



GEF-6 REQUEST FOR PROJECT ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Project

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF Trust Fund

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PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Integrated ecosystem management project for the sustainable human development in Mauritania			
Country(ies):	Mauritania	GEF Project ID: ¹	9294
GEF Agency(ies):	FAO (select) (select)	GEF Agency Project ID:	637241
Other Executing Partner(s):		Submission Date:	7 May 2018
GEF Focal Area (s):	Multi-focal Areas	Project Duration (Months)	60
Integrated Approach Pilot	IAP-Cities <input type="checkbox"/> IAP-Commodities <input type="checkbox"/> IAP-Food Security <input type="checkbox"/>	Corporate Program: SGP	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name of Parent Program	N/A	Agency Fee (\$)	781,138

1. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK AND OTHER PROGRAM STRATEGIES²

Focal Area Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
			GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
BD-1 Program 2	Outcome 2.1 Increase in area of terrestrial and marine ecosystems of global significance in new protected areas and increase in threatened species of global significance protected in new protected areas.	GEFTF	507,567	1,700,000
CCM-2 Program 4	Outcome A. Accelerated adoption of innovative technologies and management practices for GHG emission reduction and carbon sequestration	GEFTF	2,489,726	6,000,000
BD-3 Program 7	Outcome 7.1 Increased genetic diversity of globally significant cultivated plants and domesticated animals that are sustainably used within production systems.	GEFTF	1,268,917	3,090,876
LD-1 Program 1	Outcome 1.1: Improved agricultural, rangeland and pastoral management	GEFTF	2,281,795	7,000,000
SFM-3	Outcome 5: Integrated landscape restoration plans to maintain forest ecosystem services are implemented at appropriate scales by government, private sector and local community actors, both women and men.	GEFTF	1,674,500	4,350,000
Total project costs			8,222,505	22,140,876

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

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

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Project Objective ³ : Increase sustainable human development through the restoration of ecosystem services and an integrated ecosystem management approach in three Southern Mauritania landscapes.						
Project Components/ Programs	Financing Type ⁴	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
					GEF Project Financing	Confirmed Co-financing
1. Integrated and participatory planning for the sustainable development of ecosystems	TA	<p>Outcome 1: The use of land and natural resources is informed and governed by an integrated, participatory and gender sensitive approach.</p> <p>Indicator: <i>The extent to which dynamic agro-biodiversity, biodiversity, forest, soil, water conservation and climate change are integrated into community driven land use plans in each of the project's three landscapes and based on a participatory and gender sensitive approaches</i></p>	<p>Output 1.1 A platform to monitor ecological and socio-economic indicators is created and serves as a basis for the land use planning</p> <p>Output 1.2 An integrated, participatory and gender-sensitive land use plan for each project landscape is established, on the basis of a consensus amongst diverse land users</p> <p>Output 1.3 One new terrestrial protected area is formally established and integrated into the concerned landscape's land use plan</p>	GEFTF	353,300	1,550,000
2. Conservation, restoration and sustainable management of the landscape / ecosystem	Inv	<p>Outcome 2: Land degradation is reduced, habitats are rehabilitated, and vegetation cover and soil carbon sinks are restored through a participatory and integrated ecosystem approach</p> <p>Indicators: <i># hectares under sustainable management</i></p>	<p>Output 2.1 Land degradation is reduced and vegetation cover is restored</p> <p>Output 2.2 Alternative or sustainable sources of energy promoted to reduce pressures on forests and biomass</p>	GEFTF	4,970,625	11,100,000

³ The **Project objective** is the medium-term result we want to achieve by the end of the project. What change do we reasonably expect we can achieve by the end of the project, if the component outcomes are achieved? Note: the project objective is not a simple aggregation or reformulation of the Component Outcomes.

⁴ Financing type can be either investment or technical assistance.

		<p># tons of CO₂ eq sequestered or avoided</p> <p>Outcome 3: Sustainable use and management of water reserves for increased water availability during dry spells</p> <p>Indicator: <i>Number of people who have access to water during dry periods, disaggregated by sex</i></p>	Output 3.1 Water storage and mobilisation infrastructure are built and managed in a participatory manner			
3. Reduction of pressure on ecosystems through income generation and funding mechanisms	Inv	<p>Outcome 4: Increased, diversified and stable sources of income for the local population through more sustainable exploitation of natural resources</p> <p>Indicator: <i>Number of people benefiting from increased revenue sources (from improved productivity and diversified income sources), disaggregated by sex</i></p>	<p>Output 4.1 Training, technical assistance and knowledge exchange catalyzed via farmer field school approaches for agro-pastoralists in pilot areas.</p> <p>Output 4.2 Producer groups established and supported, building biodiversity-friendly value chains and enhanced market access, for alternative income sources</p>	GEFTF	2,093,582	6,900,000
4. Knowledge management	TA	Outcome 5: Local and national decision-makers and authorities have an improved knowledge on development and environmental issues on which they are able to base land use planning and natural resources management decisions	Output 5.1 The project's results and lessons are identified, documented, and reported upon in a timely manner	GEFTF	413,450	800,000
Subtotal					7,830,957	20,350,000
Project Management Cost (PMC) ⁵				GEFTF	391,548	1,790,876
Total project costs					8,222,505	22,140,876

