policy in the forest sector (Provincial Forest	Draft policy documents	• There are no major political changes that lead to a change in orientation

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<p>province of DRC, South-Kivu</p>	<p>identified/supported by the TRI child project, and progress towards mainstreaming FLR into policy and regulatory frameworks (Scales 1 to 6)</p>	<p>implemented. Several key texts for sustainable resource management are missing.</p>	<p>Restoration Strategy and Action Plan), at least one in the agricultural or environmental sector (Environment provincial policy or provincial programme for sustainable agriculture development) and two Chiefdom Development Plans, drafted and submitted for adoption (Scale 1: FLR considerations are mentioned in sector policy)</p>	<p>of the national objectives and priorities during the project implementation phase.</p>	
<p>Output 1.1: Provincial Forest Restoration Strategy developed using the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) approach in South-Kivu Output 1.2: Workshops organised with relevant stakeholders to address the barriers within the national and provincial policy environment to promote FLR Output 1.3: Development Plans integrating Forest and Landscapes Restoration options developed for Kabaré and Ngweshe Chiefdoms respectively within the territories of Kabaré and Walungu</p>					
<p>Component 2: DEMONSTRATION: Forest and Landscape Restoration options and sustainable livelihood based on natural resources demonstrated at the chiefdom level in the mountain region of South-Kivu Province</p>					
<p>Outcome 2: Forest and land degradation in Kabaré and Ngweshe Chiefdoms is reduced through the promotion of FLR good practices (including agroforestry) in pastoral lands, agricultural lands, forest lands and on hillsides</p>	<p>1) # of people directly benefiting from project activities (including capacity building events and trainings) (m/f) 2) Average annual household income from forest and from tree products, and increased agricultural and pastoral productivity</p>	<p>1) High level of poverty and land degradation in the targeted chiefdoms 2) TBD</p>	<p>1) 6000 people of 1,000 households 2) TBD</p>	<p>Field surveys</p>	<p>• There are no major political changes that lead to a change in orientation of the national objectives and priorities during the project implementation phase. • No land reform that goes against the interventions of the project regarding the sustainable management of natural resources is adopted</p>

									during or after the project implementation phase. Land-tenure clarifications supported as part of the project interventions are sufficient to secure land-use rights of the project beneficiaries in the medium to long term. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No major civil insecurity outbreak occurs during the project implementation phase. • Competent national experts can be identified and recruited following a transparent process for all project interventions. 	
Output 2.1: Site-specific restoration plans developed in the targeted Chiefdoms including the identification of priority zones, species, restoration practices and land-tenure systems	Output 2.2: 4,800 ha of forest, agricultural and pastoral ecosystems under improved landscape management practices using APFS and Dimitra clubs approaches	Output 2.3: 70 micro-projects for the development of cost-effective and sustainable livelihoods based on the sustainable management of natural resources in the intervention sites implemented to increase the economic value of forest, pastoral and agricultural resources thereby promoting natural resources' conservation	Component 3: UPSCALING: Institutional and funding capacity to upscale FLR at the Provincial and National levels	Outcome 3: Institutional and financial capacity is strengthened to enable implementation of FLR in South-Kivu Province and at the country scale	1) # of investment plans, strategies and action plans that include FLR in their set of interventions 2) # of bankable projects developed & submitted (according to the scorecard matrix)	1) FLR interventions are not prioritised in current investment plans, strategies or actions related to natural resources management and sustainable development. 2) No bankable projects	1) At least one investments plans, strategies or action plans includes FLR in their set of interventions 2) One bankable project	1) At least two investment plans, strategies or action plans (e.g. FONAREDD investment plan, REDD+ strategy, INDC strategy) include FLR in their set of interventions 2) Four bankable projects	1) • GEF TTs • Enabling Investment Rapid Diagnostic tool (to be developed) 2) • Scorecard matrix for status of bankable projects (to be developed)	• There are no major political changes that lead to a change in orientation of the national objectives and priorities during the project implementation phase. • Competent national experts can be identified and recruited following a transparent process for all the project interventions.
Output 3.1: Training events on best practices and methods for planning, implementing and monitoring FLR organised for government and non-government entities in										

