



# REQUEST FOR CEO ENDORSEMENT<sup>1</sup>

PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Project

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF Trust Fund

## PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Badia Ecosystem and Livelihoods Project (BEP)			
Country(ies):	Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	GEF Project ID: <sup>2</sup>	5026
GEF Agency(ies):	WB (select) (select)	GEF Agency Project ID:	P127861
Other Executing Partner(s):	National Center for Agricultural Research and Extension (NCARE)	Submission Date:	2012-06-14
GEF Focal Area (s):	Multifocal Area	Project Duration(Months)	48
Name of Parent Program (if applicable): For SFM/REDD+ <input type="checkbox"/>	MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA - DESERT ECOSYSTEMS AND LIVELIHOODS PROGRAM	Agency Fee (\$):	266,445

### A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK<sup>3</sup>

Focal Area Objectives	Expected FA Outcomes	Expected FA Outputs	Trust Fund	Grant Amount (\$)	Cofinancing (\$)
(select) BD-2	Increase in sustainably managed landscapes and seascapes that integrate biodiversity conservation	National and sub-national land-use plans (number) that incorporate biodiversity and ecosystem services valuation:	GEF TF	1,607,312	1,845,000
(select) LD-1	Sustained flow of services in agro-ecosystems	Suitable SLM/WM interventions to increase vegetative cover in agro-ecosystems	GEF TF	1,565,243	7,823,975
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)			(select)		
(select) (select)	Others		(select)		
Subtotal				3,172,555	9,668,975
Project management cost <sup>4</sup>			GEF TF	158,000	1679025
Total project costs				3,330,555	11,348,000

### B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

<sup>1</sup> It is important to consult the GEF Preparation Guidelines when completing this template

<sup>2</sup> Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC.

<sup>3</sup> Refer to the Focal Area/LDCF/SCCF Results Framework when filling up the table in item A.

<sup>4</sup> GEF will finance management cost that is solely linked to GEF financing of the project. PMC should be charged proportionately to focal areas based on focal area project grant amount.

<b>Project Objective: Support sustainable livelihoods and enhance ecosystem services through participatory approaches in selected areas of the Jordan Badia</b>						
<b>Project Component</b>	<b>Grant Type</b>	<b>Expected Outcomes</b>	<b>Expected Outputs</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>Grant Amount (\$)</b>	<b>Confirmed Cofinancing (\$)</b>
<p>Community-Centered Ecotourism in the Northern Badia</p> <p>(all component's financing and co-financing linked to the BD Focal Area)</p>	TA	<p>Increase in sustainably managed landscapes that integrate biodiversity conservation into ecotourism development plan (6,500 ha directly and 3,400 ha indirectly)</p> <p>Badia biodiversity and ecosystem services are valued through new ecotourism-related income going to communities along the Al Azraq/Shaumari-Burqu' corridor (target: US\$570,000 by end of Year 4)</p>	<p>250 km ecotourism corridor from Al Azraq and Shaumari reserves to Burqu' in the Northern Badia</p> <p>115 stakeholders from Ar Ruwaished sub-district and nearby communities trained on ecotourism services</p>	GEF TF	1,470,750	845,000
<p>Livelihoods Support through Adapted Rangeland Management in the Southern Badia</p> <p>(all component's financing and co-financing linked to the LD Focal Area)</p>	TA	<p>Increased availability of water for animal drinking and fodder production</p> <p>Increased vegetation cover in two rangeland reserves (3000 ha total)</p> <p>3000 ha of rangelands managed by communities in a biodiversity-friendly manner</p> <p>Alternative livelihoods for communities (1000 men, women and youth)</p>	<p>Two improved hafirs (water harvesting systems) with capacity of 50000-100000 m3 each</p> <p>Two community-managed non-fenced rangeland reserves (total area = 3000 ha)</p> <p>Capacity building, training, technical assistance and small equipment needed for alternative livelihoods for cooperatives' members</p>	GEF TF	1,428,681	7,653,975
<p>Project Management &amp; M&amp;E</p> <p>(\$136,562 of financing and</p>	TA	Shared knowledge	Feeding of project data and information of relevance to an existing website	GEF TF	273,124	1,170,000

\$1,000,000 of co financing linked to the BD Focal Area; additional \$136,562 of financing and 170,000 of co-financing are linked to the LD Focal Area. Below project management financing and co-financing are linked to the BD and LD Focal Areas as follows:  \$79,000 of financing and \$800,000 of co-financing linked to BD; \$79,000 of financing and \$879,025 linked to LD)		Monitoring and Evaluation of project progress	Operational M&E system			
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
	(select)			(select)		
Subtotal					3,172,555	9,668,975
Project management Cost <sup>5</sup>				GEF TF	158,000	1,679,025
<b>Total project costs</b>					3330555	11348000

### C. SOURCES OF CONFIRMED COFINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE AND BY NAME (\$)

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier (source)	Type of Cofinancing	Cofinancing Amount (\$)
National Government	Government of Jordan	In-kind	10,208,000
National Government	Government of Jordan	Grant	140,000
Bilateral Aid Agency (ies)	USAID	In-Kind	500,000
Other Multilateral Agency (ies)	FAO	In-Kind	500,000
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
(select)		(select)	
<b>Total Co-financing</b>			11,348,000

<sup>5</sup> Same as footnote #4.

**D. GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY<sup>1</sup>**

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal Area	Country Name/ Global	(in \$)		
				Grant Amount (a)	Agency Fee (b) <sup>2</sup>	Total c=a+b
World Bank	GEF TF	Biodiversity	Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	1,500,000	120,000	1,620,000
World Bank	GEF TF	Land Degradation	Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	1,324,074	105,926	1,430,000
World Bank	GEF TF	Climate Change	Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	506,481	40,519	547,000
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
(select)	(select)	(select)				0
<b>Total Grant Resources</b>				3,330,555	266,445	3,597,000

**E. CONSULTANTS WORKING FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPONENTS:**

Component	Estimated Person Weeks	Grant Amount (\$)	Cofinancing (\$)	Project Total (\$)
Local consultants*	640	1,758,800	763,869	2,522,669
International consultants*				0
<b>Total</b>		1,758,800	763,869	2,522,669

\* Details to be provided in Annex C.

**F. PROJECT MANAGEMENT COST**

Cost Items	Total Estimated Person Weeks/Months	Grant Amount (\$)	Co-financing (\$)	Project Total (\$)
Local consultants*	32.00	40,000	500,000	540,000
International consultants*				0
Office facilities, equipment, vehicles and communications*		59,000	750,000	809,000
Travel*		59,000	429,025	488,025
Others**	Specify "Others" (1)			0
	Specify "Others" (2)			0
<b>Total</b>		158,000	1,679,025	1,837,025

\* Details to be provided in Annex C.

\*\* For others, to be clearly specified by overwriting fields \*(1) and \*(2).

**G. DOES THE PROJECT INCLUDE A “NON-GRANT” INSTRUMENT? No**

(If non-grant instruments are used, provide in Annex E an indicative calendar of expected reflows to your Agency and to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF Trust Fund).

**H. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M & E PLAN:**

The Project Management Unit (PMU) and the appointed M&E Specialist in particular will operate a project M&E system which will be developed and specified in the Project Implementation Manual (PIM) by Board approval on the basis of the agreed Project Development Objective (PDO), outcomes, outputs, indicators and targets. The system will facilitate the monitoring of implementation progress and allow effective evaluation of project success in achieving its PDO with input coming from the project executing entities, namely the National Center for Agricultural Research and Extension (NCARE, the Implementing Agency), the Royal Society for Conservation of Nature (RSCN) and the Hashemite Fund for the Development of the Jordan Badia (HFDJB). In this respect, the M&E system will act as a management tool by enabling the PMU, the project Steering Committee (SC) and the World Bank to assess project effectiveness during implementation and improve project performance in a targeted manner. Reporting on Focal Area performance to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) will be carried out using the Biodiversity Tracking Tool and the Land Degradation Portfolio Monitoring and Tracking Tool (PMAT). The relevant Biodiversity Focal Area indicator (area of landscape where the project will directly and indirectly contribute to biodiversity conservation or sustainable use of its components) will be reported on at GEF CEO Endorsement, mid-term and project completion while the Land Degradation Focal Area indicator (increased vegetation cover) will be reported on annually as per GEF requirement. The Tracking Tools will be updated annually and feed into the Annual Performance Report submitted to the GEF. In addition, progress reports will be shared with the MENA-DELP Regional Knowledge Project for evaluation of overall program performance.

In addition to reporting, M&E tasks will include:

- i. Assisting the executing entities to update and execute baseline studies and scientific surveys needed to evaluate performance;
- ii. Ensuring timely preparation of financial reports and audits;
- iii. Monitoring and evaluating compliance with agreed World Bank safeguard instruments for environmental and social protection;
- iv. Evaluating rating of identified risks, the effectiveness of identified risk mitigation measures, new risks and corresponding mitigation measures;
- v. Feeding data and information from the BELP to the HFDJB website as a mechanism for national, regional and global knowledge sharing.

Budget has been allocated from the GEF Grant to the M&E plan as follows: (i) a part-time M&E Specialist at US\$800/month for a period of 4 years under Component 3, and (ii) social baseline surveys to be conducted by RSCN and HFDJB under components 1 and 2, respectively (US\$61,000 total). Co-financing for M&E will be provided in the form of (i) existing social and environmental baseline studies for the area of intervention under Component 1 funded by the United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC)-funded Badia Restoration Program (BRP) (US\$1 million total), and (ii) staff weeks, equipment and software provided by NCARE, RSCN and HFDJB for conducting baseline surveys and field evaluations of performance (valued at US\$170,000) under components 1 and 2. In summary, total GEF investment in M&E is US\$99,400 and total co-financing is US\$1,170,000.

**PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION**

**A. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:**

**A.1.1. The GEF focal area/LDCF/SCCF strategies/NPIF Initiative:**

The Jordan Badia is a desert ecosystem which spans across 80 percent of the country's area; the Badia is administratively divided into northern, middle and southern parts, constituting 36 percent, 14 percent and 50 percent of the area, respectively.

The Badia Ecosystem and Livelihoods Project (BELP) is designed to enhance the sustainability of the Badia ecosystem as a whole and its communities' livelihoods by capitalizing on the Badia's natural and cultural assets where they are most prevalent. In the northern Badia, where biodiversity and cultural attractions are significant, the project intends to invest in ecotourism as an instrument for channeling important resources to biodiversity conservation in three reserves and their surrounding landscape and to people's livelihoods using RSCN's existing successful experiences with other protected areas in the country (e.g. Dana Biosphere Reserve). As such, RSCN will develop innovative income generating programs that build on locally available skills and on the tourism potential of each protected area.; in the southern Badia, where many people raise livestock and the potential for rangeland rehabilitation is strong, the project will invest in water harvesting infrastructure, rangeland reserves and diversification of people's livelihoods, all of which are expected to significantly reduce land degradation.

The Project contributes to the BD-2 objective, in particular the "increase in sustainably managed landscapes and seascapes that integrate biodiversity conservation" outcome. Indeed, the proposed project, through its Component 1, will complement baseline investments made by the Government of Jordan (through RSCN) in its protected areas located in the Badia, namely the existing Al Azraq and Shaumari reserves and the future Burqu' reserve, by catalyzing the mainstreaming of the sustainable use of biodiversity in the ecotourism production sector through the creation of an ecotourism corridor and corresponding activities in the Badia landscape between the Al Azraq/Shaumari and Burqu' reserves. This will ensure that biodiversity is more sustainably used and valued in this productive landscape outside of the reserves, which is currently severely degraded and has some of the highest poverty incidences in the country. A land use plan for desert ecotourism will be developed (an Ecotourism Development Plan (ETDP), spelling out how ecotourism can harness the sustainable use of desert ecosystem services, with benefits to biodiversity conservation and community livelihoods. The ETDP will be developed on the basis of baseline ecological and socio-economic surveys for the proposed tourism area, spatial information and a zoning plan.

Since this is the first time an ETDP is created for a desert ecosystem in Jordan, and since the Badia represents 80 percent of Jordan's total area, it is expected that the ETDP will have a multiplying effect and a very strong impact on the maintenance and sustainable use of desert ecosystem services in the country as a whole. The ETDP will thus prove to be an important and timely instrument that will influence decision making on the sustainable management of the Badia, by incorporating biodiversity and ecosystem valuation. The integration of ecotourism development within land use planning in the broader landscape, as supported by the project, can help create local community support for nature and biodiversity conservation, while providing alternatives to hunting, overgrazing, or other activities which continue to pose threats to wildlife habitats. The project will also result in ecosystem service valuation as the revenue generated from the corridor will serve as an indication of the enhanced value placed on the ecosystem services of the Badia through ecotourism activities. This approach can be subsequently replicated in other areas of the Badia.