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

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

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

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Cofinancing	Amount (\$)
Recipient Government	Ministry of Agriculture	Grant	3,000,000
Recipient Government	Ministry of Agriculture	In-kind	1,000,000
Recipient Government	Ministry of Hydraulics and Water Sanitation	Grant	5,000,000
Recipient Government	Ministry of Livestock	Grant	4,000,000
Recipient Government	Ministry of Environment	Grant	2,600,000
Recipient Government	Ministry of Environment	In-kind	800,000
Recipient Government	Tadamoun	Grant	3,300,000
Recipient Government	Government of Mauritania	Cash	1,390,876
GEF Agency	FAO	In-kind	1,050,000
Total Co-financing			22,140,876

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

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country Name/Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in \$)		
					GEF Project Financing (a)	Agency Fee ^{a)} (b) ²	Total (c)=a+b
FAO	GEF TF	Mauritania	Climate Change	N/A	2,489,726	236,524	2,726,250
FAO	GEF TF	Mauritania	Biodiversity	N/A	1,776,484	168,766	1,945,250
FAO	GEF TF	Mauritania	Land degradation	N/A	2,281,795	216,770	2,498,565
FAO	GEF TF	Mauritania	SFM	SFM	1,674,500	159,078	1,833,578
Total Grant Resources					8,222,505	781,138	9,003,643

a) Refer to the Fee Policy for GEF Partner Agencies

5. PROJECT'S TARGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS⁶

Provide the expected project targets as appropriate.

Corporate Results	Replenishment Targets	Project Targets
1. Maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society	Improved management of landscapes and seascapes covering 300 million hectares	152,355 hectares
2. Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)	120 million hectares under sustainable land management	160,355 hectares
3. Support to transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path	750 million tons of CO _{2e} mitigated (include both direct and indirect)	4.8 million tCO _{2eq} ⁷ direct and 9.2 million tCO _{2eq} indirect

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

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. DESCRIBE ANY CHANGES IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE PROJECT DESIGN WITH THE ORIGINAL PIF⁸

A.1. *Project Description*. Elaborate on: 1) the global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed; 2) the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects, 3) the proposed alternative scenario, GEF focal area⁹ strategies, with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project, 4) incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTE, LDCF, SCCF, CBIT and co-financing; 5) global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF); and 6) innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

1) The global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed

1. There have been no major changes since the PIF; the project seeks to address climate change, biodiversity, land degradation and unsustainable forest management. The detailed description of global environmental problems can be found in section 1 of the Project Document.

2) The baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects

2. There have not been only minor changes to the baseline scenario since the PIF. Other baseline initiatives beyond those highlighted in the PIF were included in this project design, including PGIRE II, RIMRAP, PRODEFI, Programme Alliance against Climate Change, and Tadamoun's Takavoul programme. Please refer to Section 2.1.2 of the project document for further detail.

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

⁷ This estimate was derived from calculations made using the EX-ACT tool for estimating ex ante emissions reductions from activities including afforestation, reforestation, improved rangeland management, SLM and other land-based activities. See Annex 10 of Project Document for Details.

⁸ For questions A.1 – A.7 in Part II, if there are no changes since PIF, no need to respond, please enter "NA" after the respective question.

⁹ For biodiversity projects, in addition to explaining the project's consistency with the biodiversity focal area strategy, objectives and programs, please also describe which Aichi Target(s) the project will directly contribute to achieving.

- 3) The proposed alternative scenario, GEF focal area¹⁰ strategies, with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project

PIF	CEO endorsement	PIF	CEO endorsement	CEO endorsement
Project component/ expected outcomes	Project component/ expected outcomes	Expected outputs ¹¹	Expected outputs	Justification of the change to the PIF
<p>Component 4. Inter-sectoral cooperation and programme monitoring Outcome 5. The achievements and lessons of the program are well established and perpetuated</p> <p>Indicator: Communication strategy and plan implemented</p>	<p>Component 4 Knowledge management</p> <p>Outcome 5. Local and national decision-makers and authorities have an improved knowledge on development and environmental issues on which they are able to base land use planning and natural resources management decisions</p>	<p>Output 5.1. Recommendations are put forth for the strengthening of development governance in the South</p> <p>Output 5.2 The program's results and lessons are identified, documented, and reported upon in a timely manner</p>	<p>Output 5.1 The project's results and lessons are identified, documented, and reported upon in a timely manner</p>	<p>Given the several existing inter-sectoral cooperation platforms embedded in the 2017-2021 National Strategy for Environment and Sustainable Development (Stratégie Nationale de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable (SNEDD)), the project will not seek to add another coordination mechanism beyond its Project Steering Committee and Landscape Steering Committees. Instead, it will focus on identification, documentation and reporting on results and achievements of the project's several interventions, communicate. For this reason this Component, Outcome and Outputs have been accordingly rephrased in the Project Document and CEO Endorsement.</p> <p>For more information on SNEDD and the inter and intra ministerial coordination platforms see Section 1 of the ProDoc. For more information on Component 4 see section 2.2.2 of ProDoc.</p>

- 4) Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTE, LDCE, SCCE, CBIT and co-financing

3. The incremental cost reasoning has been developed in the project document sections 2.1.2 and 2.2.1.

4. Expected contribution from the GEF TF remains at USD 8 222 505 and co financing is USD 22 140 876. The co-financing engages a large partnership from multiple ministries, including Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Livestock, and the Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation.

¹⁰ For biodiversity projects, in addition to explaining the project's consistency with the biodiversity focal area strategy, objectives and programs, please also describe which Aichi Target(s) the project will directly contribute to achieving.

¹¹ In case of a single focal area, single country, single GEF Agency project, and single trust fund, no need to provide information for this table.