South-Kivu

Output 3.2: An independent observatory led by civil society to monitor FLR progress in South-Kivu

Output 3.3: Four bankable, large-scale restoration projects submitted to appropriate funding sources

Component 4: KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT: Knowledge sharing on FLR, partnership, and monitoring and evaluation of FLR interventions

<p>Outcome 4: Awareness, long-term monitoring, and knowledge sharing on FLR interventions are increased to promote the sustainability and replication of the TRI child project interventions</p>	<p>1) # of TRI knowledge products developed, disseminated and accessed through relevant knowledge platforms 2) Child project monitoring system established and providing relevant information to managers</p>	<p>1) No TRI knowledge products 2) No M&E system to monitor FLR interventions</p>	<p>1) At least 1 university curricular chapters and 1 school curricula booklet 2) One project-specific M&E system developed and implemented</p>	<p>1) At least 2 university curricular chapters, 1 school curricula booklet, 2 short-documentaries, 1 pamphlet, 2 radio talks, 1 theatre play and 2 kids games 2) One project-specific M&E system and one provincial M&E system for FLR interventions</p>	<p>1) Knowledge products developed (mailing list, physical distribution records) • Download records • Event attendance records 2) • GEF TTs • Meeting minutes • Adaptive management scoring tool (TBD)</p>	<p>• There are no major political changes that lead to a change in orientation of the national objectives and priorities during the project implementation phase. • No major civil insecurity outbreak occurs during the project implementation phase. • Competent national experts can be identified and recruited following a transparent process for all the project interventions.</p>
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Output 4.1: Awareness-raising events and education campaigns on the value of natural resources particularly forests implemented for pupils, students and adults in South-Kivu

Output 4.2: A long-term Monitoring and Evaluation strategy implemented for FLR interventions beyond the TRI child project implementation in South-Kivu

Output 4.3: Knowledge sharing events on FLR implemented at the national and regional scales to promote the replication of the project interventions in other territories and provinces within DR

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).

N/A

ANNEX C: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES AND THE USE OF FUNDS⁵³

A. Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: 150,000 US\$			
<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>GETF/LDCF/SCCF/CBIT Amount (\$)</i>		
	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent To date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>
5011 (Coordination FAO)	7,143	8,864	0
5013 (International and national consultants of the PPG team)	80,000	78,137	1,488
5021 (Travels for both the inception and validation workshops held in Bukavu and field visits of national/international consultants for consultation of local stakeholders)	43,700	43,226	0
5023 (Other organization costs of the two workshops held in Bukavu)	19,157	18,285	0
Total	150,000	148,512	1,488

⁵³ If at CEO Endorsement, the PPG activities have not been completed and there is a balance of unspent fund, Agencies can continue to undertake the activities up to one year of project start. No later than one year from start of project implementation, Agencies should report this table to the GEF Secretariat on the completion of PPG activities and the amount spent for the activities. Agencies should also report closing of PPG to Trustee in its Quarterly Report.

4.

ANNEX D: CALENDAR OF EXPECTED REFLOWS (if non-grant instrument is used)

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

N/A

ANNEX E: ADDRESSING STAP AND GEF COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS ON THE TRI PFD IN TRI CHILD PROJECT SUBMISSIONS

