PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)
PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Project
TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF Trust Fund

PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Title:	Community-based Sustainable Dryland Forest Management		
Country(ies):	Gambia	**GEF Project ID:**	5406
GEF Agency(ies):	FAO	**GEF Agency Project ID:**	620178
Other Executing Partner(s):	Department of Forestry, Ministry of Forestry and the Environment	**Submission Date:**	13 August, 2013
GEF Focal Area (s):	Land Degradation	**Project Duration:**	60 months
Name of parent program (if applicable): • For SFM/REDD+ ☐ • For SGP ☐ • For PPP ☐	NA	**Agency Fee ($):**	291,303

A. INDICATIVE FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK

Focal Area Objectives	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount ($)	Indicative Co-Financing ($)
LD-2	GEFTF	3,066,347	12,560,000
	Total project cost	**3,066,347**	**12,560,000**

B. INDICATIVE PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Project Objective: To improve community based management of dryland forests in Gambia to reduce forest degradation and improve local livelihoods

Project Component	Grant Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount ($)	Indicative Co-financing ($)
Component 1: Strengthening policy and institutional capacity for sustainable dryland forest management.	TA	1. Institutions at national and regional level have the capacity to integrate dryland forest management into policies, sectoral planning, and practices,	1.1 Key sectors and institutional stakeholders trained on effective dryland forest management (4 government agencies trained at national level-60 staff , and regional level- 200) 1.2 National dryland forest management and rehabilitation strategy developed as a supplement to the Forest Policy 2010-2019 1.3 Multi-stakeholder regional dryland forest management forums created as a sub-coalition of regional Sustainable Land Management platforms established under the PIWAMP/GEF project	GEFTF	320,331	2,961,905
Component 2: Community-based sustainable dryland forest management and rehabilitation	TA	1. Community forestry legal ownership strengthened	1.1 Procedures for the transfer of forest ownership to communities reviewed and revised to address weaknesses/inefficiencies. 1.2 4,000 ha of forests under community forestry start-up phase are advanced to Preliminary Community Forestry Management Agreement (PCFMA) and 5,400 ha under PCFMA stage	GEFTF	2,500,000	8,000,000

		2. 14,700 ha of dryland forests under sustainable management by communities (SFM practices implemented on 14,700 ha including 735 ha of rehabilitated forests)	are advanced to Community Forestry Management Agreement (CFMA)/ownership stage 1.3 Community Forestry Management Plans for CFMAs developed and implemented (linked to output 2.1 and 2.2 below). 2.1 Community Forestry Committee (CFC) members trained in improved dryland forest management (600) 2.2 SFM practices implemented -Site suitable agroforestry techniques implemented across 500 ha - Forest cover increased by 5% through small-scale tree planting, and assisted natural generation - Improved site-specific bushfire management techniques implemented protecting 14,700 ha of forests from forest fires 2.3 Grazing and fuel wood collecting pressure on dryland forests reduced -Controlled grazing implemented through 10 community grazing agreements -Efficiency of fuelwood use improved by introducing improved cooking stoves (target households -2000) 2.4 Community-based forest enterprises in the project areas are strenghened through promition of improved harvesting techniques and value-addition (atleast 6 enterprises)			
Component 3: Project monitoring and evaluation and information dissemmination	TA	3.1 Project implementation based on results based management and application of project findings and lessons learned in future operations facilitated	3.1 Project monitoring system providing systematic information on progress in meeting project outcome and output targets 3.2 Midterm and final evaluation conducted and project implementation and sustainability strategy adjusted to recommendations 3.3 project-related “best-practices” and “lessons-learned” published.	GEFTF	100,000	1,000,000
			Sub-Total		**2,920,331**	**11,961,905**
Project management Cost (PMC):					146,016	598,095
			Total project costs[4]		**3,066,347**	**12,560,000**