The BELP also contributes to Land Degradation Objective 1 "Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem services sustaining the livelihoods of local communities" Outcome 1.3 "Sustained flow of services in agro-ecosystems" by establishing two open-fenced rangeland reserves in a total area of 3,000 hectares for the benefit of poor herding communities in two poverty pockets in the southern Badia. Project interventions in the south are expected to result in increase in vegetation cover and biomass across the 3,000 hectares with the direct engagement of beneficiary local communities in the maintenance and management of the reserves. The project will also invest GEF resources in the construction of water harvesting structures (*hafirs*) which will provide highly needed water to poor herding communities for the purpose of livestock watering and fodder production.

A.1.2. For projects funded from LDCF/SCCF: the LDCF/SCCF eligibility criteria and priorities:

N/A

A.1.3 For projects funded from NPIF, relevant eligibility criteria and priorities of the Fund:

N/A

A.2. National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions, if applicable, i.e. NAPAS, NAPs, NBSAPs, national communications, TNAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, etc.:

The project is closely linked to the Government of Jordan's vision for the Badia which looks to reduce poverty and unemployment, and improve the living conditions of Badia communities; and to the National Poverty Reduction Strategy (2002), which look to increase employment opportunities in rural areas and secondary towns.

The BELP is consistent with the National Rangeland Strategy (2001), which looks to foster sustainable rangeland management through participatory planning processes, information and environmental awareness. Among other issues, enhancing biomass and vegetation cover and protection of biodiversity are stressed. Importantly, the concept of community-based rangeland reserves is introduced. In order to support the livelihoods of local communities, the BELP will promote a people-centered sustainable natural resource base development approach, thereby improving the range and fodder production services in the southern Badia target areas.

The BELP is also consistent with the 2011-2015 National Tourism Strategy (NTS), which looks to position Jordan as a high quality destination and raise industry competitiveness to the level required to underpin long-term sustainable growth. Ecotourism is one of 12 promising market segments identified by the NTS. The BELP will seek to further realize Jordan's high tourism potential by expanding existing ecotourism centers into the northeast Badia, where attractive landscapes, biodiversity and archeological sites are available.

Rangeland rehabilitation activities in the southern Badia will follow Jordan's 2003 National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and its key themes of sustainable use of biological resources, promotion of integrated land use planning and water resources development within the existing land tenure system. The NBSAP's objectives for conservation of rangelands biodiversity will be kept and monitored during the implementation of rangeland management activities, namely: i) monitoring the status and trends of rangeland resources, (ii) reducing degradation, (iii) improving quality and production of vegetation cover, and (iv) respecting the carrying capacity of the ecosystem.

The project is also highly relevant to Jordan's 2005 National Strategy and Action Plan (NAP) to Combat Desertification and its overall objective to provide programs and resources targeting local communities and environmental components in areas under the threat of desertification. In specific, Components 1 and 2 provide the needed resources to a key investment prescribed by the NAP, namely "Community Based Rangeland Rehabilitation" with the identified activities being both ecotourism and restoration of degraded rangelands.

The project also responds to a number of other key national policies namely:

National Agenda 21 (2000), which prioritizes the increase in productivity and improved sustainable management of rangelands;

National Strategy for Agricultural Development 2000-2010 (2002) and its emphasis on rainfed agriculture as well as sustainable livestock and rangeland management;

National Agenda (2005) and the Executive Development Plan (EDP 2011-2013), which are key strategic documents for the Government and include clear references to poverty reduction;

National Strategy for Women (2006) and its emphasis on women's economic empowerment; and

Jordan's Water Strategy 2008-2022 (Water for Life, 2008), in particular the goal to maximize the use of rainwater harvesting for irrigation.

## **B. PROJECT OVERVIEW:**

B.1. Describe the baseline project and the problem that it seeks to address:

The Jordan Badia extends east of the western mountain series aligned to the east of the Jordan Valley, and is located on elevations between 700 and 1,100 meters above sea level. The Badia receives an annual rainfall of 50 to 200 mm and has general characteristics of seasonal contrasts in temperature with high variations in rainfall within and among years; despite the low average rainfall, the Badia's biodiversity is significant, especially in its northern part, due to its differentiated land types. The Badia is a source of livelihood for about 240,000 people, including nomadic, semi-nomadic and settled communities, many of whom depend on raising livestock for a living. Both the northern and southern Badia are regarded as some of the most impoverished areas in Jordan, with poverty prevalence averaging at 45 percent in both parts. Poverty is largely attributed to a relatively large family size,

scattered settlement patterns, high rate of illiteracy and limited income sources. Overgrazing, extensive woodcutting and intensive agricultural practices in large parts of the Badia have posed a major threat to its biodiversity and land productivity, which in turn have further strained people's livelihoods.

Tied to the GEF Biodiversity and Land Degradation strategies, the BERP seeks to address insufficient biodiversity conservation, land degradation and communities' strained livelihoods through a dual approach of ecotourism development in the northern Badia and rangeland management and livelihoods in the southern Badia; both are expected to equally contribute to the achievement of the project objective:

Baseline for the Northern Badia: High poverty and unemployment rates and insufficient integration of sustainable biodiversity use in production landscapes between natural reserves

The Jordan Badia encompasses five major landscapes/ecosystems including: gravel *hammada*, steppe community, runoff *hammada* (*wadis*), *marabs* (*wadi* beds), and sandy *hammada*. The following is a description of the main damaged landscapes/ecosystems in the Jordan Badia (source: MOE, Remediation and Restoration Projects regarding the Terrestrial Ecosystems in Jordan, 2008):

Ecosystem/Landscape	General Characteristics	Type of Disturbance
1. Gravel <i>hammada</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The largest and flattest part in Jordan</li> <li>- Vegetation is dominated by low shrubs (<i>Seidlitzia rosmarinus</i>) with annual herbs and succulent plants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Uncontrolled grazing</li> <li>-Irrigated farming</li> </ul>
2. Steppe ( <i>Salsola-Artemisia</i> association)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The steppe is characterized by short grasses and dwarf shrubs and considered important grazing areas for sheep and goats in Jordan</li> <li>- The biodiversity of the steppe is threatened by encroachment of rainfed farming and urbanization</li> <li>- It represents the natural habitat for <i>Salsola vermiculata</i>, an indigenous and highly palatable plant for grazing animal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Uncontrolled grazing</li> <li>-Rainfed and irrigated farming</li> <li>-Collection of wood fuel</li> <li>-Urbanization</li> </ul>
3. Runoff <i>hammada</i> ( <i>wadis</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Vegetation is confined to depressions or <i>wadis</i> where eroded soils and washed seeds are accumulated which results in a dense and rich vegetation.</li> <li>- <i>Wadis</i> can serve both conservation of biodiversity and focal areas for seed collection of targeted plant species</li> <li>- The wadies have good recovery potential</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Uncontrolled grazing</li> <li>-Rainfed and irrigated farming</li> <li>-Collection of wood fuel</li> </ul>
4. <i>Marabs</i> ( <i>wadi</i> beds)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Occupying an area of 0.2 million ha with gentle sloping</li> <li>- The most diverse and productive locations in the Badia that used to be the traditional wintering refuges for grazing animals</li> <li>- Rainfed farming (wheat and barley) is the dominant land use, which threatens the diversity of native vegetation</li> <li>- Highest potential for recovery because of good soil properties and frequent floods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Uncontrolled grazing</li> <li>-Rainfed farming</li> <li>-Collection of wood fuel</li> </ul>
5. Sandy <i>hammada</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Located along the borders with Iraq and Saudi Arabia, it occupies Al-Wisad area and some parts of Shaumari</li> <li>- The soils are sandy and dominated by grassy vegetation; it is a unique ecosystem which harbors the transferred propagules of diverse plant species</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Uncontrolled grazing</li> </ul>

The dominant vegetation in the Jordan Badia is *hammada* (low shrubs and a mix of annual and perennial



herbaceous plants), which is divided into four sub-divisions: gravel hammada, runoff hammada (wadis and depressions), pebble hammada (harrah), and sandy hammada. Below is a summary of dominant vegetation of *hammada* sub-divisions in the Jordan Badia (source: MOE, Remediation and Restoration Projects regarding the Terrestrial Ecosystems in Jordan, 2008):

<b>Hammada Division</b>	<b>Sub-Division</b>	<b>Dominant Vegetation</b>
Runoff hammada		<i>Retama raetam</i> , <i>Atriplex halimus</i> , <i>Lycium europaeum</i> , <i>Artemisia herba-alba</i> , <i>Achillea fragrantissima</i> , <i>Phlomis brachyodon</i> , <i>Tamarix</i> spp. <i>Peganum harmala</i> , <i>Astragalus</i> spp. <i>Anabasis articulata</i> , <i>Atractylis mutica</i> , <i>Gynandrisis sisyrinchium</i>
Gravel hammada		<i>Seidlitzia rosmarinus</i> , <i>Spergularia diandra</i> , <i>Herniaria hirsuta</i> , <i>Aaronsohnia factorovskyi</i> , <i>Anthemis deserti</i> , <i>Asteriscus pygmaeus</i> , <i>Mesembryanthemum nodiflorum</i> , <i>Filago desertorum</i> , <i>Gymnarrhena micrantha</i> , <i>Stipa capensis</i> , <i>Bromas</i> spp., <i>Trigonella stellata</i>
Pebble hammada (harrah)		<i>Salsola vermiculata</i> , <i>Anabasis articulate</i> , <i>Linum album</i> , <i>Thymus bovei</i> , <i>Paracaryum rugulosum</i> , <i>Hammada eigii</i> , <i>Zilla spinosa</i> , <i>Halogeton alopecuroides</i> , <i>Diplotaxis harra</i> , <i>Achillea fragrantissima</i> , <i>Euphorbia retusa</i> , <i>Alcea chrysantha</i> , <i>Atriplex leucoclada</i> , <i>Lepidium aucheri</i>
Sandy hammada		<i>Seidlitzia rosmarinus</i> , <i>Atriplex</i> spp., <i>Artemisia herba-alba</i> , <i>Anabasis articulata</i> , <i>Acillea fragrantissima</i> , <i>Halocnemum strobilaceum</i> , <i>Capparis leucophylla</i> , <i>Ephedra transitoria</i> , <i>Deverra triradiana</i> , <i>Calligonum tetrapterum</i> , <i>Zilla spinosa</i>

The northern Badia's biodiversity is of particular global importance; its value resides in its differentiated ecosystems, geological uniqueness and diversity, high flora and fauna diversity (94 species belonging to 25 families) and archeological attractions, which make it a highly attractive ecotourism destination. Fauna diversity includes migratory bird species such as raptors, waders and other wetland birds. Threatened bird species include the Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca* (vulnerable), Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus* (near-threatened), Saker Falcon *Falco cherrug* (endangered) and Houbara Bustard *Chlamydotis undulata* (vulnerable). The area is also visited by gazelles, hyenas, wolves and foxes. The most important threatened and rare mammals recorded are the Sand Cat *Felix margarita* and Goitered Gazelle *Gazella subgutturosa*, which are globally threatened species according to the World Conservation Union (IUCN).

RSCN is the entity mandate to conserve Jordan's biodiversity, with the establishment of PAs being one of the main tools to achieve this. In the Badia, RSCN established the Azraq Wetland Reserve and Shaumari Wildlife Reserve. In addition to PAs, several grazing reserves in the eastern Badia of Jordan and 27 Important Bird Areas (IBAs) are established. At present, RSCN is working on establishing other high priority sites, including Burqu' in the northeast Badia.

The northern Badia is also home to some of the poorest communities in the country; Ar Ruwaished sub-district, one of three poverty pockets which are expected to benefit from the BELP, suffers from a poverty rate of 65 percent, the second highest in the country after Wadi Araba, and a 25 percent unemployment rate compared to a national rate of 12.9 percent. Those employed earn their livelihood from raising livestock, Government and military jobs. Therefore, it is crucial to tap into the area's high ecotourism potential by expanding tourism centers into the northeast Badia as a means to enhance local development benefits on the one hand, and create a source of funding for biodiversity conservation on the other hand.

In recent years tourism has been Jordan's largest export sector, accounting for about 12.5 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Ecotourism in Jordan is considered one of the main pillars of the tourism sector due to the Kingdom's diverse natural landscapes and sceneries, which constitute unique tourist destinations. Around 975,000 tourists visited the Petra National Park in 2010, while 500,000 visited the country's seven nature reserves last year (Dana, Mujib, Ajloun, Dibein, Al Azraq, Shaumari and Yarmouk). The GEF, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and other donors have worked with RSCN to implement a community-based

approach to achieve PA management and poverty reduction in ecotourism projects in Jordan. Tourism services and natural product-based craft enterprises are already established in Dana, Al Azraq and Mujib, with more than 3,000 residents receiving direct or indirect benefits as a result. By exclusively hiring locals to provide services and goods, alternatives income sources are offered and livelihoods are improved.