Council member and/or STAP comment	TRI Agency response
<p>Germany – “Child projects appear to stand alone with no conceptual input from the program. It is difficult to derive how the program framework will guide the child projects in core issues of institutional and operational sustainability, such as extension and service systems, technical education, land tenure and incentives.”</p> <p>GEF STAP – “It is difficult to see how the list of projects and potential global benefits represents anything more than a set of individual projects unrelated to each other and not deriving any inputs from the Program Framework. How do the components in the PFD inform these projects?”</p> <p>“PFD represents a good starting point for a coordinated effort at FLR. However, there remains the significant concern of how the Program Framework will provide the necessary guidance for child projects, other than in broadly general rhetorical terms? This includes the following elements for a truly innovative and integrative Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project design and development ▪ Analysis of costs and benefits of different restoration approaches [see Council comment and Agency response below] ▪ Intended use of tools across child projects [See STAP 	<p>To support the integrated design of child projects:</p> <p>Building upon early consultations with all TRI countries and continuing throughout the PPG phase, TRI Implementing partners have worked to strengthen understanding and ownership of the TRI Program among child project development teams and key partners. Activities included training events and workshops beginning with the <i>TRI Global Launch Workshop</i> held in Douala, Cameroon, October 31-Nov 2, 2016, and that was attended by representatives from all 12 TRI child projects, as well as bilateral meetings and follow-up activities conducted by all Implementing partners with their respective TRI national child project development teams. The TRI theory of change, Program design, M&E systems, and key elements of TRI, particularly those focused on enhanced learning and collaboration, were a key part of the agenda of these meetings and activities. Through these efforts, stakeholder understanding of TRI and their ability to design child projects well-aligned with the TRI PFD was enhanced.</p> <p>While the TRI PFD provides sufficient flexibility to allow countries to tailor interventions to meet their specific challenges and needs, a high degree of overlap exists among TRI countries in so far as the existing key challenges to implementation of FLR. As a result, the overall four-component thematic structure of TRI has been prioritized and adopted by all child projects, and will provide a firm basis for South-South learning and collaboration across the portfolio of TRI projects that, upon initial reading, may appear unrelated to one another.</p> <p>The design of the TRI Global Child, through which integrated support will be provided to national child projects along each of the four TRI PFD components, was informed by extensive stakeholder surveying, consultation and analysis of the highest-value support best provided from the Global child project in partnership with national projects (see Annex 6 of the TRI Global Child project document for more detailed information on findings from PPG-</p>

<p><i>comment and Agency response below]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Contributions to a learning platform, and ▪ Exchange of lessons and project experience” 	<p>stage surveying of TRI national child project teams).</p> <p><i>To support enhanced learning, collaboration, and partnership</i></p> <p>To facilitate the enhanced learning, collaboration and partnership among TRI program partners and relevant external partners and initiatives that is essential to realization of enhanced programmatic benefits, all TRI child projects include the following design elements and features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dedicated funding and support for annual participation of at least 2 child project team members in all <i>TRI Annual Knowledge Sharing Workshops</i>. ▪ Support for participation of project stakeholders in <i>TRI FLR Communities of Practice</i>, to be established, coordinated and supported in large part by the TRI Global Child project under Component 2 of the Global Child. <p>The TRI Global Child will support the systematic capture, enhancement, and sharing of FLR knowledge through development and dissemination of harmonized tools and processes for capture of information; development of case studies and policy briefs and other informational materials; enhancement of the existing body of FLR knowledge to make these resources more useful and widely accessible; and sharing of experiences via facilitated online Communities of Practice, the <i>Annual TRI Global Knowledge Sharing Workshops</i>, other events, workshops and trainings, as well as through Program and Agency partner web platforms.</p> <p><i>To support coordination and adaptive management of TRI</i></p> <p>The TRI Global Child project will play a principal role in overall Program coordination, monitoring, and facilitation of adaptive management. Key functions and services provided by the Global Child in this capacity include support for a Program Advisory Committee, Global Coordinating Unit, Program portal, harmonized TRI GEF tracking tool, and midterm Program review and terminal evaluation.</p> <p>All TRI child projects, in their respective project documents, have clearly defined institutional linkages to key TRI Program partners. These include operational and reporting linkages between all national child project and the TRI Global Child project and its Global Coordination Unit, the TRI Program Advisory Committee, and between TRI child projects themselves.</p>
<p>Germany – “Germany suggests further clarification, how the program is meant to encourage political will</p>	<p><i>To support strengthening of political will for FLR-related policy and governance reform</i></p>