5) Global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCE/SCCF)

Global environmental benefits	In PIF	In CEO Endorsement	Justification of the change to the PIF
Maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society	15,000 hectares under improved management	152,355 hectares under improved management of landscapes and seascapes covering 300 million hectares	The project proposes to restore degraded classified forest ecosystems, that are the habitat of plant and animal species of global significance, on a total area of 2,355 ha. In addition, the project proposes to establish a Biosphere reserve in the El Atf zone of a total minimal area of 150,000 ha.
Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)	39,000 ha under sustainable land management	160,355 hectares under sustainable land management (direct)	Changes in the number of hectares contributing to the global environmental benefits reflect the selection of the three landscapes. The project will indirectly promote sustainable land management in production systems in over 846,123 hectares (total area of the three landscapes) given land use plans for the sustainable management of land and natural resources will be developed. However, the project's activities will directly impact 160,355 hectares, including: improved grassland management on 150,000 hectares, afforestation on 3,000 hectares, reduced forest degradation in 2,355 hectares and improved cropland management on 5,000 hectares.
Support to transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path	1.85 million metric tons mitigated	4.8 million tCO _{2eq} mitigated (direct) and 9.2 million tCO _{2eq} mitigated (indirect)	This new calculation of 4.8 million tCO _{2eq} is based on the new EX-ACT calculation which takes into account the larger area the project will impact. The project will promote improved grassland management on 150,000 hectares, afforestation on 3,000 hectares, reduced forest degradation in 2,355 hectares and improved cropland management on 5,000 hectares, totaling 160,355 hectares. The detail can be found in Annex 10 of the Project Document. Also indirect carbon benefits have been recalculated, based on more detailed and precise information on upscaling potential. This upscaling considers a total area of 241,600 ha, of which 200,000 ha grassland rehabilitation, 9,600ha of forest management, 15,000 ha of cropland rehabilitation and 17,000 ha of reforestation/afforestation. Estimated carbon benefits are therefore 9.2 million tCO _{2eq} .

6) Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

5. Innovativeness: The ongoing initiatives to address sustainable human development have all looked at the underlying problems associated with human development individually. The innovativeness of the proposed project resides in the fact that it will take an integrated and ecosystem-based approach to sustainable human development that also takes into consideration the socio-cultural aspects of the agro-pastoral lifestyle. The proposed project's innovative strategy therefore resides in the fact that it will use such an integrated approach in three specific ecosystem areas that are faced with the root causes affecting sustainable human development (as seen in section 1), and then scale that up to other and larger areas.
6. Another innovation for Mauritania is that the project will combine a productive approach to a conservation approach, targeted particularly at commodities and species that have high conservation and economic value. Efforts to enhance agro-biodiversity by conserving and promoting endemic species that are disappearing will contribute to the resilience of the local food systems.
7. Furthermore, the project will develop alternative supply chains to enable rural communities to augment and diversify their income sources by creating linkages to private sector and access to markets. The supply chains will create added value for products traditionally found in the area such as the balanites tree, which is thought to produce an oil as valuable as argan oil, the moringa tree, whose by-products are increasingly commercialized in Europe and North America and hailed as a super food, acacia gum trees from which can be derived Arabic gum, and the salvadora tree- used for high value toothpicks commercialized Middle East. Other potential supply chains which could be developed in the area are water lilies, aquaculture, and the pigeon pea.
8. FAO is building on its comparative advantage and experience in the country, such as for example by making use of the tried and tested FAO-led Agro-Pastoral Field School approach to support 10,000 farmers (including 6,000 women) in improving the productivity of crops traditionally grown, while building their resilience to climate change.
9. Sustainability: The planned trainings at the local and institutional levels for the sound and sustainable management of the ecosystems and the services they provide will contribute to the sustainability of this initiative, and so will the reduction in natural resources dependence and the improvement of the livelihoods. More importantly perhaps, the integrated and ecosystem-based approach design of the project will form the basis of its sustainability. It is expected that the creation of direct, observable economic benefits arising from the sustainable use of resources for the targeted communities will create strong incentives to maintain sustainable practices in the longer term.
10. More specifically, innovative water management practices established to sustain land productivity in the face of climate change, such as landscaping drainage control and improved irrigation, water retention ponds and a reduction in flooding event damages, water availability will increase by 20% during the dry season, further increasing agricultural productivity, but also reducing potential damages from flooding events.
11. In addition, the creation of the Biosphere reserve, coupled with the prevention corridors, will lead to putting in place management systems that prevent overgrazing of key areas as well as bushfires.
12. Potential for scaling up: The tools and trainings developed under the various components of this project have the potential to be scaled up and reproduced in other targeted areas of the country. For instance, the development of a knowledge platform that governments and local planners will be able to use to gain access to data on ecological and socio-economic indicators, as well as the strengthening of local capacities, should be conducive for scaling up. Thus, the initiatives undertaken in this project may be replicated for sustainable human development issues in other parts of the country. In addition, the training provided in Agro Pastoral and Farmer Field Schools will have a spillover effect, first within each landscape, and then in adjacent landscapes, through the extension agents that will be trained during the project period. In addition, the linkages built with the private sector to develop alternative supply chains can benefit producers beyond the project. The active involvement of competent regional authorities in all project activities will

also help increase the appropriation of the results achieved by these authorities, thereby making it easier for them to replicate these activities in other parts of the region.

A.2. Child Project? If this is a child project under a program, describe how the components contribute to the overall program impact.