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

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount ($)
National Government	Ministry of Forestry and the Environment	Grant	1,500,000
National Government	Ministry of Forestry and the Environment	In-kind	1,000,000
National Government	Rural Finance Project	Grant	3,700,000
Other Multilateral Agency	CILSS (Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel)	Grant	3,900,000
CSO	Agency for the Development of Women and Children	In-kind	160,000
CSO	Concern Universal	Grant	1,000,000
Private sector	NACO	In-kind	500,000
GEF Agency	FAO	Grant	300,000
GEF Agency	FAO	In kind	500,000
Total Co-financing			12,560,000

C. INDICATIVE TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA(S) AND COUNTRY

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Funds	Focal Area	Country Name/ Global	Grant Amount ($)	Agency Fee ($)	Total ($)
FAO	GEF TF	Land Degradation	Gambia	3,066,347	291,303	3,357,650
Total Grant Resources				**3,066,347**	**291,303**	**3,357,650**

D. PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

Please check on the appropriate box for PPG as needed for the project according to the GEF Project Grant:

	Amount Requested ($)	Agency Fee for PPG ($)
• No PPG required		
• (Upto) $50k for projects up to & including $ 1 million		
• (Upto) $100k for projects up to & including $ 3 million		
• (Upto) $150k for projects up to & including $ 6 million	**130,000**	**12,350**
• (Upto) $200k for projects up to & including $ 10 million		
• (Upto) $300k for projects above $ 10 million		

PPG AMOUNT REQUESTED BY AGENCY (IES), FOCAL AREA(S) AND COUNTRY(IES) FOR MFA AND/OR MTF PROJECT ONLY

Type of Trust Funds	GEF Agency	Focal Area	Country Name/ Global	PPG ($)	Agency Fee ($)	Total ($)
GEF TF	FAO	Land Degradation	Gambia	130,000	12,350	142,350
Total Grant Resources				**130,000**	**12,350**	**142,350**

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. PROJECT OVERVIEW

A.1. Project description

Global environmental problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed

One of the major environmental problems faced by the Gambia is the degradation of forests. The degradation, especially in areas not covered by existing community forests and national parks, continues unabated due to unsustainable resource use practices. The major part of the Gambia belongs to the Sudano-Sahelian agro-ecological zone with a pronounced dry season from October to May. The natural vegetation cover is typically made up of deciduous trees 10 to 20 m tall forming tropical dry forests and woodlands of varying density. At the beginning of the twentieth century, most of the Gambian land territory was still covered by dense forests; today the forest cover is about 44% of the total land area, of which only 1.1% is closed forest and nearly 70% degraded (Forest Resources Assessment - FRA 2010). Although the forest sector in Gambia is reported to contribute to about 1.2% of the national GDP, from a socio-economic perspective, a significant part of rural Gambian population depends on forests (and forest products) for their daily income, fuelwood, construction material, and traditional medicines. Loss of forest resources has a serious impact on the well-being of these communities. From an environmental perspective, considering the geographic location of Gambia; **the dryland forests of Gambia are the last frontier to halt desertification in the country**, and thus hold great value for sustained provision of key ecosystem services.

The main root causes of the continued destruction of dryland forests in the Gambia are described below:

Forest fires. With the population growth rate of 4.2% per annum, there is an increasing demand for food and consequently new farm lands, which results in unregulated clearing of forests. Fires are generally used as a means to clear forests. With poor planning and skills, these turn into uncontrolled bush fires destroying big areas of forests every year. Fires are also started by hunters to facilitate easier targeting of animals, and sometimes inadvertently during the dry season by beekeepers. While fire does not create much destruction in closed forests, in the situation of most Gambian savannah forest it is very destructive. Forests in the country are very open stimulating grass growth. In addition, the disturbed woodland and savannah vegetation accumulates a considerable amount of combustible material during the rainy season so that succeeding fires in the dry season burn hotter and even larger trees succumb. Annual hot fires eradicate most of the natural tree regeneration, which further opens the forest, induces additional grass growth and, thus, accelerates the vicious circle of forest destruction. The increase of secondary savannah with a reduced number of fire and drought resistant vegetation cover is a direct result of frequent fires.