<p>for governance reform and investment into restoration approaches. Political will appears as an assumption rather than a purpose of the program.”</p>	<p>All TRI national child projects have developed tailored interventions aligned with Component 1 of the TRI PFD, <i>Policy Development and Integration</i>, and that are intended to strengthen political will and support for governance reforms supporting FLR. Examples of these efforts include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assessments of national and sub-national policy and regulatory frameworks and how they may be enhanced and/or strengthened to further support FLR ▪ Support for identification and uptake of FLR supportive policies through filling in of knowledge gaps, awareness and outreach campaigns, and through support for robust cost benefit analysis of FLR benefits and costs through use of ROAM or other similar methodologies (8 of 11 TRI national child projects include support for use of ROAM). ▪ Support for generation of a Bonn Challenge pledge in several TRI countries that have not yet made a pledge: Guinea Bissau, Myanmar, and Tanzania. <p>The Global child project will work in tandem with national projects to support in-country efforts to enhance the enabling in-country policy environment for FLR. Work will include development of relevant case studies and policy briefs, high-level workshops, and an awareness-raising campaign featuring restoration champions from within and outside TRI countries.</p>
<p>Germany – “Economic models on costs and benefits of landscape restoration need to be exemplified in order to underpin the plans for private investment generation.”</p>	<p><i>To support scaled-up investment in FLR, including from the private-sector</i></p> <p>TRI partners have encouraged the incorporation and use of robust methodologies for estimating the cost and benefits of proposed restoration interventions. This includes support for use of ROAM that will be utilized by 8 of 11 TRI child projects.</p> <p>The need for cost-benefit analysis to facilitate private-sector investment IN FLR is acknowledged by all TRI partners and is a key part of the programs of work of all three partner Agencies. Relevant analyses and findings that will be shared with and disseminated to TRI partners over the course of TRI include IUCN’s work with the Coalition on Private Sector Investment in Conservation (CPIC) (supported in-part by GEF Project ID 9914);</p> <p>In addition, Component 4 (Output 4.1.1) of the TRI Global Child project includes support for the generation of case studies examining relevant FLR interventions, and that will include assessment of the associated cost and benefits.</p>

<p>Germany – “Germany recommends incorporating coordination and networking with existing initiatives and programs in the field of landscape restoration at international as well as national levels more systematically.”</p>	<p><i>To support coordination and networking with relevant external initiatives</i></p> <p>The Global Child project, through its Global Coordinating Unit, will work to capture synergies among and between national child projects and relevant external initiatives, and capitalize on emerging opportunities presented over the course of TRI implementation. Work will include development and implementation of a <i>TRI Communications strategy</i> and <i>TRI Partnership strategy</i> for effective engagement and partnership with external programs, projects, institutions, and potential donors/investors that helps foster achievement of TRI objectives.</p> <p>The Global child will present a <i>Restoration Finance Workshop</i> in year 3 to connect potentially interested donors and investors with in-country FLR investment opportunities. All TRI national projects have dedicated funding and support for participation of at least 2 child project team members in this event that will take place in tandem with the year three TRI Knowledge Sharing workshop.</p> <p>The TRI child project in Kenya, will closely collaborate with other child projects under the TRI initiative in general and with UNEP’s child project in Kenya in particular. The Global TRI Steering Committee (Program SC) will ensure alignment and synergies within the program during the implementation of the child projects</p> <p>The project will collaborate with other ongoing or planned FLR relevant projects in Kenya. It will ensure open and regular communication with the other on-going projects to share lessons learned and avoid duplication. The projects with whom close coordination will be sought include both GEF projects (listed in the CER pg.34) as well as non –GEF projects as mentioned in Prodoc pg.35 to 39. Coordination will focus on exchanging lessons learned and sharing technical expertise and will be established through partnership agreements and joint work-plans. To ensure effective coordination, joint work-plans will be established during Year 1. Moreover, the strengthening of the Landscape Restoration Technical Working Group under Output 1.1, will provide a platform and a mechanism to coordinate FLR related activities on the ground across institutions and projects. As the PMU will be hosted in KEFRI, technical working groups to coordinate KEFRI’s FLR work across projects will be conducted regularly to avoid duplications</p>
<p>GEF STAP – <i>Comment from above regarding PFD and how Program will provide guidance for “...intended</i></p>	<p><i>How Program will provide guidance and support for use of FLR tools</i></p> <p>The Global Child project, together with the larger project support</p>