Importantly, many of Jordan's most significant cultural and historic assets are located in secondary cities, which prevents the country from fully realizing its ecotourism potential and the contribution it could make to biodiversity conservation and economic and social development. An area with significant untapped ecotourism potential is the northern Badia, a unique desert ecosystem farther inland from the western highlands

Baseline investments in the northern Badia include two key programs which aim to alleviate poverty and restore ecosystem services: (i) the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC)-funded Enhanced Productivity Program (EPP), which provides funding for small productive projects, health education for women and basic community services (total: US\$900,000); and (ii) the Ministry of Environment (MOE)-managed Badia Restoration Program (BRP), which funds extensive environmental and socioeconomic baseline studies in the northern Badia (total: US\$1,000,000). In addition, USAID's Second Tourism Development Project has been supporting the improvement of Jordan's competitiveness as an international tourism destination, including the upgrading of the Shaumari reserve's safari program (total: US\$500,000); USAID is also co-financing (together with the Ministry of Labor) the Ajloun Ecotourism and Ranger Training Academy, which under the management of RSCN will train local rangers and tourism guides.

#### Baseline for the Southern Badia: Rangeland degradation and limited livelihood options

Livestock population in Jordan has almost halved during the last twenty years, primarily due to the overall degradation of rangelands, the lifting of feed subsidies in the 1990s and the hike in feed prices since 2007. The southern Badia rangelands have suffered from droughts, declining carrying capacity and excessive uprooting of available green matter (grass and bushes). Consequently, there has been a change in the length of the grazing seasons as well as the floristic composition of the rangelands, and a decline in volume and frequency of plants such as *Anabasis articulata*, *Anabasis syriaca*, *Hammada eigii*, *Halothamnus acutifolius*, *Salsola inermis*, *Gymnarrhena micrantha*, *Herniaria hirsuta*, *Poa bulbosa* and *Crocus cancellatus subsp. Haussknechtii*.

Fodder productivity in the Badia has decreased from 80 kg Dry Matter (DM)/ha in 1990 to 40 kg DM/ha in 2006, resulting in an annual loss of about 18,000 tons of forage (barley equivalent) and US\$6.0 million (according to current prices). Feeding from grazing currently stands at 10 percent against previous levels of 25-30 percent, forcing livestock owners to spend more of their limited income on purchased feed; water is being fetched and truck-transported to herds from far distances at a high cost (from 14 and up to 28 US\$/m<sup>3</sup>). These high production costs have negatively affected the already impoverished livelihood of the southern Badia communities.

Al Husseinieh and Al Jafr sub-districts are the two southern poverty pockets where the project will be implemented. Communities in the sub-districts have suffered from an unemployment rate of 26 percent and a poverty rate of 30 percent on average. Communities currently have very limited employment options, mainly Government and military jobs, small businesses and animal breeding, while agriculture has been largely abandoned due to recent droughts and land degradation.

It has been widely acknowledged that in order to support herding communities' livelihoods it is necessary to protect the Badia rangelands by allowing regeneration of the vegetation cover, reducing the stocking rate and specifying the grazing season. Since the 1940s, the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) has pursued rangeland rehabilitation through different techniques, including the establishment of rangeland reserves. MOA has established 29 reserves totalling some 85,000 hectares across the Badia, with interventions confined to plant protection, water harvesting, re-planting/re-seeding and grazing control. This 'traditional' approach to rangeland reserves has proven costly, difficult to implement and at times controversial: the lack of involvement of local pastoral communities has been a serious obstacle hindering effective land management. Since 2001 MOA has been advocating participatory

methodologies in planning and executing range development and management, and the removal of reserves' border fences. This approach has begun showing some positive results. It is also crucial to offer communities support for alternative livelihoods activities, which are currently very limited, with special focus on the most vulnerable groups, namely women and youth.

Baseline investments in the southern Badia include an FAO project on Coping with Water Scarcity, which is expected to strengthen southern communities' capacities for coping with water scarcity (US\$500,000); the Ministry of Water (MOWI) and MOA-managed investments in water harvesting and macro catchment infrastructure (total: US\$5,800,000); and MOPIC/EPP-funded poverty alleviation activities, such as vocational training and infrastructure and equipment for small businesses (total: US\$1,800,000).

B. 2. incremental /Additional cost reasoning: describe the incremental (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or additional (LDCF/SCCF) activities requested for GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF financing and the associated global environmental benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or associated adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF) to be delivered by the project:

The project will focus on three poverty pockets in the northern and southern Badia. In the north, BD resources will be utilized to catalyze the mainstreaming of the sustainable use of biodiversity in the ecotourism production sector through the creation of an ecotourism corridor and corresponding activities in the Badia landscape between the Al Azraq/Shaumari and Burqu' reserves, which could subsequently be translated elsewhere in the entire Badia ecosystem, which covers 80% of the country; in the south, LD resources will be targeted at increasing vegetation cover and biomass across the 3,000 hectares with the direct engagement of beneficiary local communities in the maintenance and management of rangeland reserves and newly constructed water harvesting structures.

#### Component 1: Community-Centered Ecotourism in the Northern Badia

Ecotourism in Jordan is considered one of the main pillars of the tourism sector due to the Kingdom's diverse natural landscapes and sceneries, which constitute unique tourist destinations. Around 975,000 tourists visited the Petra National Park in 2010, while 500,000 visited the country's seven nature reserves last year (Dana, Mujib, Ajloun, Dibein, Al Azraq, Shaumari and Yarmouk). The GEF, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and other donors have worked with RSCN, which manages these reserves, to implement a community-based approach to achieve PA management and poverty reduction in ecotourism projects in Jordan. Tourism services and natural product-based craft enterprises are already established in Dana, Al Azraq and Mujib, with more than 3,000 residents receiving direct or indirect benefits as a result. RSCN's people-centered approach to PA management was first piloted in 1994 in the Dana Biosphere Reserve, through the establishment of a range of tourism facilities, including a campsite, a guesthouse and the Feynan ecolodge, which employs about 32 locals directly and provides indirect income for dozens more. By exclusively hiring locals to provide services and goods to the ecolodge, alternatives income sources are offered and livelihoods are improved. Inspired by the success of the initiative, RSCN has been replicating the Dana model in all the other reserves it manages..

Under Component 1 the project proposes to expand baseline ecotourism centers (Al Azraq and Shaumari reserves) into the northeast Badia by using the RSCN-managed Al Azraq and Shaumari reserves and attached facilities as a starting point, from which a 250 km ecotourism corridor will be developed reaching Burqu' in the northeast as an end point. In this context, ecotourism has significant potential for development as instrument to harness the sustainable use of desert ecosystem services, with benefits to biodiversity conservation and community income generation. The corridor will be developed around a concept of "low volume, high value" community-centered ecotourism looking to attract tourists interested in a genuine desert experience, the Bedouin culture, archeology, geology and other environment-focused experiences while engaging local communities in the operation of the route and sharing revenues with them, and by minimizing the impact of all activities on the environment according to internationally accepted ecotourism standards. Itineraries along the corridor will be carefully designed to offer high level of service and co-management with local communities. The corridor will offer flexibility in the choice of itineraries, allowing for the targeting of different potential markets and for adapting to changing on-the-ground conditions (climate, security situation, presence of nomadic communities, etc). Once the corridor is operational and revenue is generated, significant resources are expected to be channeled to the proposed Burqu' Protected Area

(6,500 ha) thus significantly enhancing and expanding the country's ongoing efforts to sustainably manage landscapes which integrate biodiversity conservation. Indirectly, it is expected that the newly established corridor will generate interest and revenue which will be utilized for enhanced biodiversity conservation in the existing Azraq and Shaumari reserves (3,400 ha total). Benefits to local communities through jobs and income generation opportunities from ecotourism activities will also incentivize the sustainable use of biodiversity.

The model used to channel funds to the PAs and to communities will be based on RSCN's existing successful experiences with other protected areas in the country (e.g. Dana Biosphere Reserve). RSCN supports the development of innovative income generating programs that build on locally available skills and on the tourism potential of each protected area. Handicraft (nature products, jewelry, etc.), ecotourism (including campsites, ecolodges, guesthouses, lodges, tour programs, etc.), and others are developed, all of them managed by local people. Fees from these activities have two main purposes: (i) direct support to conservation programs in the respective protected areas (complementing revenue generated from protected areas entrance fees) run by RSCN itself under its mandate to manage PAs in the country and to lead biodiversity conservation efforts in Jordan, and (ii) benefit sharing and distribution to local communities involved in these activities. For example, with handicraft ventures, local women have the option of working at home, or in RSCN workshops. Those working from home are remunerated per piece, while women working in RSCN workshops receive salaries and benefits plus a bonus per piece. RSCN provides the training, raw materials, and also transport. More generally, there are several categories of employment and revenue generating opportunities for local communities for a given natural reserve and its surrounding area: (i) direct employment through RSCN as reserve managers, rangers, guards, accommodation managers, guides, reception and service staff, drivers, artisan and production workers, shop keepers, etc.; (ii) direct employment in local village hotels and as service providers; and (iii) indirect employment and income earners including local shopkeepers, material and food suppliers to accommodations, bus and taxi services, local and national guides, etc. (see <http://www.rscn.org.jo>)

While details of benefit sharing and distribution to local communities in the context of the specific project intervention areas will be outlined in the ETDP during project implementation, there are several additional channels that can be envisaged for the project, including:

- Distribution of profits and shares (as in cooperatives);
- The transfer of ownership of the newly created tourism facilities and service to the community;
- Special levies on tourists for community support; and/or
- Sharing of entrance fees.

To determine which mechanisms are most appropriate for the project will require further study and consultation with local people and an understanding of the likely revenue generating power of the tourism businesses being created. RSCN will draw on its long experience in these matters to guide the process.

The poverty pocket which will be targeted under Component 1 is Ar Ruwaished sub-district in Mafrq Governorate: Ar Ruwaished sub-district has a population of 5,700 (806 families), which are organized in 10 communities. 94 percent of the population lives in Ar-Ruwaished town and the adjacent town Manshiet Al-Ghayath, with the rest of the population living in small and widely distributed communities. The poverty rate in Ar Ruwaished sub-district is 65 percent, the second highest in the country. The main livelihoods in Ar Ruwaished sub-district are commercial and Government employment and animal herding (about 84,000 heads); 50 percent of the households receive national aid. The sub-district's unemployment rate is 25 percent compared to a national rate of 12.9 percent. In order to ensure that these communities are fully engaged in, and directly benefit from, the ecotourism activities in a sustainable manner, community members will receive targeted training and their awareness on livelihoods opportunities will be enhanced.

This component will be contracted to RSCN given its mandate to establish and manage PAs in Jordan (through Government by-laws, 1966), its record in ecotourism development and management, and its capacity to engage effectively with local communities in preparing and implementing programs. RSCN's role in managing the Al Azraq and Shaumari reserves as well as the proposed Burqu' reserve will facilitate these sites' engagement in the

planned project as important touristic attractions. Furthermore, RSCN is currently in the process of establishing the “Ajloun Ecotourism and Ranger Training Academy” (temporary title), which is expected to become a tourism hub and an economic regeneration program for the Ajloun area where vocational training will be offered to rangers, guides and other service providers, among others. The Academy, which will become operational in May 2013, is timely for the BELP as it will provide the necessary training to service providers of the Al Azraq/Shaumari-Burqu’ ecotourism corridor, and host community representatives from Ar Ruwaished to showcase the potential benefits of ecotourism to local communities. More detail on RSCN is available in Section B.5.

The component is organized around two sub-components as follows:

Sub-component 1.1: Establishment of an Al Azraq/Shaumari-Burqu Ecotourism Corridor: An Ecotourism Development Plan (ETDP) will be developed, laying out the vision of the corridor, exact siting, intervention points, scale/number of infrastructure, services and products to be developed. The ETDP will be developed on the basis of baseline ecological and socio-economic surveys for the proposed tourism area, spatial information and a zoning plan. The ETDP will be submitted by the project to the SC and the World Bank for endorsement and approval, following which the agreed visitor management infrastructure and human resources will be established. Investments will begin in itineraries close to the Al Azraq/Shaumari starting point, gradually extending toward the Burqu’ end point. This approach is expected to allow the testing of established sites and the build-up of interest amongst Jordanian and international visitors. A strong marketing initiative for the corridor will be carried out applying the business and marketing approaches developed under RSCN’s Wild Jordan division, using a variety of instruments with the aim of reaching local and international markets, by engaging with e.g. the Tourism Board, tourism operators, websites, social media and RSCN’s tourism network. Key expected investments along the corridor include a 12-room ecolodge, one or two permanent Bedouin-style minimum impact campsites and one or two ‘wild campsites’ consisting of traditional Bedouin tents and simpler environment-friendly equipment. In addition, the project will hire and train local youth as rangers and guides, camel expedition guides, translators, etc., and provide capacity building to local people in the areas of food services, hospitality, management and customer service.