Unsustainable fuelwood extraction. Trees are also extensively felled unsustainably for fuelwood. Fuelwood, both firewood and charcoal, is still the cheapest and economical energy source in Gambia. It is estimated to provide more than 95% of the household energy. The Government banned charcoal production in 1980, as it spiraled out of control with major part of the production illegally exported to Senegal. The Forest Act and Regulations of 1998 prohibits the production of charcoal in any parts of the country but provisions are made for the importation and sale of charcoal in the country. At present charcoal is mainly imported from Guinea-Bissau and Casamance area in Senegal, but illegal charcoal burning still continues in forest areas with little community control, as the government departments do not have the resources to patrol and monitor the forests effectively (charcoal burning has been controlled and is almost non-existent in community forests). In the present circumstances, chopped firewood is the most reliable energy source for majority of Gambian rural population, which makes sustainable utilization and management of firewood supply paramount (a major part of which is destroyed by bushfires every year).

Grazing pressure. Majority of farmers (more than 90%) in Gambia own cattle, sheep and goats. Woodland and savanna resources account for approximately two thirds of livestock feed supplies in the country. There are no restrictions placed on grazing with livestock having open access (exceptions are national parks and some of the community forests, where there are community enforced grazing restrictions). As a result of frequent fires, and selective and intensive grazing by livestock, the herbs and grass layer changes from previously dominant perennials to annuals and the frequency of unpalatable species for livestock increases. These changes in vegetation cover force farmers and livestock owners to move their livestock and graze in other areas thus aggravating and accelerating forest and land degradation processes. Also, a dire shortage of suitable pastures usually occurs from February to June when bushfires are rampant. This is the period when shrubs and tree regeneration is intensively browsed, halting any natural regeneration of the forests.

The main barriers that need to be addressed to overcome some of the problems described are as follows:

Lack of appropriate strategic framework and sectoral coordination for dryland forest management
The threats to dryland forests in Gambia have clear linkages with other sectors (e.g agriculture and livestock), and at present, there is little coordination between the sectors, at all levels, in rehabilitating and managing these forests. At times, the policies developed by different ministries and the programmes implemented at the field level are conflicting and indirectly influence the continuing degradation of dryland forests. The new Forest Policy (2010-2019) provides directions for institutional development and capacity building in the forestry sector, engaging all relevant stakeholders especially at local level, building partnerships and networking, engaging wider range of donors, integrated resource management programming, decentralization of forestry sector, and establishing platforms to advance stategies for integrated land management at local level, and technology generation and transfer at local level. These directions are for general forest management in the country, and do not provide specific strategic direction to the management and rehabilitation of dryland forests of the country, the forests that are under severe stress, and hold the utmost value for combating desertification and local climate change adaptation. It is essential to develop a national dryland forest management and rehabilitation strategy, as a supplement to the Forest Policy, through multi-stakeholder and multisectoral consultations and discussions.

Lack of institutional capacities and technical support to communities
Lack of institutional capacities is at the core of the problem regarding both effective transfer of dryland forests to local communities, and uptake and implementation of sustainable forest management practices.
Despite the introduction of Participatory Forest Management (PFM) some 20 years ago, with the objective to transfer 80% of all the forests to local communities, the state still remains the exclusive manager of the forest, in 54.3% of forest lands. The delay is linked to lack of provision of adequate technical support by forestry department at the local level for communities to take legal ownership of the forests. Communities lack the skills to follow the steps (including the preparation of community forest management agreements and management plans) and satisfy the requirements to obtain legal ownership of the forests. The lack of technical support also extends to implementing SFM practices by local communities in both preliminarily and permanently owned community forests.

Opportunities for more sustainable livelihoods
Another, and in fact, one of the most significant barrier to SFM at the field level is the lack of skills and knowledge in local communities about how they can improve their livelihoods, and at that the same time, conserve the forests upon which they are so reliant. Communities in existing PCFMAs and CFMAs, through community-based micro and small forest enterprises, are involved in productive activities (for example: forest honey and indigenous crafts), with ever growing opportunities to participate in the formal economy (especially tourism). But they do not yet have the capacities in areas like improved harvesting techniques, processing and value-addition, which would turn their enterprises economically viable and provide enough economic incentives to engage in sustainable resource management and forest conservation practices.