N/A

A.3. Stakeholders. Identify key stakeholders and elaborate on how the key stakeholders engagement is incorporated in the preparation and implementation of the project. Do they include civil society organizations (yes ☒ /no ☐)? and indigenous peoples (yes ☐ /no ☒)? ¹²

13. The project will work through the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, in coordination with other governmental, non-governmental and private sector partners. The project design has included various elements to ensure stakeholder engagement during project implementation, such as participation in Project and Landscape Steering Committees as detailed in the Project Document.

14. A summary of consultations is included under Annex 8, Report on Project Preparation Activities. All stakeholders have indicated their support to this project, including through co-financing and partnership arrangements. It should be noted that all activities carried out with maroon populations in the demonstration sites will be carried out based on the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).

A.4. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. Elaborate on how gender equality and women's empowerment issues are mainstreamed into the project implementation and monitoring, taking into account the differences, needs, roles and priorities of women and men. In addition, 1) did the project conduct a gender analysis during project preparation (yes ☒ /no ☐)?; 2) did the project incorporate a gender responsive project results framework, including sex-disaggregated indicators (yes ☒ /no ☐)?; and 3) what is the share of women and men direct beneficiaries (women 50%, men 50%)? ¹³

15. A gender analysis was conducted during project design and gender-specific focus groups were organized during project preparation. The project now includes gender disaggregated indicators and targets in the Results Framework as relevant in order to consider gender issues throughout the implementation and to monitor the impact of activities on women. To have positive impacts on vulnerable women in the selected communities, the project will ensure that women have access to training and capacity building opportunities, as well as livelihoods opportunities which will subsequently have a positive impact on their entire community. More specifically, the project will also ensure participation of women in land use planning exercises under Output 1.1 and 1.3. It will also reduce time spent by women fetching fuelwood and water by promoting biogas and improved cookstoves, as well as increasing water availability during dry spells.

16. The following indicators that take into consideration gender aspects will be measured through the strategic results framework:

- Number of people who have access to water during dry periods, disaggregated by sex.
- Number of people benefiting from increased revenue sources (from improved productivity and diversified income sources), disaggregated by sex.

¹² As per the GEF-6 Corporate Results Framework in the GEF Programming Directions and GEF-6 Gender Core Indicators in the Gender Equality Action Plan, provide information on these specific indicators on stakeholders (including civil society organization and indigenous peoples) and gender.

¹³ Same as footnote 8 above.

A.5 Risk. Elaborate on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, the proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation.(table format acceptable):

17. There were no significant risks identified that would prevent the project from achieving its targets. The table below summarizes the risk assessment for the project. Please refer to Annex 4 of ProDoc for further detail on identification, impact, likelihood and mitigating action for each risk.

Risk	Overall ranking	Mitigation Strategy
Weak capacity of government institutions to support the project	Amber	The project will mitigate this risk by emphasizing on a participative approach, making sure that there is a national ownership of the project objectives and activities. Furthermore, government officials will take part of the preparation stage of the project as well as being part the governance and implementation process, which should strengthen ownership of the project, thus ensuring its success. Finally, training and capacity building will also be provided under Components 1, 2, and 3 which will build capacity of government institutions.
Lack of interest from the local communities to explore alternative supply chains	Green	Training and support will be provided to targeted communities so that they can fully grasp the extent of benefits associated with a reduced natural resources degradation and the enabling of an ecosystem-based approach (Component 1). In addition, under Component 3, local communities will be actively engaged in selection of alternative supply chains.
Lack of interest from the local communities to take up cultivation of endemic, resilient and threatened crops	Green	The crops to be promoted by the project will be selected in consultation with local populations to ensure their ownership of this activity (4.1)
Tools and methodologies developed fail to reach intended users	Green	Training will be provided to the appropriate end-users for the use of the tools and methods to be developed – i.e. monitoring platform under Component 1, restoration techniques under Component 2 and agropastoral techniques under Component 3.
Climate change including long drought periods prevent the interventions from being successful in the long term	Amber	Observed climate changes and future climate scenarios will be taken into account when designing the project activities and integrated in the management plan. Climate change will also be considered when identifying livelihood opportunities (selecting species to be promoted/commercialised).
Sub-contractors fail to deliver on terms of their contracts	Green	Service providers will be selected following thorough due diligence and detailed contracts will be drawn, making payments conditional on deliverables

A.6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination. Describe the institutional arrangement for project implementation. Elaborate on the planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

18. No fundamental change since the PIF. However, additional details and terms of references were developed for local project facilitation, including site-level coordination mechanisms. Please see section 4.2 of Project Document.

Additional Information not well elaborated at PIF Stage:

A.7 Benefits. Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels. How do these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)?

19. Intrinsic to the project's approach and theory of change is the realization of socio-economic benefits as a means to achieve and sustain the local and global environmental benefits delivered by the project. In fact, the project objective is to increase sustainable human development through the restoration of ecosystem services and an integrated ecosystem management approach in three Southern Mauritania landscapes. Socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project will include:

- Increased inclusion, consultation and cooperation among local stakeholders, including women who will participate in decision-making processes with regards to land and natural resources management (Activity 1.2)
- Improved access to water will allow target populations to pursue their livelihoods, while reducing the time for women fetching water (Output 3.1)
- The promotion of biogas and improved cookstoves, will benefit women by reducing time spent to fetch fuelwood enabling to dedicate their time to other revenue-generating activities, while also generating health benefits from the reduction of indoor smoke (Output 2.2)
- Reafforestation, reduction of forest degradation will provide alternative revenue streams for target populations allowing them to increase and diversify their revenue sources (Combination of Outputs 2.1 and 4.2)
- Likewise, the agropastoralist field schools combined with the production and commercialization of indigenous seeds, purchase of equipment, and creation of market linkages will enable pastoralists and farmers to increase and diversify their revenue streams (Output 4.1 and 4.2)
- All these socio-economic improvements will be measured and monitored via the platform developed (Activity 1.1.1)
- The socio-economic benefits generated by the integrated natural resource management will be identified, documented and reported upon in a timely manner (Output 5.1)

A.8 Knowledge Management. Elaborate on the knowledge management approach for the project, including, if any, plans for the project to learn from other relevant projects and initiatives (e.g. participate in trainings, conferences, stakeholder exchanges, virtual networks, project twinning) and plans for the project to assess and document in a user-friendly form (e.g. lessons learned briefs, engaging websites, guidebooks based on experience) and share these experiences and expertise (e.g. participate in community of practices, organize seminars, trainings and conferences) with relevant stakeholders.