It is expected that by the end of the project, a US\$570,000 increase in new ecotourism-related income to communities along the Al Azraq/Shaumari-Burqu’ corridor will materialize. Appropriate mechanisms for benefit distribution and sharing with the concerned communities will be determined in the ETDP. A key element of these mechanisms will be the identification of the target groups, which will be those that are most needy and have the most impact on the recognized special landscapes and ecosystems within the ecotourism corridor. The identification of the target groups will require extensive consultations with local communities, to be supported under Sub-component 1.2.

Sub-component 1.2: Community engagement: This sub-component will ensure that communities living in towns and villages close to Burqu’ as well as some along the corridor are fully engaged in, and directly benefit from, the ecotourism activities. This will involve consulting with, and engaging these communities early in the planning and development of the proposed ecotourism activities. Attention will be paid to increasing the awareness of the population about the fragility of the local environmental resources, the need to support and finance protective measures, and the benefits (financial and other) that can accrue to the community from well-formulated and executed ecotourism activities. The roles communities could play in the supply chain for ecotourists will be stressed, including new job creation opportunities such as reserve rangers, guides, service provision, camp and ecolodge operation, etc. The provision of training opportunities and the possibility for new income-generating activities (leather goods production, camel tours, local herb and medicinal plant sales, basket weaving, indigenous performances, etc.) associated with ecotourism will also be stressed. Experience from the Dana and Ajloun reserves will help validate the potential opportunities for the communities through tours to Ar Ruwaished community leaders, hosted by the Ajloun Ecotourism and Ranger Training Academy. The project will continue through its lifespan to actively engage the communities in the ecotourism activities and ensure that they directly benefit from them.

The key global environmental benefit associated with Component 1 is the mainstreaming of sustainable use of biodiversity into the targeted landscape. The Biodiversity Tracking Tool will be utilized to measure this benefit.

## Component 2: Adapted Rangeland Management and Alternative Livelihoods Support in the Southern Badia

In order to support the livelihoods of local communities, the BERP will promote a people-centered sustainable natural resource base development approach, thereby enhancing the existing range and fodder production practices and services in the southern Badia target areas. In this context, the baseline situation of closed-fence government-managed rangeland reserves will be improved by establishing one rangeland reserve and improving another existing reserve in the southern poverty pockets of Al Jafr and Al Husseinieh (one in each), which will be open fenced, and where community engagement in the identification, management and maintenance of the reserves will be strengthened. The emphasis will be on taking the baseline concept of community-based rangeland reserves one step further by transferring to the communities not only responsibility for site management, but also the authority to rehabilitate and maintain these reserves, a move that will be supported through provision of ongoing training. By doing so, the project will ensure community engagement from the outset and in the future. Despite the project's undoubtedly limited scale, it will carry an important and innovative value in terms of approaches and specific activities, which would pave the way to replication and scaling-up other parts of the entire Badia. It is expected that component 2 interventions utilizing GEF's LD resources will result in increased vegetation cover across 3,000 ha, increased availability of water for animal drinking and fodder production and alternative livelihoods for some 1000 men, women and youth.

Sub-component 2.1: Water harvesting: Two *hafirs*, with improved design as compared to current practice in terms of shape and the geological characteristics of the selected sites, will be constructed by the project in the two southern sub-districts one in each, featuring water retention capability of at least 6 months. The *hafirs*' storage capacity will be between 50,000 and 100,000 m<sup>3</sup>. About 20,000 m<sup>3</sup> of the water would be available for supplementary irrigation of 10 hectares fodder areas while the remainder water after losses (about 50 percent) will support about 72,000 small ruminants. Assuming an average flock size of 200 heads, 360 livestock owners are expected to directly benefit from the *hafirs*. The adjacent fodder irrigated areas would provide a total feed supplement of about 25 tons (barley-equivalent). The sites for the *hafirs* will be determined based on a consultation-based area identification process with concerned communities combined with topographic, hydrological, geological, agronomic and other required preliminary design investigations. General and specific Government rules and regulations for public works will be followed when constructing the *hafirs* while shape, depth and soil properties will be determined to reduce evaporation rates, seepage losses and increase overall water detainment. The *hafirs* will be maintained by NCARE during the life of the project which will be handed over to MOA upon its closure.

Sub-component 2.2: Adapted rangeland management: The project will establish and operate two non-fenced rangeland reserves (total area of about 3,000 ha) in Al Jafr and Al Husseinieh (one in each), and build communities' capacity to assume responsibility for the adapted management and maintenance of the reserves. In Al Husseinieh the intention is to rehabilitate, if technically feasible, an existing reserve which would be improved in terms of vegetation cover and community management. If this is proven technically unfeasible, a new reserve will be established on Government land. In Al Jafr a new reserve will be established and vegetation cover will be improved. The pilot rangeland reserve areas will be on state-owned land with Government formally granting the pilot communities increased management authority over the reserve areas. The project will finance vegetation replanting and contour bunding works within the area to improve reserves' water retention capacity. The choice of drought-resistant indigenous vegetation will be made in consultation with the communities. Following such works and activities, the reserves will be put aside for a rest period as mentioned. The reserve management practices will be discussed and agreed upon with the communities and recorded in grazing agreements. The project also will support 6 Community Youth Rangers who will be recruited from the target communities. Management of the reserves will be the responsibility of the beneficiary communities during the life of the project; it is expected that the communities, upon project completion, will be capable of sustainably managing and utilizing the reserves. Responsibility for monitoring of reserves' biomass after project completion will rest with MOA.

Sub-component 2.3: Alternative livelihoods: Information about the loci of poverty in the community will be refined, as well as the circumstances of youth and women, perceptions about land use and management, and interest in, and opportunities for, alternative livelihoods. Activities will include focus group meetings, a rapid rural appraisal, and a survey. This sub-component will also finance all community engagement activities in the southern

poverty pockets to facilitate sub components 2.1 and 2.2. In addition, the project will support communities through 10 to 21 established community cooperatives to initiative new, or significantly improve existing, micro-business income-generating activities. The objective is to encourage communities to engage in income-generating activities that will ultimately improve their livelihoods and, over time, help reduce their reliance on natural resources exploitation. GEF funding will support capacity building, skills training, technical assistance (determination of markets, quality standards, and packing requirements) and small equipment purchases for alternative livelihoods activities for a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 11 local cooperatives. Co-financing will be channeled for working with the communities and cooperatives on the design and implementation of the GEF-supported alternative livelihoods activities as well as enhancing or introducing new micro-business activities through a small grants program.

Global environmental benefits associated with Component 2 are:

1. Increased water availability for livestock consumption; this will be measured by NCARE based on the capacity of the *hafirs* and calculations of water losses.
2. Decreased land degradation through improved range and fodder production services of the Badia across 3,000 ha; this will be measured by NCARE using the PMAT based on biomass calculations at the reserves during the two grazing periods.
3. Reintroduced indigenous drought-resistant plant species across 3,000 hectares in rangeland reserves sustainably used and managed by local communities; the species will be carefully selected and their success in the reserves will be monitored as above.
4. Improved knowledge expected to contribute to conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. HFDJB will carefully monitor and evaluate targeted communities' acceptance of the new model reserves; the key outcome will be the signing of grazing agreements between HFDJB and the communities, establishing long-term sustainable management practices.

### Component 3: Project Management and Monitoring and Evaluation

The objective of this component is to establish an effective PMU, capable of directing and supporting project implementation, liaising with stakeholders, carrying out M&E according to agreed indicators and conducting all fiduciary tasks. NCARE will establish a PMU consisting of a Project Manager, a part-time M&E Specialist, a full-time Financial Officer and a seconded (by NCARE) Procurement Officer, reflecting management schemes of successful GEF and non-GEF projects in Jordan. The PMU will manage the activities of the three executing entities (NCARE, RSCN and HFDJB) as well as: (i) prepare annual work plans, budgets and procurement plans; (ii) manage, monitor and evaluate implementation of project components; (iii) ensure liaison, communication, collaboration and joint problem-solving; (iv) report implementation progress and financial performance to the SC and the World Bank; (v) ensure timely external auditing of project accounts; (vi) ensure appropriateness of procurement and financial management activities; (vii) ensure adherence to and implementation of approved safeguard instruments; and (viii) act as the secretariat of the SC and chair a Technical Working Group (TWG, see below).

B.3. Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the Project at the national and local levels, including consideration of gender dimensions, and how these will support the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or adaptation benefits (LDCE/SCCF). As a background information, read Mainstreaming Gender at the GEF."

The beneficiaries of the project are communities in Ar Ruwaished (northern Badia), Al Jafr and Al Husseinieh sub-districts (southern Badia): individuals, cooperatives and community organizations. The total number of expected beneficiaries from the project is 10,720, of which 5,430 are expected to be women.

Under Component 1, about 735 local men, women and youth are expected to benefit from increased income and skills through direct engagement in the operation of the ecotourism corridor as rangers, guides, translators, service and good providers and/or as recipients of revenue shares. The expected increase in ecotourism related income to the

northern communities is estimated at USD 570,000. Gender mainstreaming will be carefully assessed during the first year of the project with the aim to deliberately give visibility and support to both women's, men's and youth's contributions individually. Due to strongly embedded cultural practices related to gender roles, it is expected that women will not be engaged in direct service provision but rather participate in traditional and new goods production, packaging and marketing as well as food making. Youth and men are expected to take the lead on service provision. Nonetheless, the revenue sharing mechanism to be determined and the opportunities proposed to women will ensure equal distribution of benefits across genders.

Under Component 2, about 9,985 men, women and youth are expected to benefit from the construction of two *hafirs* for animal watering and fodder production in two range reserves and a set of alternative livelihood activities. Direct benefits for livestock owners as end-users of the *hafirs* and of the range reserves will mainly be in the form of reduced costs of production, resulting, in turn, in improved net margins. Net returns of small scale sheep flock owners (200 heads) are expected to improve from US\$2,400-2,500 to about US\$9,100-9,240 annually. In addition, it should be noted that the combined above-mentioned benefits do not include several additional benefits which are more difficult to assess but will result in substantial socioeconomic and environmental values, such as soil and water conservation works which would contribute to reduced land erosion and improved soil composition and productive potential; planting of native species in the reserves resulting in the restoration of rangeland biodiversity; and reinvestment of net benefits from the alternative livelihoods income-generating activities. At least one of the cooperatives will be a women's only cooperative, and it is required that women's membership in the total number of participating cooperatives be at least 15 percent. Additionally, one cooperative will focus specifically on providing livelihoods support for youth (18-25 years of age) relating to the on-the-job training and short- and term employment opportunities in the pilot reserves.

Project resources and expertise have been devoted by the project to design and implement targeted interventions to enable women and men to participate in – and benefit from – project investments. In the north, RSCN will expand on its ongoing experience in training women, men and youth individually to benefit from tourism-related services and goods provision in accordance with culturally accepted practices. In the south, community mobilization will be executed by HFDJB, a reputable NGO which has a full understanding of gender roles within Badia societies, and women's and men's specific interests, needs, and priorities. Both institutions will be held accountable for outcomes that promote gender equality.

It is expected that the chances of the BELP in affecting global environmental benefits are higher with the above-mentioned integration of gender considerations into project design. By recognizing and capitalizing on women's, men's and youth's interests, skills and resource management practices project activities are expected to have a stronger socio-economic and environmental impact.