Baseline scenario and associated baseline projects

The Government of Gambia through the Department of Forestry, Ministry of Environment and Forestry established a programme on Participatory Forest Management in 1990 (ongoing), with allocated annual budgets. The annual budget for the current year is approximately 300,000 USD; the same is envisaged for the next five years. The objective of the programme is to transfer ownership, management and exclusive user rights to 80% of the forests in Gambia to local communities.

The programme provides support and forestry services to local communities willing to take up ownership of forests, and communities with existing ownership over forests. The support has two facets; 1) supporting the communities to follow and complete legal procedures to obtain ownership over forests 2) supporting the communities in preparing management plans, and technical aspects of forestry and forest management which include establishing and maintaining nurseries, forest regeneration, and sustainably harvesting forest products. The programme, with intermittent support from international donors, has transferred permanent ownership of 8000 ha of forests to local communities, and it has transferred temporary/probationary ownership of 10,000 ha of forests to local communities. Though the programme has some success, it has been limited and hampered by the barriers described above.

The programme also carries out sensitization and awareness raising activities among local communities through its regional forest officers and local extension officers. The sensitization and awareness activities have also been aimed at other sectors (e.g. water, agriculture) at national level. The main tool that has been used for sensitization at national level has been workshops. At community level, the sensitization is through community gatherings headed by local chiefs.

In addition to this programme, the following activities supported by other partners contribute to addressing the main threats to dryland forests in Gambia.

Co-financing sources	Bried Description of Co-funded Baseline Project Activities	Type of co-financing	Amount (USD)
Rural Finance Project, Government of Gambia	The project focuses on: -Strengthening and consolidating microfinance institutions providing support to community enterprises -Training and technical assistance to microfinance institutions providing support to community enterprises -Enhancing access to microfinances and credits to local communities through new and improved financial products -Advisory services to local communities to access the financial products The project provides microfinance and access to credit faciltiies to community based forest enterprises.	Grant	3,700,000
CILSS (Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel)	CILSS work focuses on; -Enhancing institutional capacities for strengthening local level food security and fighting desertification (aimed at both national and local level institutions, and across sectors, viz. forestry, agriculture, fisheries, water, and environment) -Supporting national programmes on combating desertification through provision of financial assistance and facilitation of technical and advisory services Institutional capacity building carried out by CILSS at national and local level, especially in relation to creating increased awareness and knowledge on the role of dryland forests in halting desertifcation would form the base for capacity building to be carried out under the project.	Grant	3,900,000
Agency for the Development of Women and Children (ADWAC)	-Introducing improved cooking stoves at community level -Supporting producers and distributors for the implementation of appropriate promotion and marketing for greater dissemination of improved stoves Under Output 2.3 in Component 2, improved cooking stoves are to be introduced, this would build upon the work being carried out by ADWAC.	In-kind	160,000
Concern Universal	-Improving the role of women entrepreneurs in forest products and enterprises through Self-help Groups -Improving value-addition to forest products -Developing agroforestry systems, integration of nitrogen fixing trees and agricultural crops in lands of smallholders The activities they are carrying out for improving forest product value chains and role of women in the value chains, would compliment the work the proposed project would carry out in improving harvesting and processing techniques and value-addition of forest products. The work related to agroforestry systems Concern is planning to carry out will compliment Outputs 2.2 in Component 2	Grant	1,000,000
NACO	-Provision of training services to the Department of Forestry -Provison of technical support to community forest enterprises (both timber and non-timber based)	In-kind	500,000

	NACO would provide support to the proposed GEF project through availability of its personnel and infrastructure for carrying out the capacity building, training and technical support activities under the project.		
FAO	-Capacity building at insitutional level (Dept. of Forestry staff) for implementing Market Analysis and Development approach for community forest enterprises. The Technical Cooperation Programme will focus on developing capacities at local level for applying MA & D approach in enterprise development. This would contribute to the sustainability of the results of the proposed project, in terms of skills developed in imprved harvesting techniques and value addition.	Grant In-kind	300,000 500,000

The proposed alternative scenario, components and expected outcomes

The project will build on the baseline projects, and address the gaps in institutional and community level capacities for effective dryland forest management. It will expand areas under community forestry, which has been very effective in the Gambia in addressing illegal and unsustainable resource use.