20. While aspects of knowledge management are integrated into all of the project's Components, Outcome 5 provides a specific focus on activities that will ensure a systematic results-based monitoring and evaluation of project's progress and to promote the wider dissemination of project information, data and lessons learned for replication in other areas. Meanwhile, Outcome 1 also makes a direct contribution to knowledge management by providing support to the relevant governmental and territorial authorities to better understand and manage the ecosystems, using updated, relevant information and based on a participatory approach to land use planning. Please refer to section 2.2.2, of the Project Document for further detail.

B. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:

B.1 Consistency with National Priorities. Describe the consistency of the project with national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions such as NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc.:

21. This project is consistent with the following national strategies and plans:

22. The Accelerated Growth and Prosperity Sharing Strategy (“Stratégie de Croissance Accélérée et de Partage de Prospérité”) was adopted for the 2016-2030 period. That strategy sets forth a number of priorities, amongst which are (i) integrated management of natural resources and biodiversity, combating desertification, conservation and management of zones of ecological interest and protected areas; (ii) management of environmental impacts, pollution, climate and environmental emergencies, and (iii) the development of partnerships, intersectorial coordination, mobilization of financial resources and communication.
23. The country also launched in 2011 the Environmental and Sustainable Development Policy Declaration¹⁴, which recognizes that the development of the country starts with environmental conservation. The Declaration was a high-level reaffirmation of the National Sustainable Development Strategy (Stratégie Nationale de développement durable (SNDD)), which was adopted in 2006. The SNDD aims for integrated management and efficient use of natural resources, through local participatory management of natural resources, protected areas and wetlands, while encouraging linkages between development and local environmental protection. The SNDD is implemented through the Plan National pour l’Environnement (PANE). In 2017, a new strategy was adopted called National Environment and Sustainable Development Strategy (Stratégie Nationale de l’Environnement et du Développement Durable, SNEDD) along with Plan d’Action National pour l’Environnement et le Développement Durable (PANEDD). The SNEDD’s objectives are to (i) value natural resources in a sustainable and climate change resilient to the benefit of the poor and (ii) promote the ecological and rational use of natural resources and ecosystem services. Expected results include: (i) an integrated policy of conservation, management and sustainable use of marine, terrestrial and aerial ecosystems is implemented (ii) concrete measures to protect the littoral and adaptation of coastal cities are implemented to respond to priorities identified in the context of the framework for climate adaptation and (iii) natural and cultural resource are preserved and valued.
24. The PANEDD contains 5 strategic axes including : (i) integrated environmental governance, (ii) integrated sustainable management of natural resources and biodiversity, (iii) sustainable management of marine and coastal environment; and (iv) strengthening of prevention and management of pollution and threatened species.
25. Activities proposed under this project are also governed by the National Agricultural Development Plan (Plan National de Développement Agricole (PNDA)), which is a 10 year plan adopted in 2016 to develop the agriculture sector. Its global objective is to promote a modern, competitive and sustainable agricultural sector through the development of value chains with high growth potential. It is to be operationalized through four programmes: (i) intensification and diversification of agricultural production (ii) promotion of competitive value chains, (iii) sustainable management of natural resources and (iv) improvement of quality of extension services.
26. The Pastoral Code (Code Pastoral), adopted in 2000 articulates the principles of sustainable pasture management, including land tenure, water access, pastoral organisations, and the role of authorities are all considered.
27. Mauritania’s revised INDC (2015) sets forth the mitigation target of 22.3% by 2030 (equivalent to 4.8 million tonnes CO₂ eq) , using 2010 as a baseline. It aims to achieve this reduction through seven measures including (i) improved livestock management, including genetic improvement (ii) reforestation and afforestation (iii) forest conservation (iv) natural ecosystems and the fight against degradation (v) regeneration of degraded areas through aerial seeding; (vi) creation of exclusion zones to restore pasture land; and (vii) livestock management. Nearly 61% of planned avoided emissions will come from land use sector.
28. The identified adaptation needs, some which overlap with mitigation measures, include: (i) increased food security (ii) aerial seeding to favor natural regeneration, (iii) restauration of pastures (iv) rural population’s increased resilience (v) institutional strengthening for planning and implementation of climate adaptation measures; (vi) strengthening of natural ecosystems’ resilience; and (x) integrated water resource management plans on pilot sites.

¹⁴ République Islamique de Mauritanie. 2011. Déclaration de politique d’environnement et de développement durable. <http://aires-marines.uqar.ca/27/1/DPEDDRIM.pdf>
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29. The project is also aligned with several priority actions identified in Mauritania's NBSAP (2014). In fact two of its three strategic orientations include: strengthening of institutional means for environmental management and integrated natural resources management. The project will also contribute to some of its objectives including Objective 3 (preserve species and their diversity); Objective 4 (Preserve and restore ecosystems and their functioning); and Objective 7 (Diminish pressure on biodiversity).