B.4 Indicate risks, including climate change risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design:

Project risks and mitigation measures are as follows:

Risk	Mitigation Measures
<i>Country:</i> Security situation in the region affecting tourism	The proposed ecotourism corridor will offer flexibility in the choice of itineraries, allowing for the targeting of different potential markets and for adapting to changing on-the-ground conditions (e.g. climate, security situation, presence of nomadic communities, etc).
<i>Stakeholder:</i> Reluctance of the targeted southern Badia communities to participate in planned rangeland management and ecotourism activities	The project will include strong community outreach and communication activities to build support for the activities (including awareness raising, sensitization and capacity building activities). The project will benefit directly from the extensive experience of



	<p>RSCN in linking ecotourism, conservation and income generation opportunities for local communities and from the HFDJB mandate, high level support and strong ties with Badia communities. Under sub component 1.2 RSCN will organize study and awareness tours to community representatives and leaders at the Ajloun Academy to demonstrate the benefits to communities from ecotourism in Ajloun.</p> <p>Communities' long-term engagement in the reserves will be formalized through the signing and disclosure of grazing agreements between the communities and HFDJB for each rangeland reserve, which explicitly articulate the land management practices that will be applied.</p>
<p><i>Sector and multi-sector:</i></p> <p>Unclear definition of roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders</p>	<p>Jordan has extensive experience in ecotourism and rangeland management with collaboration among key players including Government, NGOs and private sector. While RSCN's distinctive role in the northern Badia is clear, the PIM, which has been prepared by RSCN, HFDJB and NCARE, clearly explains the respective responsibilities of both NCARE and HFDJB in the southern Badia. The SC and the TWG will also be key instruments in ensuring coordination between stakeholders.</p>
<p><i>Design:</i></p> <p>Unwillingness of communities to engage/convert to non-herding livelihoods due to cultural and social norms</p>	<p>The project will maintain close dialogue between the executing entities, especially HFDJB in the south and RSCN in the north, and communities, through workshops, study tours, etc throughout project implementation to ensure broad awareness to benefits and opportunities which can accrue as a result of the project. Conversations with communities during project preparation indicate strong willingness to seek alternative livelihoods.</p>
<p><i>Delivery monitoring and sustainability:</i></p> <p>Once the project is closed, established rangeland reserves will not be properly managed/controlled by the communities, resulting in continued degradation of rangelands</p>	<p>Communities and the HFDJB will sign grazing agreements on the long term management of the reserves accompanied by awareness raising and training of communities to be active actors in the management of the reserves in the long term.</p>
<p><i>Climate change:</i></p> <p>Climate change is expected to affect the quantity and quality of the country's water resources, including a decrease in surface water availability.</p>	<p>As a signatory to many major global environmental conventions, Jordan has begun to implement convention mechanisms in order to address these environmental challenges. The BELP will contribute to these efforts by enhancing communities' capacity to gather surface water through <i>hafirs</i> which minimize water loss and planting drought-resistant indigenous plants in the range reserves, which are expected to be more successful than currently used vegetation.</p>

B.5. Identify key stakeholders involved in the project including the private sector, civil society organizations, local and indigenous communities, and their respective roles, as applicable:

The three key stakeholders involved in the project are NCARE, RSCN and HFDJB.

1. NCARE, the project Implementing Agency who will implement the water harvesting and rangeland rehabilitation activities in the southern Badia (sub-components 2.1 and 2.2) and Component 3 by hosting the PMU, is a semi-autonomous institution (1993) under MOA with administrative and financial independence, and a leading center for agricultural research and extension in Jordan. It houses most agricultural research, projects and extension activities in the country. NCARE has been involved in a number of donor-funded projects, including the GEF-funded Conservation of Medicinal and Herbal Plants Project, and is planned to carry out another GEF-funded project, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Irrigation Technology Pilot Project to face Climate Change Project. It meets the criteria necessary for project implementation and sustainability due to its strong technical capacity combined with local presence and ties with local communities.

2. RSCN, which will establish and manage the ecotourism corridor under Component 1, is an independent non-profit NGO devoted to the conservation of Jordan's natural resources. Established in 1966 under the patronage of His Majesty the late King Hussein, RSCN has been given the responsibility to protect the Kingdom's natural heritage. As such, it is one of the few voluntary organizations in the Middle East to be granted this kind of public service mandate. Its main activities revolve around setting-up and managing PAs, raising awareness on environmental issues, creating job opportunities for rural communities through ecotourism and other nature-based businesses, providing training and capacity building for environmental practitioners and other institutions and running environmental education campaigns. RSCN implements the GEF-funded Integrated Ecosystem Management of the Jordan Rift Valley Project and was in charge of the Mujib reserve-related activities under the GEF-funded Conservation of Medicinal and Herbal Plants Project. It has developed and managed a number of ecotourism facilities, and has strong technical capacity, a clear mandate and proven experience in ecotourism development, making it a good candidate to execute ecotourism activities in collaboration with targeted communities in the north. RSCN's current role in managing the Al Azraq and Shaumari sites and future role in managing Burqu' will facilitate these sites' engagement in the planned project as important touristic attractions.

3. HFDJB, which will execute the community engagement activities in the southern Badia (Sub-component 2.3), is by Royal Decree (2006) the institution mandated for sustainable development of the Jordan Badia through active participation of the communities that live therein. HFDJB seeks to improve socio-economic conditions in the Jordan Badia by contributing to poverty alleviation and unemployment reduction, making use of the skills of the Badia people and building their capacities through a variety of development projects. HFDJB has strong links with the selected communities, a very good understanding of their socio-economic situation, and experience in working with local cooperatives and other entities, making them the suitable entity to engage with and mobilize target communities.

#### B.6. Explain how cost-effectiveness is reflected in the project design:

Due to the project's limited financial envelope, it focuses on innovative small-scale investments which carry high potential for success and impact on communities and the environment. It is expected that project-funded investments will pave the way to replication and scaling-up in other parts of the Badia through other Government and/or donor investments. Another way of increasing the cost-effectiveness of the project was to design incremental activities which could capitalize to the extent possible on investments, infrastructure and knowledge which are planned during the lifetime of the project or already exist in the Badia. In order to contribute to the objective of the MENA-DELP in the most meaningful way, the BERP supports two sets of activities (and sub-activities) which are the most relevant and have the highest potential to impact the environment and people's livelihoods in the Badia area. In addition, including activities in the north and the south into a single project will result in reduced operating and management/M&E costs since there will be one Project Management Unit and one Steering Committee. More importantly in the way it is designed, the BERP will clearly demonstrate to stakeholders the diverse values of desert ecosystems. Once completed, these interventions can be scaled up and replicated in other areas of the Badia. Finally, instead of contracting multiple consultants and service providers to execute project activities, project design dictates the single sourcing of 3 highly capable entities (one of which is the Implementing Agency itself) which will execute under three respective contracts all component 1 and 2 activities. This is expected to enhance the effectiveness of project implementation and reduce overall costs.

#### B.7. Outline the coordination with other related initiatives:

In the northern Badia, the BELP will coordinate its investments with the EPP and BRP programs through the responsible implementing entities, namely the Environmental Protection Unit in the MOE, the Community Centers Association and RSCN in order to capitalize on the already established or planned social and physical services and infrastructure and knowledge gained for maximum social and environmental impact. Collaboration with USAID's investments in Shaumari and the Ajloun Academy will be orchestrated by RSCN, who has been tasked by both USAID and the BELP to execute these activities.

Once operational, the project will seek collaboration with UNDP's Council approved Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation in Tourism Sector Development in Jordan project by exchanging experience on new tourism-related economic opportunities and the provision of economically-feasible options for the local population and the private sector for developing ecotourism services and products.

In the southern Badia, cooperation for enhancement of water harvesting capabilities and infrastructure will be sought with the FAO project on Coping with Water Scarcity and with the MOA/MOWI investments in micro and macro water catchment. Finally, the BELP will collaborate with the Jordan River Foundation who is responsible to implement poverty alleviation interventions in both Al Jafr and Al Husseinieh through MOPIC/EPP-funding to ensure synergy and efficient use of resource in activities such as vocational training and infrastructure and equipment for small businesses.

The proposed project is closely linked to the Middle East and North Africa Desert Ecosystems and Livelihoods Program (MENA-DELP), a new World Bank- GEF partnership. The MENA-DELP was approved by the GEF in November 2011, and includes four national country pilot projects (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan and Morocco), plus a regional knowledge sharing project. The MENA-DELP framework seeks to maintain and improve the flow of desert ecosystem services for sustainable development in a positive feedback loop. The program will focus on piloting enabling economic opportunities specific to deserts that integrate the health and diversity of the desert biome with the vast potential for innovative livelihood opportunities that also sustain valuable repository knowledge linked to adaptive practices. It is intended that such an approach will ultimately enhance desert livelihood opportunities and increase the resilience and adaptation responses of desert communities and ecosystems to projected pressures, in particular climate change impacts. The focus of these four country projects is on different production sectors and on improving the sustainability of investments through an integrated ecosystem management approach. Emphasis is also placed on participatory approaches, capacity building and on harnessing local knowledge. The regional umbrella project aims to enhance knowledge and experience sharing on opportunities for enhancing desert livelihoods among the four participating countries and potentially others. The proposed project will both benefit from and contribute to the knowledge sharing activities within the MENA-DELP, in that the project also focuses on the piloting of an integrated approach to enhancing desert ecosystem service management and generating livelihood opportunities, and the approach is being coordinated with approaches being developed in other MENA countries under the DELP.

The following is a summary of the proposed project alignment with MENA-DELP expected outcomes and outputs:

<b>MENA-DELP Expected Outcome</b>	<b>BELP Expected Outcome</b>
Ecotourism development is taking place through an appropriate incentive framework and is benefitting community livelihoods	<p>Increase in sustainably managed landscapes that integrate biodiversity conservation (6,500 ha directly and 3,400 ha indirectly)</p> <p>Increase in new ecotourism- related income to communities along the Al Azraq/Shaumari-Burqu' corridor (target: US\$570,000 by the end of Year 4)</p>

The flow of ecosystem services into agricultural production systems is improved through better land and natural resource management, thereby generating improved income opportunities for local communities	Increased availability of water for animal drinking and fodder production
	Increased vegetation cover in two rangeland reserves (3,000 ha total)
	3,000 ha of rangelands managed by communities in a biodiversity-friendly manner
	Alternative livelihoods for communities (1000 men, women and youth)
The linkages between desert ecosystem services and desert livelihoods are better understood and inform decision making	Shared knowledge

The following key lessons from past and ongoing projects in Jordan are reflected in the design of the BELP:

**Community participation and engagement:** The Badia has seen technically sound Government and donor-funded interventions which tried to address livelihoods and improve rangeland management without producing desired results. One key reason has been the lack of concerted and sustained efforts to engage communities in planning and implementation of activities, which often times resulted in skepticism, negative perceptions and unwillingness to collaborate. The lack of impact on the ground has further caused frustration in communities whose livelihoods are becoming increasingly tenuous. Learning from this experience, the BELP has committed significant resources for engagement with, and mobilization of, communities from the outset and will contract an experienced and well reputed Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), HFDJB, to work on community engagement and to undertake needed mediation throughout the life of the project.

**Improved approach toward rangeland management** – MOA’s practice of establishing fenced rangeland reserves controlled by Government guards has shown limited success in terms of uninterrupted plant recovery and organized utilization of resources. The project reflects MOA’s ‘new-generation’ reserve model, i.e. non-fenced community-managed reserves, which since 2001 has shown potential for success. The project takes this model one step further by systematically building communities’ capacity and engagement starting early in the process and following up throughout implementation to ensure their collaboration and the sustainability of the reserves.

**Benefits of strategic collaboration** – The value of collaboration between a technically sound implementing entity and an NGO with a long and successful history of addressing poverty and community development needs was showcased in the mid-term review of the GEF-funded Integrated Ecosystem Management in the Jordan Rift Valley Project (ongoing). The BELP will utilize a similar approach toward strategic collaboration by contracting HFDJB to partner with NCARE to execute Component 2 in the southern sub-districts.

**Ecotourism as a tool for nature conservation and community development** –In order to minimize environmental impacts and maximize economic returns, RSCN’s tourism model has been based on low numbers of tourists paying relatively high fees; this model has been effective through appropriate facility design, consistent high quality services, innovative marketing, strong operational management and a clear understanding of the target beneficiaries. Experience shows that many of these requirements, as well as any benefit sharing mechanism, are not initially understood by local communities, especially if they have had little exposure to tourism and tourists, like those along the proposed corridor. For this reason, the BELP will undertake a social assessment of the communities along the ecotourism corridor at the start of the project to define the target beneficiaries and develop the mechanisms for benefit sharing. Target beneficiaries will be those sectors of local communities most dependent for their livelihoods on the resources of high-value biodiversity sites; an approach already well tried and tested by RSCN.

### **C. GEF AGENCY INFORMATION:**

C.1 Confirm the co-financing amount the GEF agency brings to the project:

Jordan has not borrowed from the World Bank in the area of desert rehabilitation and biodiversity conservation. However, Badia rangeland restoration activities are among the top priority for the country as per their several national policies (environment and agriculture). World Bank as GEF implementing agency will continue to work with Jordan and also seek further avenues for intervention in these areas.

C.2 How does the project fit into the GEF agency's program (reflected in documents such as UNDAF, CAS, etc.) and staff capacity in the country to follow up project implementation:

The BERP is fully aligned with the priorities of the World Bank/IFC FY12-FY15 Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) for Jordan, and will strongly contribute to achieving the CPS' objectives to strengthen the capacity of local communities, and build local economic and social assets through community-based approaches in order to reduce poverty pockets and empower communities. The BERP is identified in the CPS as a new activity under the following two areas: (i) Pillar 2: Strengthen the Foundation for Growth with a focus on Competitiveness; Results Area 2.2.2: Support selected priority infrastructure Environment/Waste Management; and (ii) Pillar 3: Enhance Social Protection Mechanisms and Pursue Local Development; Results Area 3.2: Pursue Local Development and Address Poverty Pockets. The project contributes to the objectives of the Jordan CPS by working directly with communities in the poverty pockets of Ar Ruwaished sub-district in the northern Badia; and Al Jafr and Al Husseinieh sub-districts in the southern Badia, building their capacity to better manage natural resources on which they depend significantly; and to engage in various non-herding income-generating activities in order to expand their livelihood base.