This project will target the following regions; **North Bank, Upper River, Lower River and Central River**. They are the most vulnerable to desertification considering their geographical location in the north of the country, and are the most affected by forest degradation. Also, the previous community forestry initiatives have predominantly focused on the Western Region, with a few efforts in the above mentioned four regions.

Component 1: Strengthening the enabling environment for sustainable dryland forest management

This component will build institutional capacities required for sustainable dryland forest management at national and regional level. Staff of the Department of Forestry, Department of Parks and Wildlife Management, National Agricultural Development Agency, and National Environment Agency will be trained to understand policy issues related to dryland forest management, aiding them in planning and devising effective programmes and plans in their respective domains that take into account concerns related to dryland forest management. This national level training will also feed into the development of the national dryland management and rehabilitation strategy described below. Staff of aforementioned agencies (both at regional and extension level) will be trained in technical issues related to dryland forest management and rehabilitation.

This component will also address the lack of appropriate strategic framework and sectoral coordination for sustainable dryland forest management. The Forest Policy (2010-2019) provides a well defined policy framework for sustainable forest management in the country (taking into account the need to transfer forests to local communities, and generate socio-economic benefits). A supplementary sustainable dryland forest management strategy will be developed through multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder consultations at national and local level. The strategy will take into account challenges and issues in non-forestry sectors that indirectly influence and affect the dryland forests. The strategy will also provide direction and guidance to address the mentioned issues while preparing and implementing programmes on dryland forest management. As part of the endeavor to ensure sectoral coordination at regional level, multi-stakeholder dryland forest management forums will be created to coordinate efforts and ensure synergies on dryland forest management. These forums will be sub-coalitional to the regional SLM platforms established under the Participatory Integrated Watershed Management Project (PIWAMP). The dryland management forums under the platform will ensure issues related to dryland forest management are given due consideration and taken into consideration when planning initiatives in other sectors, and ensure that projects and programmes on dryland forest management take into account activities and discussions carried out under the regional SLM platforms.

Component 2: Community-based sustainable dryland forest management and rehabilitation

Under this component, community forestry ownership will be strengthened. In Gambia the transfer of ownership of forests to communities has three stages a) communities express interest to participate and take over forests, and they are provided with all the required relevant information and support to develop Preliminary Community Forestry Management Agreement (PCFMA) b) communities prepare PCFMA and get it approved, and then progress to prepare their own management plans for the next three years, and implement them c) after three years, communities prepare Community Forest Management Agreement (CFMA) and get it approved (based on their management performance), which legally transfers the ownership of the forests to them. Subsequently they prepare regular management plans through the Community Forestry Committees (each community forest has a committee).

GEF resources will be used to provide technical assistance to;

- 20 new communities (covering 1,000 ha), not involved in any CF activities and presently in start-up phase, advanced to PCFMA
- communities who have already expressed their interest to take ownership of forests, in drafting PCFMAs (covering 3000 ha of forests) and obtaining approval
- communities with PCFMAs, and draft CFMAs covering 5,400 ha of forests (currently 10,000 ha of forests in Gambia have PCFMAs)

Support will be provided for the above communities to prepare their forest management plans, and also to communities with existing CFMAs, that require technical assistance, to develop improved management plans covering 5,300 ha of forests (currently 8,000 ha of forests in Gambia have CFMAs). Support to develop the management plans is linked with and strengthened by the training provided to the Community Forestry Committees (CFCs) in sustainable dryland forest management. Training in dryland forest management and rehabilitation techniques will be provided to 600 CFC members (management and accounting skills will be built through co-financing activities).