30. In 2010, Mauritania joined 21 African countries to create the Great Green Wall (GGW) initiative, a pan-African proposal to green the continent from west to east to battle desertification. It aims at tackling poverty and the degradation of soils in the Sahel-Saharan region, focusing on a 15 km wide and 7,100 km long strip of land stretching from Dakar to Djibouti. Mauritania's Strategy for the Great Green Wall has six strategic pillars: (i) improvement of food security through sustainable management of natural resources (ii) good governance and local development (iii) development of income generating activities such as supply chains, (iv) knowledge management, (v) capacity building of stakeholders, (vi) coordination, monitoring and evaluation.

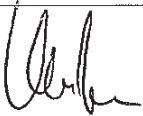
C. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M & E PLAN:

Type of M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Time-frame	Budget (excluding project staff time)
Inception Workshop	FAO Country Office	Within two months of project document signature	10,000
Project Inception Report	Project Manager	Within two weeks of inception workshop	None
Supervision visits	FAO country office	Annually	None
Project Progress Reports (PPR)	Project manager and M&E officer	Annually	None
Project Implementation Review report (PIR)	Project manager	Annually (July)	None
Co-financing Reports	FAO Country office	Annually	None
Mid-term Review	FAO Country Office	Year 3	40,000
Final evaluation	FAO Country office	At least three months before operational closure	50,000 (coordinated by OED)
Terminal Report	Project Manager	Within two months of project closure	None
Total Budget			100,000

PART III: CERTIFICATION BY GEF PARTNER AGENCY(IES)

A. GEF Agency(ies) certification

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies¹⁵ and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for CEO endorsement under GEF-6.

Agency Coordinator, Agency Name	Signature	Date (MM/dd/yyyy)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Alexander Jones Director, Climate and Environment Division FAO - Rome		7 May 2018	Maude Veyret Picot		Maude.veyret- picot@fao.org
Jeffrey Griffin Senior Coordinator GEF Unit FAO - Rome					

¹⁵ GEF policies encompass all managed trust funds, namely: GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF and CBIT
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ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

Annex 1 of the project document contains the results matrix.

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).

Germany Council Member comments	
<p>The achievement of the indicated project outcomes and outputs of this complex and ambitious project depends on the indicated co-financing amounts. Therefore Germany would like to stress that in the course of preparing the final project document, the availability of the indicated co-financing amounts of the 3 Ministries (Agriculture, Water, Environment) of 21,950,000 USD should be reassessed and confirmed by the Mauritanian Government (Ministère de l'Economie et des Finances).</p>	<p>These amounts have been confirmed based on ongoing and planned investment projects. The nature of the co-financing has been revised where needed. In addition to the co-financing from parallel projects and programmes operating in the same intervention areas, the Government of Mauritania has allocated a cash contribution equaling USD 1,390,876 from its national budget.</p> <p>Co-financing letters confirm the following involvement from partners nationally:</p> <p>Minister of Agriculture (USD 4 000 000) Ministry of Livestock (USD 4 000 000) Ministry of Water and Hydraulics (USD 5 000 000) Ministry of Environment (USD 3 400 000) TADAMOUN (USD 3 300 000) FAO (USD 1 050 000) Government of Mauritania (USD1 390 876)</p>
<p>The mechanisms and the roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders (in particular of the co-funding ministries) regarding steering and coordination of the project should be described in more depth and the availability of necessary corresponding resources should be reassessed and confirmed in the final project document.</p>	<p>The mechanisms for coordination have been revised since PIF. The project now includes a locally-based mechanism to enable closer facilitation of project activities, taking distance and territory into consideration. Adequate resources have been put in place to support this. This is described in Section 4.1 of the document.</p>
<p>The project is very complex with a high demand for coordination and cooperation within and between the ministries as well as with their attached agencies, decentralized services, civil society and others. Effective intersectoral coordination by the Mauritanian government, especially by the Ministry of Environment is therefore a prerequisite for the project's success. However, Germany has doubts if key actors, such as the Ministry of Environment, are participating in the multi-sectoral platform mentioned under Component 4./Point 5/Page 18. The final project document should therefore elaborate more precisely on the roles and responsibilities of the institutions involved in the project.</p>	<p>The Project Steering Committee will ensure coordination and cooperation between ministries, their attached agencies, and decentralized services. Likewise, Local advisory Committees will be in place for each of the three landscapes to ensure liaison to the local authorities, civil society actors, and relevant projects active in each landscape.</p> <p>As with regards to the multi-sectoral platform mentioned under Component 4 of the PIF, the new Strategy for Environment and Sustainable Development (2017-2021) acknowledges past difficulties in coordinating inter and intra-ministerially and establishes new operating procedures for the various bodies responsible for this coordination including the National Council for Environment and Sustainable Development (or Conseil National Environnement Développement Durable (CNEDD)), the Permanent Committee, the Technical Committee for Environment and Sustainable Development (Comité Permanent, le Comité Technique Environnement Développement Durable (CTEDD) and the regional Committees for Environment and Sustainable Development (Comités régionaux environnement Développement Durable (CREDD)).</p> <p>Section 4.1 describes the roles and responsibilities of the main institutions involved in the project and other stakeholders.</p>