The World Bank will assign a task team to supervise and support project implementation. Team members will be based at headquarters as well as the Jordan and Lebanon country offices to ensure timely, efficient and effective implementation support to the client. Experienced technical consultants (in the areas of environment, ecotourism and agronomy) may be asked to join the team during formal implementation support and field visits carried out semi-annually and for ongoing support.

Technical implementation support and supervision will include technical consultants, who will conduct site visits on a semi-annual basis throughout project implementation and review terms of reference, bidding documents and key consultation deliverables. A Senior Financial Management Specialist and a Senior Procurement Specialist will provide training to the PMU before effectiveness and provide further technical support as required during implementation. Inputs from an Environment Specialist and a Social Specialist will be required; a Senior Social Specialist and an Environmental Specialist, both based at headquarters, will be part of the project task team. Finally, the Task Team Leader, based at headquarters, will provide day-to-day supervision of all operational aspects, as well as coordination with the client and among World Bank team members.

## **PART III: INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION AND SUPPORT**

### **A. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT:**

The project will be managed by a PMU housed in NCARE, which will receive guidance from the SC and discuss technical issues through the TWG.

#### **Project Management Unit**

The PMU will manage the activities of NCARE, RSCN and HFDJB. The PMU will be headed by a Project Manager and comprise a part-time M&E Specialist, a full-time Financial Officer and a Procurement Officer seconded by NCARE. The PMU will implement the tasks specified under Component 3.

#### **Steering Committee**

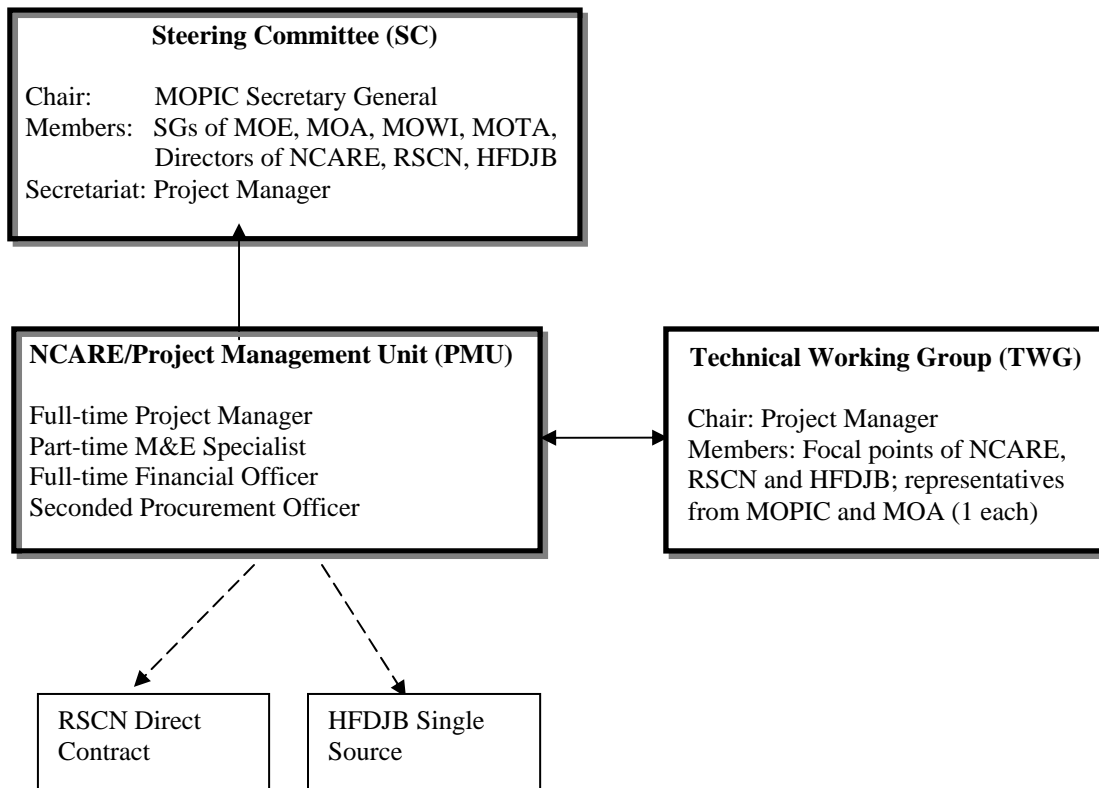
The PMU will be guided by a SC which will be chaired by the Secretary General of MOPIC and meet on a semi-annual

basis or more frequently if needed. Based on consolidated implementation progress reports submitted quarterly by the PMU, the SC will provide strategic guidance and oversight for the project (including on procurement, financial management, disbursement, M&E and reporting matters), advise on corrective measures, provide conflict resolution, and be responsible for approving annual work plans and associated budgets submitted by the PMU. The SC will include senior management from NCARE, RSCN and HFDJB (Director level) and high-level representatives (Secretary General level) from MOA, MOE, MOWI and Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MOTA). The SC terms of reference will be reflected in the PIM. The Project Manager will act as Secretary to the SC.

#### Technical Working Group

The PMU will be assisted by a TWG, chaired by the Project Manager. The TWG will comprise focal points from NCARE, RSCN and HFDJB as well as representatives from MOPIC and MOA (one from each), who will be encouraged to invite additional experts to contribute to discussions as relevant. It will discuss technical issues and enable information exchange, and provide technical advice and guidance on various aspects of project implementation, including decision making on technical activities, M&E and guidance on project implementation at all stages. The TWG may also make recommendations to be discussed at the SC level, and will hold quarterly meetings, or more frequent meetings as required. It is crucial for project success that the PMU operate in a flexible, transparent and collaborative manner. To this end, the TWG will be a key mechanism.

The following is an illustrative diagram, showing the decision-making and accountability structure:



#### **B. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENT:**

The designated Implementing Agency of the project is NCARE. The project will be executed by the following three entities:

NCARE, which will implement the water harvesting and rangeland rehabilitation activities in the southern Badia (sub-components 2.1 and 2.2); and Component 3 by hosting a PMU;

RSCN, which will execute the establishment of the community-centered ecotourism corridor (Component 1); and

HFDJB, which will execute the community engagement activities in the southern Badia (Sub-component 2.3) and assist NCARE and RSCN with suitable approaches for engaging communities in water harvesting and rangeland rehabilitation (sub-components 2.1 and 2.2); and in ecotourism and livelihoods development in the northern Badia as needed (Sub-component 1.2).

The three entities have been selected on the basis of their comparative advantage in terms of technical expertise and experience, as well as their capacity to manage operations and collaborate with each other in an effective manner as explained above (see section B.5).

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

The proposed project remains fully aligned with the GEF Focal Area Objectives and Strategic Programs as stated in the MENA-DELP Program Framework Document (PFD, no PIF was submitted for the Jordan project in specific), as well as the overall project design in the PFD. Main changes between the project as outlined in the PFD and the current Project Appraisal Document (PAD) are detailed below:

<b>Key Modification</b>	<b>PFD</b>	<b>PAD</b>
Project Development Objective	To sustain the ecosystem services and livelihoods in four poverty pockets in the Badia through diversification of community income sources; preservation and sustainable use of natural and rangeland resources; and capacity enhancement of target stakeholders and beneficiaries.	To support sustainable livelihoods and enhance ecosystem services through participatory approaches in selected areas of the Jordan Badia  The modified wording presents similar objective for the project, however in a more mainstreamed and simplified manner. The mechanisms/key activities for achieving the PDO have been removed while the overall approach of community participation has been emphasized.
Co-financing composition and amount	The key co financing sources are the BRP (US\$10 million) and the tourism private sector (US\$1 million)	Co financing will be provided by a number of government programs under MOA, MOE, MOWI, MOPIC, and the three executing entities, NCARE, RSCN and HFDJB (total amount of US\$10,348,000, of which US\$6.8 million is from the BRP). In addition, USAID and FAO are expected to co-finance activities for a total of US\$ 1 million (US\$0.5 each).  Importantly, while the sources of co-financing have changed, the co-financing/GEF ratio has not changed but slightly increased.
GEF Focal Areas	Biodiversity, Land Degradation and Climate Change	The project is consistent with the Biodiversity and Land Degradation strategies only. A decision was made to better focus project interventions for optimal use of resources while achieving high impact results. Importantly, Jordan GEF-5 allocation is not affected since the country has a flexible STAR allocation.
Number of intervention sites	Four poverty pockets (Ar Ruwaished, Al Jafr, Al Husseinieh and Deisa)	Three poverty pockets (Ar Ruwaished, Al Jafr and Al Husseinieh). The decision to exclude Deisa has been

		made in order to ensure stronger project impact in each intervention site within the given financial envelope. This was also confirmed by the Jordan GEF OFP.
Number of components	Four	Three as explained below.
Northern Badia investments (formerly Component 2; presently Component 1)	Development and implementation of a community-based ecotourism route, enhancement of concerned communities' capacity to engage in alternative income generating activities, and cooperative rangeland management in Burqu'	All component activities have been kept and strengthened except rangeland management in Burqu'. The decision was made due to the considerable resources which had already been committed to rangeland rehabilitation in the northern Badia through the BRP (total of US\$160 million) and the need to invest additional resources in ecotourism for stronger impact on the environment and communities' livelihoods.
Southern Badia investments (formerly Component 1; presently Component 2)	Land and water management technologies, supplementing animal feeding resources, production of fodder, <i>hafirs</i> , water cisterns, promotion of ecotourism and other alternative income-generating activities, and provision of basic technology incentives to communities.	Consultation with communities during preparation and further deliberation about the best use of project resources have resulted in the refinement and focusing of component interventions. Accordingly, water cisterns, ecotourism related activities and provision of incentives were removed while investments in water and land management alternative livelihoods options were bolstered and better adapted to local conditions.
Components 3 and 4	Component 3: Capacity building, awareness raising and knowledge management in both and northern and southern Badia poverty pockets  Component 4:	Component 3 activities have been integrated into components 1 and 2 as direct input under sub components 1.2 and 2.3, respectively.  Instead, Component 3 now focuses on project management and M&E.

## **PART V: 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 Point endorsement letter(s) with this template. For SGP, use this OFP endorsement letter).


NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)
Dr. Saleh Al-Kharabsheh	Secretary General	MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION	

### **B. GEF AGENCY(IES) 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 CEO endorsement/approval of project.

Agency	Signature	Date	Project	Telephone	Email Address
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<b>Coordinator, Agency Name</b>		<b>(Month, day, year)</b>	<b>Contact Person</b>		
Karin Shepardson The World bank		07/19/2012	Song Li	202-473- 3488	SLi@worldbank.org

## ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Project Development Objective (PDO): Support sustainable livelihoods and enhance ecosystem services through participatory approaches in selected areas of the Jordan Badia.											
PDO Level Results Indicators*	Core	Unit of Measure	Baseline	Cumulative Target Values**				Frequency	Data Source/ Meth.	Resp. for Data Collection	Description (indicator definition etc.)
				YR 1	YR 2	YR 3	YR 4				
<b>Indicator One:</b> Amount of new ecotourism- related income to communities along the Al Azraq/Shaumari-Burqu' corridor		USD	0	0	19,000	185,000	570,000	Annually	RSCN's Annual Beneficiaries Report	RSCN	Income is expected from the ecotourism supply chain: purchases of goods and raw materials from providers, salaries, payment for services provided by communities to the corridor, and revenue sharing with the communities. The Beneficiaries Report is an annual report produced by RSCN for each of the sites it manages, showing income which goes directly to communities.  The number of direct beneficiaries is expected to be 145 total for Component 1 (765 indirect)
<b>Indicator Two:</b> Hectares of rangelands managed by communities in a biodiversity-friendly manner in Al Jafr and Al-Husseinieh	X	Hectares	0	0	1,000	3,000	3,000	Annually	Reports	NCARE	The rangelands will be within reserves which will be replanted, offering an extended grazing period.  Sustainability will be measured through the signing of grazing agreements between the communities and HFDJB.  Biodiversity-friendly management is defined as management which meets Jordan's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP, 2003)

											strategies as explained in the PAD
Project beneficiaries (Number)			10,720								
Of which female (Percentage)			5,430								
INTERMEDIATE RESULTS											
Intermediate Result (Component One): Established ecotourism in the Northern Badia											
Intermediate Results Indicators*	Core	Unit of Measure	Base line	Cumulative Target Values**				Freq.	Data Source/ Meth.	Resp. for Data Coll.	Description (indicator definition etc.)
				YR 1	YR 2	YR 3	YR 4				
Intermediate Result Indicator One: Ecotourism Development Plan (ETDP) developed and approved by the Steering Committee		Yes/No	No	Yes	-	-	-	Annually	Progress reports	RSCN	ETDP to determine the location, design and operational requirements of interventions; it is also expected to help RSCN finalize capacity building and marketing strategies. See Annex 2 for detailed component description
Intermediate Result Indicator Two: First ecotourism destination piloted		Yes/No	No	No	Yes	-	-	Annually	Progress reports	RSCN	Excursions for Bedouin experiences, east of Azraq/ Shaumari reserves; as per ETDP approach
Intermediate Result Indicator Three: Ecolodge infrastructure established		Yes/No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Annually	Progress reports	RSCN	Construction is expected to be completed in Year 3 and the ecolodge is expected to be operational in Year 4; as per ETDP approach
Intermediate Result Indicator Four: Number of target stakeholders trained on ecotourism services		Number	0	0	50	115	115	Annually	Progress reports	RSCN	Ecotourism services include rangers, guides, cooks, goods producers, translators, etc.
Intermediate Result (Component Two): Improvement of water management capacity (physical and human) in 2 poverty pockets in the southern Badia, as well as capacity building for Alternative Income-generating Activities											
Intermediate Results Indicators*	Core	Unit of Measure	Base line	YR 1	YR 2	YR 3	YR 4	Freq.	Data Source/ Meth.	Resp. for Data Collection	Description (indicator definition etc.)