GEF resources will also be used to provide technical assistance to implement SFM practices at community level. Agroforestry will be implemented in area covering 500 ha, exact species and systems to be implemented will be clearer at the PPG stage, but predominantly intercropping and borderline planting will be utilized. Agroforestry project activities will be closely linked to bushfire management project activities (using fire resistant species for borderline planting, and using fast growing fruit trees as fire breaks) and forest gardening activities (households located inside the forests and in the forest boundaries will use intercropping techniques for their gardens). Small-scale tree planting and assisted natural regeneration will be supported. As a result forest cover is expected to increase by about 5% (these activities are linked with the implementation of the controlled grazing in community forests). Forestry based fire management techniques will be implemented, protecting 14,700 ha of community forests from bushfire. Fire breaks will be created using fire resistant species, and controlled early burning will be carried out in highly fire prone/risk areas. This component will also assist communities in reducing pressure on dryland forests. This will be achieved through implementing community grazing agreements. These agreements will be developed not just within a community forest, but between different community forests to ensure effective grazing control and reducing leakage. Improved cooking stoves will be introduced at household level (2000 households) to reduce firewood pressure on forests. Existing community-based forest enterprises in the project areas (CFMAs and PCFMAs) will be trained in improved harvesting techniques, primary and secondary processing and further value addition (some of the products targeted would be forest honey, handicrafts made from rhun palm).

Component 3: Project monitoring and evaluation and information dissemination

This component will ensure that the project keeps track of its progress from outputs to outcomes, external evaluations are timely conducted, lessons learned and best practice from the project's implementation are identified and disseminated.

Incremental cost reasoning

Without GEF resources: National efforts and programmes towards managing and rehabilitating dryland forests of Gambia will be taking place unilaterally with limited coordination with other sectors, resulting in ineffective and unsustainable impacts at the local level. The process of handing over dryland forests to local communities will be delayed and the progress will be stunted due to inadequate institutional capacities and support to local communities, in spite of communities expressing strong and continued interest in taking ownership of forests. There will be very poor uptake and implementation of SFM practices, ultimately leading to continued and increased degradation of dryland forests in Gambia.

With GEF resources: Efforts to manage and rehabilitate dryland forests will be more effective through integration with other relevant development and natural resource related programmes and policies. More dryland forests, especially in the areas identified as key to desertification control, will be transferred to effective community ownership. There will be increased uptake of SFM practices leading to improved management and rehabilitation of dryland forests.

Expected global environmental benefits

14,700 ha of dryland forests under sustainable management by communities will lead to a reduction in forest degradation, and forest cover increase by about 5% will lead to full rehabilitation of 735 ha of (5% of 14,700 ha) forests.

Carbon benefits calculation
Carbon stocks in Gambian forests are estimated at 65.75 tC/ha (FAO FRA 2010). A study conducted in Senegal estimates the carbon stock in the dryland forests in the Sudano-Sahelian agroecological zone (the project areas fall under this category) at 60.45 tC/ha[1]. Taking a very conservative estimate of 50 tC/ha, a full re-stocked forest of 735 ha would result in 36,570 tC (735 ha x 50 tC/ha) or 134,873 tCO2eq.

Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up
Community-based forest management is not a new concept in and outside Gambia. In removing important common barriers to CBFM, the project will contribute lessons that can be applied to similar dryland ecosystems throughout Africa. Building institutional and community capacity and involvement of local CSOs will contribute to the sustainability of project results. Given the government's commitment to expand community forestry, and the need for sustainable forest management, the experience can be easily replicated throughout the country.