<p>use of tools across child projects”</p>	<p>teams of the TRI Implementing Agencies, will provide a number of key FLR-related support services to child projects, including support for the use of FLR-relevant tools. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Technical support for implementation of the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM), to be provided by IUCN’s Global Forest Programme and Regional FLR hubs. ▪ Technical support to all national child project teams in the development of bankable proposals and other mechanisms to mobilize increased funding for FLR, to be provided by UN Environment’s Finance Initiative. Support for mobilization of finance will also include development and delivery of an online course on FLR finance in partnership with Yale University (Output 3.1.2). ▪ The FLR Communities of Practice will be supported from within Component 2 of the Global Child project, under management by FAO. ▪ As noted above, Component 2 of the TRI Global Child will also include support for the systematic capture, enhancement, and sharing of FLR knowledge through development and dissemination of harmonized tools and processes for capture of information (Outputs 2.1.1, 2.4.1, 2.4.2, 2.5.1). ▪ Component 1 of the TRI Global Child project includes support for the development of a <i>TRI Global Communications and Outreach strategy</i>, with substantive inputs and participation from TRI country project teams. The strategy will codify objectives and approaches in communicating about the TRI program with internal and external audiences. The strategy will be accompanied by a ‘TRI Communications Toolbox,’ to include templates and flyers and other communication tools, regularly updated by the Global Child GCU, to help facilitate consistent and coordinated communication on TRI by all national child project. The Global Child project will provide continual support to all national child projects in the use of these communication resources. ▪ Component 3 of the TRI Global Child includes support for development of an <i>Enabling Investments Rapid Diagnostic Tool</i> (Output 3.1.1). The Tool will allow actors in each TRI country (and others) to identify key in-country policy, regulatory, institutional, and/or financial obstacles that currently stand in the way of investing in restoration activities. It will likewise provide suggested measures for reform, depending on the bottlenecks identified. ▪ Component 4 of the TRI Global Child includes support for
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	<p>the development, refinement, and use of a tool for assessing impacts to biodiversity from FLR (Outputs 4.2.1, 4.2.2, 4.2.3) . Guidance and support will be provided to all national teams on the use of this tool.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Other targeted assistance, including support for the design and establishment of effective and harmonized FLR monitoring systems, will also be provided through the Global Child project to all national child project teams. <p>In addition, TRI Agencies will support the sharing of independent evaluation teams (using same evaluation team for 2 or more TRI child projects) and methods in the undertaking of mid-term and terminal evaluations, to facilitate cost savings and increase cross-compatibility of evaluations (further information on this is provided in Section 5.5 of the Global Child project document).</p>
<p>Japan – “When considering a target country in GEF projects, it is important to take into consideration the impact of externalities and scale of economy (GDP, foreign currency reserves etc.) of each country, with a view to effective utilization of limited GEF resources.</p> <p>In general, while we acknowledge that the GEF allocates fund along with the STAR system, Least Developed Countries (LDCs), lower income countries and less developed region in these countries should be prioritized in allocating GEF resources.</p> <p>Accordingly, the funding for the projects that take place in countries with larger economic scale should be covered by co-financing of related institutions instead of GEF resources.</p> <p>From these points of view, GEF secretariat may wish to reconsider whether the target countries and regions”</p>	<p><i>On the selection and composition of countries in TRI</i></p> <p>TRI implementing partners acknowledge the comments from Japan regarding the composition of TRI countries. When the TRI program was being developed through the work of TRI countries, TRI Implementing Partners, and the GEF Secretariat, extensive efforts were made to notify countries with potential restoration opportunities about the emerging GEF-6 TRI program, and whether participation in the Program might be of interest. This occurred largely through the extensive networks of the three TRI Implementing Partners, and also via communications between GEF-eligible countries themselves. The selection process for TRI was largely a country-driven process, and entirely voluntary. As noted above, despite significant differences among TRI countries, a high degree of overlap exists in so far as the existing key challenges to implementation of FLR. As a result, a firm basis exists for South-South learning and collaboration across the portfolio of TRI projects.</p>