<i>Intermediate Result Indicator One:</i> Number of improved <i>hafirs</i> constructed		Number	0	0	1	2	2	Annually	Progress reports	NCARE	6 months water retention period as opposed to 2-3 months. The <i>hafirs</i> will be multi-purpose, i.e. animal watering and community fodder production. Capacity: 50,000-100,000 m <sup>3</sup>
<i>Intermediate Result Indicator Two:</i> Increased vegetation cover in two rangeland reserves in Al Husseinieh and Al Jafr		Hectares	0	0	1000	3000	3000	Annually	Progress reports	NCARE	This is a GEF LD indicator. Biomass productivity increase measured in terms of Dry Matter (DM) (kg/ha) during grazing seasons
<i>Intermediate Result Indicator Four:</i> Number of men and women benefitting from alternative livelihoods in Al Jafr and Al-Husseinieh		Number	0	0	200	800	1000	Annually	Progress reports	HFDJB	Alternative livelihoods include small grants. Only direct beneficiaries are counted.  Breakdown of target values: Al Jafr Men: 280 Women:70  Al Husseinieh: Men: 550 Women:100
<b>Intermediate Result (Component Three): Effective project management and M&amp;E</b>											
<b>Intermediate Results Indicators*</b>	<b>Core</b>	<b>Unit of Measure</b>	<b>Base line</b>	<b>YR 1</b>	<b>YR 2</b>	<b>YR 3</b>	<b>YR 4</b>	<b>Freq.</b>	<b>Data Source/ Meth.</b>	<b>Resp. for Data Collection</b>	<b>Description (indicator definition etc.)</b>
<i>Intermediate Result Indicator One:</i> M&E system operational		Qualitative	No M&E system in place	M&E system being utilized by PMU	M&E system being utilized by PMU	M&E system being utilized by PMU	M&E system being utilized by PMU	Annually	Progress reports	NCARE	PMU produces progress reports utilizing M&E system

<i>Intermediate Result Indicator Two: Progress reports are submitted in a timely manner</i>		Yes/No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Bi-annually	Progress reports	NCARE	Based on reports' templates as described in the PIM and submission schedule as described in the Grant Agreement
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**ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS** (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

STAP	
<p>It is unclear from the program document whether and to what extent the World Bank and Jordan will develop ecotourism business plans for the Burqu' protected area with the aim to improve desert livelihoods and conserve desert biodiversity. Perhaps the World Bank could clarify this aspect further. STAP also suggests the World Bank considers doing an environmental risk analysis of the potential threats to the ecosystems, resulting from the various proposed ecotourism activities.</p>	<p>During YR1 of implementation, the project will prepare an Ecotourism Development Plan (ETDP) under sub-component 1 that will lay the vision and development of the corridor including exact siting, intervention points, scale/number of infrastructure, services and products to be developed. Since this is the first time an ETDP is created for a desert ecosystem in Jordan, and since the Badia represents 80 percent of Jordan's total area, it is expected that the ETDP will have a multiplying effect and a very strong impact on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in the country as a whole. The ETDP will thus prove to be an important and timely instrument that will influence decision making on the sustainable management of the Badia, including biodiversity and ecosystem valuation. The ETDP will include a baseline ecological study and define areas for ecotourism interventions taking into account environmental considerations. The ETDP will determine the conservation value of the area and the relative importance of different habitats or parts of the site and individual species. It will also explore the relative sensitivity/value of different ecotourism areas in terms of nature conservation, landscape, archaeology and cultural interests. Based on the results of the ETDP, in the event any 'core conservation or wilderness area' is identified (ecologically valuable areas), the project will exclude this area and include only those areas suitable for tourism and as informed by the ETDP. Furthermore, communities (Ar Ruwaished and other smaller villages close to Burqu' as well as some along the corridor) will be provided with awareness raising on the potential fragility of the local environmental resources, and the project will continue through its lifespan to actively engage with the communities.</p> <p>The ETDP will also include socio-economic surveys to assess the socio-economic status of the communities living in and around the area, especially their level of dependency on the resources of the area. The general assumption is that those members of the community most dependent on the tourism area for their livelihood base should be the target group(s) for the socio-economic interventions, including a pre-determined share of the revenue from the corridor. In addition to dependency assessments, information on decision making structures in the target communities and the attitudes towards conservation and</p>

	<p>tourism is gathered.</p> <p>In addition, during implementation the project will also prepare specific Environmental Management Plan (EMPs) to assess the environmental impacts in relation to the surrounding environment and potential threats to the ecosystem for the proposed site specific interventions (e.g. 10-12 room ecolodge and campsites).</p> <p>Furthermore, the project has already prepared a separate Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and management plan for the project as a whole, that will be applied during project implementation.</p> <p>Finally, during project preparation, a series of broad-based consultations with the target communities were undertaken during the preparation of the ESIA and the socio-economic assessment. Separate consultations were held with community leaders and representatives, with women and youth to provide adequate opportunities for all community groups to provide input in fora that met cultural norms and practices. Results from the consultations formed a basis for the reports, and they include a separate section on community consultations.</p>
<b>GEF Council (Germany), November 2011</b>	<b>WB Response</b>
All countries concerned have long standing experiences in SLM practices (Morocco: GIZ and WB projects, Jordan: GIZ, WB, ACSAD projects, ...) We recommend to put more emphasis during the further elaboration of the project concept on the identification of best practices and strategies for upscaling them.	Section B1 addresses this comment by explaining rangeland management practices and strategies employed by the Government of Jordan since the 1940s, how these have evolved and how the project will further improve them in the southern Badia with the aim of eventually having a successful model that could be scaled up and replicated elsewhere in the Badia.
<b>GEFSEC Comments, July 9, 2012</b>	<b>WB Response</b>
<p><i>8. Are the relevant GEF 5 focal/ multifocal areas/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF objectives identified?</i></p> <p>BD: The link between the BD project objective and the narrative part needs to be strengthened. Table A, the project aims to contribute to BD-2, but lack specific details on how the linked activities are reflected (sub-national land-use and ecosystem service valuation). In the narrative part, a direct contribution to biodiversity conservation across 6,500 ha is mentioned for channeling funds toward the management of a future PA. But these expected outputs contribute to BD-1. Therefore please update Table A accordingly and provide further information on the activities leading to these outputs.</p>	<p>The project does aim to contribute to the BD-2 objective, in particular, the “increase in sustainably managed landscapes and seascapes that integrate biodiversity conservation” outcome. Indeed, the proposed project, through its Component 1, will complement baseline investments made by the Government of Jordan (through RSCN) in its protected areas located in the Badia, namely the existing Al Azraq and Shaumari reserves and the future Burqu’ reserve, by catalyzing the mainstreaming of the sustainable use of biodiversity in the ecotourism production sector through the creation of an ecotourism corridor and corresponding activities in the Badia landscape between the Al Azraq/Shaumari and</p>

	<p>Burqu' reserves. This will ensure that biodiversity is more sustainably used and valued in this productive landscape outside of the reserves, which is currently severely degraded and has some of the highest poverty incidences in the country. A land use plan for desert ecotourism will be developed (an Ecotourism Development Plan (ETDP)), spelling out how ecotourism could be sustainably harnessed for the benefit of sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity, which in turn would provide fiscal benefits to involved communities. Since this is the first time an ETDP is created for a desert ecosystem in Jordan, and since the Badia represents 80 percent of Jordan's total area, it is expected that the ETDP will have a multiplying effect and a very strong impact on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in the country as a whole. The ETDP will be developed on the basis of baseline ecological and socio-economic surveys for the proposed tourism area, spatial information and a zoning plan. The project will also result in ecosystem service valuation as the revenue generated from the corridor will serve as an indication of the enhanced value placed on the ecosystem services of the Badia through ecotourism activities.</p> <p>While the Bank team has retained the BD-2 objective, outcome and output for the above-mentioned explanation in Table A, please note that additional text has been included in Table B to better clarify the linkage. Additionally, relevant information has been added to the main text.</p>
<p><i>9. Is the project consistent with the recipient country's national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions, including NPFE, NAPA, NCSA, or NAP?</i></p> <p>The consistency is adequately described for Conventions (i.e. NBSAP and NAP), but not for national strategies including those associated with poverty reduction. Please highlight specific national strategies and plans for which this project demonstrates consistency.</p>	<p>Information on consistency with national strategies, including those associated with poverty reduction, has been added in section A.2.</p>
<p><i>10. Does the proposal clearly articulate how the capacities developed, if any, will contribute to the sustainability of project outcomes?</i></p> <p>Since the project will target beneficiaries for most of the activities in the southern Badia, sustainability of project outcomes will be greatly enhanced. However for component 1 focusing on BD, preliminary information is only given for education programs for tourists and school children visiting the area, on a website, and on the RSCN "Ajloun Ecotourism and Ranger training Academy". Please provide further information on the targeted public, and the institution in charge of the activities</p>	<p>In the north, sub-component 1.2 will focus on enhancing local communities' capacities to contribute to and benefit from ecotourism investments, through targeted training and awareness raising. This is expected to secure communities' involvement in ecotourism and enhance their livelihoods in a sustainable manner. While information about the targeted public has been added in Section B.2, information on RSCN, the</p>



development.	executing entity for investments in the north, is available in greater detail in Section B.5.
<p><i>11. Is (are) the baseline project(s), including problem (s) that the baseline project(s) seek/s to address, sufficiently described and based on sound data and assumptions?</i></p> <p>The baseline reflects two spatially distinct realities in the southern and northern Badia, as basis for justifying separate BD and LD interventions. While the approach is justified for the LD, it raises questions for the BD focal area specifically, such as detail on the status of biodiversity and threats, and the on-going actions on biodiversity conservation in the overall Badia ecosystem (number of protected areas, level of management effectiveness...). Please provide specific details to justify use of the focal area resources in the northern Badia (component 1).</p>	Information has been added in Section B.1.
<p><i>12. Has the cost-effectiveness been sufficiently demonstrated, including the cost-effectiveness of the project design approach as compared to alternative approaches to achieve similar benefits?</i></p> <p>No. The separation of interventions between the northern and southern Badia is justified on the basis of social, economic and ecological realities. However, it is not clear how this single project approach will be different from designing two separate projects. Please provide a clear explanation for why these two disparate circumstances are best addressed through a single project under the MENA-DELP.</p>	In order to contribute to the objective of the MENA-DELP in the most meaningful way, the BERP supports two sets of activities (and sub-activities) which are the most relevant and have the highest potential to impact the environment and people's livelihoods in the Badia area. In addition, including activities in the north and the south into a single project will result in reduced operating and management/M&E costs since there will be one Project Management Unit and one Steering Committee. More importantly in the way it is designed, the BERP will clearly demonstrate to stakeholders the diverse values of desert ecosystems. Once completed, these interventions can be scaled up and replicated in other areas of the Badia. An explanation has been added in Section B.6.
<p><i>13. Are the activities that will be financed using GEF/LDCF/SCCF funding based on incremental/ additional reasoning?</i></p> <p>The CEO document is very weak in clearly demonstrating the GEF value-added. The section B.2 needs to include specific statements about how the GEF financing builds on the baseline to deliver GEBs and development benefits. The details should also be consistent the project framework (Table B), including breakdown of the GEF grants.</p>	Section B.2 has been modified accordingly.
<p><i>14. Is the project framework sound and sufficiently clear?</i></p> <p>No, the project framework needs to be refined for greater clarity based on the following:</p> <p>1. Alignment with DELP - Table 1 in the PAD (page 15-16 of CEO doc) does not distinguish between outcomes, outputs, results and indicators. A more consistent presentation will be helpful in showing how the BERP will advance the DELP vision, especially in light of ecosystem services being targeted by the former. For the</p>	This table has been revised and the target and timeframe of new income have been added in the table and in the Project Framework (US\$570,000 by end of Year 4). The targets in the PAD and the CEO memo have also been reconciled.