A.2 Stakeholders

Stakeholders	Roles
Department of Forestry, Ministry of Forestry and the Environment	Main executing partner. Responsible for day to day execution, management, coordination and monitoring of the project
Other relevant departments (Department of Parks and Wildlife Management, National Environment Agency)	Cross-sectoral project partners. Expected to play a significant role in every stage of the project. Also beneficiaries through the institutional capacity building activities undertaken in the project.
FAO	GEF agency. Responsible for providing technical advice and overall management and supervision of implementation
CILSS (Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel)	Co-financing partner
European Union	Co-financing partner
Concern Universal	Co-financing partner
Agency for the Development of Women and Children	Co-financing partner
NACO	Co-financing partner
Local NGOs and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)	Providing support in community mobilization and capacity building. Given their role in community mobilization, local CSOs will be involved as project partners at community level. During project preparation phase, individual CSOs, which are reputable, trusted by local communities, efficient, and located in project sites, will be identified and their involvement in the project will be garnered. Potential of the identified CSOs to act as co-financiers (through in-kind support) for the project will be explored.
Private sector	To be involved and expected to play a key role in introducing improved cooking stoves, and strengthening and developing community enterprises
Local communities	Main project beneficiaries

A.3 Risks

Risk	Rating	Mitigation measures
Reluctance of local population to involve and take ownership of the project activities	Low to Medium	Effectively involve and include community representatives during the project preparation/planning phase. Conduct sensitization activities in the target area of the project by collaborating with local civil society organizations that are capable and enthusiastic
Decrease in project support from the government	Medium	The government has fully backed the development of this concept and all concerned government institutions will be fully involved in project preparation and implementation. The project will also take into consideration the need to achieve some tangible results in the short term to demonstrate the importance of the activities of

[1] Sall, M, Tappan, G, Tieszan, L.L, Toure, A, Woomer, P.L. '*Land use change and terrestrial carbon stocks in Senegal*' Journal of Arid Environments 59 (2004) 625- 642

		the project.
Project activities and progress happens in a compartmentalized fashion with little coordination and integration with other departments (National Environment Agency, Department of Parks and Wildlife Management, and Department of State for Agriculture)	Medium	The project will build on multi-sectoral coordination mechanisms that exist (e.g. Sustainable Land Management coalitions), and establish multi-sectoral dryland forest management forums to ensure effective coordination between sectors and government departments. Consultations have been held with all the relevant government department in preparing the PIF, and this process will continue throughout PPG and project implementation.
Climate change leading to productivity changes in forestry and agroforestry	Unknown	Plant and tree species used for restoration and agroforestry will be selected so that they are resilient to the most likely impacts of climate change (e.g. drought, outbreaks of pests and diseases, etc.)

A.4 Coordination with other relevant GEF financed and other initiatives.

Two key projects that the proposed project will build upon are GEF-financed Participatory Integrated Watershed Management Project (PIWAMP) and Regional Project on Sustainable Management of Endemic Ruminant Livestock in West Africa (PROGEBE). As explained under section B.2, the regional multi-stakeholder dryland forest management forums to be created as part of Project Component 1, will be under the regional Sustainable Land Management platforms created by the PIWAMP project. And this project will build on the capacity building activities for SLM carried out under PIWAMP at both field and institutional level. Activities under PROGEBE project also include institutional capacity building and implementation of sustainable natural resources management, which includes development of local conventions for management of communal resources and bushfire management.

Peace Corps in Gambia implement community level programmes through their volunteers on creating tree nurseries for forest rehabilitation, sustainable extraction of Non-Timber Forest Products and establishing forest gardens. The proposed project will coordinate with these activities at the community level. Another focus for co-ordination would be the many small projects (often supported by NGOs) that have worked on dryland forest management. This project will evaluate and assess what has or hasn't worked on these projects and build on these lessons learnt at community level to enhance and improve the effectiveness of the proposed activities. Ad-hoc consultations and local workshops are likely to be the main vehicle for collaboration, along with participation of stakeholders from some of these projects in project workshops and steering committee meetings. Some of these NGOs will also be approached, during PPG, to act as co-financiers for the project.

Other international organizations (NGOs, bilateral and multilateral) with initiatives relevant to this project will be approached during PPG to collaborate with the project as co-financiers. Agencies that cannot co-finance the project will still be invited to attend steering committee meetings (as observers) and to implement joint activities such as training events, workshops and information exchanges, where their activities are complementary to those of the project.

B. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:

B.1 National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under the relevant conventions

Alignment with NPFE

The project is aligned with the Natural Resources Management program, and the projects under the program, viz. 'Promote Community Forestry Management ','Promote Public-Private Partnership in the Management of Protected Areas', and 'Pilot Agroforestry Systems', ' identified in the National Portfolio Formulation Document (NPFD) submitted in July 2011.