<p>The further preparation of the project could benefit from a thorough stakeholder analysis to verify the completeness of the stakeholder list and contribute to the above mentioned definition of roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders in the proposed project. In the PIF the Ministry mandated for land use planning (Ministère de l'Habitat, de l'Urbanisme et de l'Aménagement du Territoire) does not appear in the list of relevant stakeholders. Germany suggests including this ministry in the planned project.</p>	<p>The Ministry mandated for land use planning (Ministère de l'Habitat, de l'Urbanisme et de l'Aménagement du Territoire (MHUAT) was consulted during the project preparation and has now been added to the relevant sections of the Project Document. The MHUAT will be a member of the project Steering Committee, and will be specifically engaged in implementation of Activity 1.1 (A platform to monitor ecological and socio-economic indicators is created and serves as a basis for land use planning).</p>
<p>Furthermore, several development cooperation projects are already working in the proposed intervention regions on similar topics. Therefore, the final project document should outline how coordination with these projects will be established to avoid duplication and ensure synergies. Along these lines, the coordinating role of FAO should also be defined more clearly in the final project document.</p>	<p>Key projects have been identified, and have participated in the inception and validation workshops, which have ensured the PGIEDHD avoids duplication and ensures synergies. In addition to coordination at national level through the Project Steering Committee, each of the 3 target landscapes will have its own steering committee which will gather representatives of local projects, to ensure synergies on the ground. FAO will provide support to the work of these committees, though the PMU will be in charge of providing day-to-day administrative and technical support and guidance. See section 4.2 of Project Document for more detail.</p>
<p>The description of the situation under Part II.1.1)a. "Lack of an integrated and eco-system-based approach supporting sustainable human development" needs to be reconsidered in preparation of the final project document. It should be indicated how the project will build on existing experiences and results of existing projects underway establishing an integrated and ecosystem-based approach. Those are for example</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The German TC programme "Natural Resources Management" which developed an approach for participatory/decentralized natural resources management focusing on silvo-pastoral areas which is inscribed since 2012 in the 2nd National Environment Action Plan (NEAP / 2012-2016) and scaled-up by other projects of Worldbank, EU, IFAD, Small Grants Programme/UNDP; - The German TC and EU co-funded project "Strengthening Capacities for Adaptation to Climate Change in Rural Areas" (not mentioned in the PIF but STAP Review mentions under Point 2 its climate change vulnerability assessment); - The Adaptation Fund/World Food Programme project "Enhancing Resilience of Communities to the Adverse Effects of Climate Change on Food Security in Mauritania" (not mentioned in the PIF) among others. - FAO already supported a watershed management project whose results are also not mentioned. 	<p>Over the course of the project design, we have consulted with several projects – notably during the inception and validation workshops – as well as smaller thematic workshops on pastoralism, alternative livelihoods and energy. Lessons learned from the various initiatives have been integrated into this project's design, and projects have been referred to in the relevant section of the project document (2.2.4). This project intends to build on the results of ongoing initiatives for land use planning, local development planning and other landscape-based mechanisms available in the three targeted landscapes. The German TC programme "Natural Resources Management" is now referred to in the Project Document (Section 2.2.4 on lessons learned). Amongst relevant lessons learned integrated in the design of this project include the successful introduction of decentralized management and the successful integration of women in user communities' main committees.</p> <p>Given the German TC and EU co-funded "Strengthening Capacities for Adaptation to Climate Change in Rural areas" (2014-2018) project is not yet completed, lessons learned will be collected by FAO and MEDD project managers in early 2018.</p> <p>The Adaptation Fund/World Food Programme project is now integrated in the lessons learned section of the Project Document (Section 2.2.4). Notably, the importance of site selection and activities tailored to the ecological and social realities of selected sites, as well as selecting project sites that are not too dispersed to increase efficiency in staff time and resources, has been taken into account in the selection of the three landscapes and tailored activities to each.</p> <p>The lessons learned from the FAO managed OUBAME project (fight poverty and desertification via co-management of watersheds (2010-2013)) point to the value</p>

	of involving target populations in the design and implementation of activities to increase long-term viability, which is embedded in the design of this project.
The National Plan for Agricultural Development (2015-2025) which was strongly supported by FAO should also be mentioned as the Ministry of Agriculture is a main stakeholder of the planned project. So far the project is not included in the available final draft of this national plan which generally shows a high financing gap. In this light intended cofinancing amount by the Ministry of Agriculture should be reassessed in preparing the final project document.	Reference to the National Plan for Agricultural Development has now been added in the section 1.1. on Country context, and this project will be included in the national plan as relevant. Ministry of Agriculture's co-financing of USD 4 000 000 has been secured through the following projects: PGIRE II, PATA, P2RS, and PRODEFI. Details are in the project document. Note that the PASK II project appears in the co-financing letter, but this has been disregarded as it is an LDCF project, and can therefore not be featured as co-financing. Still, links will be made to the PASK II as mentioned in the project document.
Given the generally rather limited technical capacities at national level the project could benefit considerably through including international technical support for specific topics. According to experiences gained in bilateral Mauretanian-German technical cooperation, international expertise could be especially beneficial related to setting up new protected area including institutional arrangements for management and capacity building of PA staff. This option should be considered in the preparation of the final project document.	With FAO being the GEF Agency, it will ensure high quality technical support to the project, leveraging its technical expertise at the regional and global levels. The support of international consultants has been foreseen in the budget for various outputs where local expertise cannot be identified. This include: Output 1.1 (A platform to monitor ecological and socio-economic indicators is created and serves as a basis for the land use planning), Activity 1.3.3. (Formal designation, ratification and development of management plans) and Activity 4.2.1 (Market studies and participatory selection of alternative initiatives), as well as for the mid-term review and final evaluation. However, the bulk of the activities will be carried out by national consultants. During the project design process, we have found that there is a pool of knowledgeable and capable professionals, who under the supervision of the PMU, supported by FAO and an international consultant, will be able to deliver the outputs and outcomes elaborated in the ProDoc.
STAP Comments	
As the project states, it is important to focus on the multi-functionality of the landscape to achieve ecosystem services and improve livelihoods. STAP recommends applying a framework that facilitates this: developing a theory of change underpinned by evidence and assumptions; identifying impact pathways for environmental and social benefits along with the possible trade-offs in achieving the proposed benefits; embedding adaptive management in the monitoring and assessment of ecosystems, biodiversity, and socio- economic development. STAP recommends for Mauritania and FAO to consider applying the Resilience, Adaptation Pathways, and Transformation Assessment (RAPTA) Framework. RAPTA focuses on the sustainability of the system and assesses whether incremental change, or transformation, will be needed to achieve this goal. RAPTA guidelines can be downloaded at: http://www.stapgef.org/the-resilience-adaptation-and-transformation-assessment-framework/ In addition, the project developers may wish to refer to the following paper on the adaptive management of multi-functional landscapes: Hobdod, J. et al. "Managing adaptively for multifunctionality in agricultural systems". Journal of Environmental Management. (2016). 1-10.	The project has included RAPTA and SHARP as two tools that will support the assessment and land use planning under Output 1.