<p>proposed new income from ecotourism (numbers slightly different between PAD and CEO doc), over what time frame will the amount be generated?</p> <p>2. BD focal area contribution is not adequately reflected in project design. While BD2 is targeted, there is no evidence of the project delivering "land use plans that incorporate biodiversity and ecosystem services valuation". To ensure consistency with the focal area strategy framework (Table A), please specify exactly how mainstreaming will be demonstrated in the BELP. Will the project help to mainstream BD in the tourism sector? If so, how will this be reflected at national Level?</p>	<p>Please see response to comment 8. This mainstreaming approach used in the project is relevant at the national level in that RSCN is the national entity mandated with the management of protected areas in the country. RSCN incorporates socio-economic benefits for local communities in this mandate through its Wild Jordan arm, which focuses on ecotourism and community projects in and around reserves (it has been doing so successfully for several years). The approach used in this project of mainstreaming the sustainable use of biodiversity through ecotourism in the areas around or between protected area systems can thus be replicated in other parts of the country.</p>
<p><i>15. Are the applied methodology and assumptions for the description of the incremental/additional benefits sound and appropriate?</i></p> <p>No, the incremental benefits are not clear especially as they relate to GEBs and livelihood benefits. Please address the following:</p> <p>1. GEBs - for component 1, increased awareness and sustained livelihoods (page 10 of CEO doc) are not GEBs. In terms of areas targeted for BD benefits, please specify what the nature of those benefits are. Is it expansion of PA, management effectiveness of existing PA, or formal designation of a planned PA? Based on this confirmation, the BD objective will need to change to BD1, and consistency with the TT will be needed. Please provide further details on how the GEBs will be monitored.</p>	<p>Component 1 GEBs have been updated in Section B.2. The main GEBs resulting from BD activities are that the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the Badia will be integrated into the management of the productive landscapes between the Azraq/Shaumari and Burqu' reserves. This is an important outcome for the Badia ecosystem and its communities, as this landscape is extremely degraded in particular through overgrazing and the overexploitation of water resources, with few opportunities for a local population which has one of the highest poverty incidences in the country. The project will contribute to linking the maintenance of ecosystem services in this area of the Badia to community livelihoods and well-being, and thus initiate a positive feedback loop, which is now broken. This is also an important outcome in terms of showing that the benefits flowing from mainstreaming the sustainable use of biodiversity is not restricted to natural reserves pockets, but to the wider Badia ecosystem and its communities. This can lead to catalyzing a more integrated approach to the management of ecosystem services in the Badia, by looking at the broader landscape, hence the importance of the BD-2 objective here. The baseline investments for the GoJ have already enabled the establishment of a sound and recognized protected area system. The real value-added of GEF funds in this case, is the mainstreaming of biodiversity aspects into</p>

<p>2. For the same Component 1 on development of tourism activities, please give details on the national and the RSCN experiences in ecotourism development and PA management (such as number of sites developed, number of ecotourists per year, if any)</p> <p>3. The project mentions the development of a revenue sharing mechanism with communities, please provide further information on it (type of envisaged mechanism, which governance...).</p>	<p>the management and sustainable use of the broader landscape, particularly through ecotourism development.</p> <p>Information has been added in Section B.2.</p> <p>Information has been added in Section B.2.</p>
<p><i>18. Does the project take into account potential major risks, including the consequences of climate change and provides sufficient risk mitigation measures? (i.e., climate resilience)</i></p> <p>Overall approach to mitigating risks associated with stakeholders should be reflected in project design. However, it is not certain why there is a risk of "targeted southern Badia communities" showing reluctance to participate in planned activities, or roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders being unclear. Please clarify these risks and explain why they are not inherently addressed as part of the project design.</p> <p>For BD: The project expects to develop tourism activity, therefore the security situation in the region should be mentioned in Table B4.</p>	<p>The risk of communities not recognizing the long term value of non-fenced community-managed rangeland reserves is mitigated within the design of the project through close and ongoing engagement of the HFDJB with the southern communities; getting them prepared to utilize and take over the management of the reserves. This will be formalized through grazing agreements between the HFDJB and the communities.</p> <p>Roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders refer to the need to clearly define NCARE, RSCN and HFDJB's respective execution responsibilities. While the role of RSCN is highly distinct in that it is the only entity engaged in the north, the respective roles of HFDJB and NCARE in the south have been clearly explained in the Project Implementation Manual, which has been prepared by RSCN, HFDJB and NCARE.</p> <p>This risk and the above explanation have been added in Section B.4</p>
<p><i>19. Is the project consistent and properly coordinated with other related initiatives in the country or in the region?</i></p> <p>No. The Badia ecosystem has been a target a several efforts targeted at human development, rangeland management, and biodiversity conservation. Please provide a description of such efforts and how this project will leverage lessons and experiences from them.</p>	<p>Section B.7 details all ongoing and planned programs and projects which take place in the Badia and thematically relate to what the BELP is seeking to achieve.</p> <p>UNDP's Conservation of the Dana and Azraq Protected Areas project (ID</p>

<p>For the BD focal area, the project should build/ exchange experiences with the additional following on-going GEF projects: ID 355 (on Al Azraq PA), ID 3932 (Mainstreaming biodiversity in silvo-pastoral and rangeland landscapes) and ID 4596 (Mainstream biodiversity conservation in Tourism sector).</p>	<p>355) is operationally closed since end December 1999; according to contact made with IFAD's Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Silvo-Pastoral and Rangeland Landscapes in the Pockets of Poverty of Jordan project (ID 3932) in May 2012, the project has not yet started implementation. This project will not be carried out in the Badia; at a certain point during project preparation, the task team considered adopting this project's approach toward community engagement in rangeland management (the traditional Al Hima methodology) but after extensive internal discussions and brainstorming with the HFDJB, decided to follow the successful approach of the HFDJB instead; information on collaboration with the Council approved Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation in the Tourism Sector project (ID 4586) has been added in Section B.7.</p> <p>Lessons learned from past and ongoing projects which have influenced the design of the BELP have also been added to Section B.7.</p>
<p><i>20. Is the project implementation/ execution arrangement adequate?</i></p> <p>NCARE as the project Implementing Agency raises some important question about the implementation arrangements. Component 1 as presented will be executed by RSCN, an independent non-profit NGO devoted to the conservation of Jordan's natural resources; which is relevant. RSCN has developed and managed a number of ecotourism facilities. It has strong technical capacity, a clear mandate (through a by-law, 1966) and proven experience in ecotourism development. Given the emphasis on ecotourism, how will NCARE provide oversight of RSCN activities to ensure delivery according to established standards for the sector? Please provide a clear explanation on how the technical oversight will be managed by these entities under WB guidance. An illustrative diagram will be helpful to show the decision-making and accountability for project outcomes.</p>	<p>This project will follow successful implementation practices which include the hiring of the most qualified technical specialists to execute a given task, based on technically approved Terms of Reference (TORs) and comparison of deliverables with the agreed to TORs. The most qualified entity to execute ecotourism in Jordan, RSCN, will be hired on a direct contract basis by the Implementing Agency, NCARE. NCARE's capacity to provide adequate technical oversight will be assured through the appointment of a competent Project Manager who will have an advanced degree in environmental conservation and management, agriculture, natural resources management or other relevant professional skills; at least 8 years of prior work experience in top management in the public, private sector and/or NGOs and strong familiarity with the project areas and communities, among other qualifications. The World Bank will continue to include a technical expert as part of the project team who will guide the PMU on an ongoing basis and review Terms of Reference and deliverables that are submitted to the PMU.</p> <p>An illustrative diagram showing the decision-making and accountability structure has been added in Part III, Section A.</p>
<p><i>25. At CEO endorsement: indicate if confirmed co-financing is provided.</i></p> <p>Co-financing letters are included to confirm proposed amounts, but there is a slight discrepancy between amounts in the letter and those presented in the CEO document.</p>	<p>The co-financing amounts have been reconciled throughout the document to match exactly the amounts indicated in the co-financing letters.</p> <p>The co-financing letter from GoJ dated June 11, 2012 mentions the total</p>

<p>Please review the MOPIC endorsement letter and adjust the amounts accordingly. Also, please provide letter of endorsement for the cash grant of \$140,000 proposed by the Government.</p>	<p>in-kind contribution from the GoJ, which includes a contribution of US\$280,000 from the HFDJB. The letter does not specify that half of the HF's total contribution is cash grant. However since the GoJ co-financing letter did not make this distinction, the Bank has now received an email from MOPIC dated July 11, 2012 clarifying the breakdown (US\$140,000 each in-kind and in-cash). In addition, the MOPIC has also forwarded to the Bank the original letter sent to MOPIC by the HFDJB that clearly mentions this breakdown. Both documents—email and letter are attached to the CEO endorsement package.</p>
<p><i>27. Have the appropriate Tracking Tools been included with information for all relevant indicators, as applicable?</i></p> <p>Yes. BD: Excel sheet of the METT have been provided, but may need to be updated accordingly based on early comments on the BD objectives (under #8).</p>	<p>In line with the above response, no changes have been introduced to the BD Tracking Tool.</p>
<p><i>28. Does the proposal include a budgeted M&amp;E Plan that monitors and measures results with indicators and targets?</i></p> <p>The budgeted M&amp;E plan is consistent with proposed needs for TTs and based on project indicators. Please clarify how the co-financing of \$1,170,000 in the last sentence under section H.</p>	<p>The question may be incomplete. If an explanation of the co-financing amount is requested, as indicated in Section H, co-financing for M&amp;E will be provided in the form of (i) existing social and environmental baseline studies for the area of intervention under Component 1 funded by the UNCC-funded BRP in the amount of US\$1 million, and (ii) staff weeks, equipment and software provided by NCARE, RSCN and HFDJB for conducting baseline surveys and field evaluations of performance, valued at US\$170,000 according to practiced staff costs and valuation of rental cost of equipment and software. Therefore, the total M&amp;E co-financing is US\$1,170,000.</p>



**ANNEX C: CONSULTANTS TO BE HIRED FOR THE PROJECT USING GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF RESOURCES**

<i>Position Titles</i>	<i>\$/ Person Week*</i>	<i>Estimated Person Weeks**</i>	<i>Tasks To Be Performed</i>
<b>For Project Management</b>			
Local			
External Auditor	1,250	16	External independent auditing of project financial accounts
Translator	1,250	16	Translation baseline documents, surveys and field reports to English for the purpose of reporting to the World Bank
International			
Justification for travel, if any: Local trips from Amman to project sites: per diem and travel costs			
<b>For Technical Assistance</b>			
Local			
Royal Society for Conservation of Nature (RSCN)	8980	80	Execution of component 1 activities under one direct contract
Hashemite Fund for the Development of the Jordan Badia	5062.5	160	Execution of sub component 2.3 activities under one single source contract
Project Manager	900	160	Technical support to project management and monitoring and evaluation, Secretariat to the SC and Chair of the TWG
M&E Specialist	480	80	Technical support to project M&E and reporting, M&E training as needed to stakeholders
Financial Officer	300	160	Financial management and accounting of project funds and financial management reporting
International			
Justification for travel, if any:			

\* Provide dollar rate per person week. \*\* Total person weeks needed to carry out the tasks.

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

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

<i><b>Project Preparation Activities Approved</b></i>	<i><b>Implementation Status</b></i>	<i><b>GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF Amount (\$)</b></i>				<i><b>Cofinancing (\$)</b></i>
		<i><b>Amount Approved</b></i>	<i><b>Amount Spent To date</b></i>	<i><b>Amount Committed</b></i>	<i><b>Uncommitted Amount*</b></i>	
	(Select)					
	(Select)					
	(Select)					
	(Select)					
	(Select)					
	(Select)					
	(Select)					
	(Select)					
<b>Total</b>		0	0	0	0	0

\* Any uncommitted amounts should be returned to the GEF Trust Fund. This is not a physical transfer of money, but achieved through reporting and netting out from disbursement request to Trustee. Please indicate expected date of refund transaction to Trustee.



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

N/A