Alignment with NAP

The project is aligned with the National Action Programme to Combat Desertification (NAP) and the priorities identified through the sector specific studies conducted as part of the development of NAP. The project is in line with the following key desertification control priorities identified under the forestry sector; to reduce forest fires through sensitization, strengthening the capacity of CBOs, establishment of fire breaks, and providing firefighting equipment; to introduce controlled/sustainable forest management practices by involving and empowering local communities and the private sector; to promote on-farm tree planting/agro-

forestry/composting systems in order to maintain soil fertility; to increase people's awareness on environmental issues, desertification processes, and the importance of trees and forests for sustainable development.

Alignment with other Strategies, Plans and Reports
The project strategy and proposed outputs are consistent with national development priorities, and have close institutional links and complementarities with the primary national development strategies and plans including:

- Strategy for Poverty Alleviation (SPA) which sets out the poverty reduction strategy to be adopted in the country. It recognizes the links between natural resource degradation and poverty, and the need for sustainable management of natural resources
- Gambia Environmental Action Plan (GEAP) which was adopted to address pressing environmental problems. It provides the long term vision and direction for sustainable development balancing economic growth with effective environmental and natural resource management
- Gambia Forest Management Concept (GFMC), which lays out a roadmap for sustainable and cost effective management of the forest resources and National Forestry Action Plan (NFAP) which provides the institutional and regulatory frameworks for the implementation of GFMC

B.2 GEF focal area strategies, eligibility criteria and priorities including Aichi Target(s).

Land degradation:

The project is consistent with LD objective 2 'Generate sustainable flows of forest ecosystem services in drylands, including sustaining livelihoods of forest dependent people'; as it will take actions for enhancing the enabling environment within the forest sector, and sustainable management and rehabilitation of dryland forests in Gambia ensuring sustainable flows of ecosystem services from these forests.

B.3 The GEF Agency's comparative advantage for implementing the project

The mandate of the Forestry Department (FO) of FAO is to support member countries to implement sustainable forest management by providing policy advice, technical knowledge and reliable information while ensuring that forests and trees contribute to sustainable livelihoods.

FAO has already played a pivotal role in the development and implementation of Gambia's Community Forest Policy through its National Forest Programme and the development of community based forest enterprises in Gambia. Market Analysis and Development approach has been introduced and mainstreamed as an approach for SFM in the Forestry Department as well in the Forest school as it focuses on the sustainability of the Community Forest concept, giving local communities concrete benefits, alongside conserving their natural resources. Recently FAO assisted the country in conducting a National Forest Assessment and is also involved in implementing the Great Green Wall initiative in the country. FAO through its Regional office for Africa has recently published new guidelines for institutionalizing community-based forest management in sub-Saharan Africa.

FAO has a fully fledged representation in Gambia, and the in-country programme personnel have substantial experience in implementing forestry projects and activities. In addition to the operational and technical support provided by the country office, FAO sub-regional office and regional office (both located in Accra, Ghana) through the respective Forestry Officers would provide technical backstopping whenever required.

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

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

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE
Mrs. Ndey Sireng BAKURIN[2]	Executive Director and GEF Focal Point	National Environment Agency	August 12, 2013

[2] The PIF was endorsed in March 2013. The new endorsement letter reflects a change in the allocated LD amount.

B. GEF AGENCY CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF policies and procedures and meets the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF criteria for project identification and preparation.			
Agency Coordinator	**Signature**	**Date**	**Project Contact Person**
Gustavo Merino Director Investment Centre Division Technical Cooperation Department FAO Viale delle Terme di Caracalla (00153) Rome, Italy TCI-Director@fao.org Barbara Cooney FAO GEF Coordinator Email: Barbara.Cooney@fao.org Tel: +3906 5705 5478		13 August, 2013	Fred Kafeero, FAO Forestry Department, Rome. +39 06 570 54688 fred.kafeero@fao.org