Detail further the climate adaptation strategies as well as provide climate projection data for the target sites if this information is available. In the project design, Mauritania and FAO may wish to use the following paper to inform stakeholders' assessment of climate vulnerability, and identification of climate adaptation measures: Kienberger, S. et al. "Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment in Mauritania: Reflections on Data Quality, Spatial Scales, Aggregation and Visualizations". GI Forum Journal , 2016, 1, pp.167-175.	Downscaled climate projections are not available at the scale of our project sites, however we have provided overall scenarios from the third national communication (see paragraph 48 in the project document). We have consulted the referred publication during site selection. It supports our finding that the areas targeted are very vulnerable to climate change.
For the development of biodiversity friendly value chains, the project developers may wish to consult the OECD-FAO publication "OECD-FAO Guidance for Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains, 2016. http://www.oecd.org/daf/inv/investment-policy/rbc-agriculture-supply-chains.htm	The principles and methods outlined in the FAO-OECD document will indeed be used for selection and development of value chains under Component 4. Please refer to paragraphe 114 in the project document.
Provide further detail on which degraded ecosystems will be rehabilitated, or restored in component 1, and how the selection to focus on these ecosystems was achieved based on the capability to achieve global environmental benefits and improve livelihoods. For those areas with irrigation potential, it also would be useful to detail water conservation and management strategies so that groundwater levels are not further depleted, and risks of soil salinity are managed. In addition, the project developers may wish to consider the following paper that considers the potential of irrigated sorghum and cowpea for animal fodder, and the impact on small-holders livestock management and incomes. El Moctar Isselmou, M. et al "Irrigated sorghum and cowpea after wet-season rice as a pathway out of subsistence agriculture in the Senegal River Valley in Mauritania". African Journal of Agricultural Research. Vol. 11(20), pp. 1824-1835, 19 May, 2016. DOI: 10.5897/AJAR2016.10876	The information on sites and site selection, as well as the analysis of various water conservation and mobilization techniques was added in the project document as well as in the consultant reports that have informed the design. Please refer to section 1.2 of the project document for detail.
If Mauritania is participating in the UNCCD's Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme (LDN TSP) it would be mutually beneficial to develop linkages with that programme, particularly in relation to land rehabilitation interventions.	Mauritania has initiated work on the LDN target setting process. This work is being coordinated by the PGIEDHD executing entity (MEDD), however it is still in very early days. It is expected that the work under Component 1 of this project will contribute to the LDN efforts by helping map land degradation and related indicators in project sites.
Consider the need for innovative approaches to fund conservation of agricultural biodiversity. This includes defining market incentives encouraging access to agro-biodiversity crops, and financial incentives facilitating agro-biodiversity use and conservation. In addition, STAP recommends providing further detail on "professionalization of production chains" (page 15), and describing how learning from the baseline project, ProLIPRAV, on value chains will influence the design of component 3 on agro-biodiversity value chains. Mauritania and FAO may wish to consult the following source on valuing agro-biodiversity conservation: "Agrobiodiversity the key to food security, climate adaptation and resilience", GIZ. 2015; https://www.giz.de/fachexpertise/downloads/giz2015-en-agrobiodiversity-factsheet-collection-incl-mappe.pdf "Adding value to agrobiodiversity". GIZ. 2015. http://agriwaterpedia.info/images/4/4f/06-giz2015-en-adding-value-to-agrobiodiversity.pdf	<p>Due to lack of means, this project is not able to target market incentives or economic policies related to agro-biodiversity use and conservation.</p> <p>Please note the project ProLIPFRAV was closed during project design and is being replaced by the DEFIS program led by IFAD. The linkages and coordination between the two project were highlighted in the project document.</p>

ANNEX C: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES AND THE USE OF FUNDS¹⁶

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

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: USD150,000			
<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>GETF/LDCF/SCCF/CBIT Amount (\$)</i>		
	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent Todate</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>
Salaries professionals	7,143	-	1,177
Consultants	73,500	74,009	12,397
Contracts	-	28,354	-
Travel	43,000	16,923	-
Workshops	22,000	11,605	-
GOE	4,357	5,535	-
Total	150,000	136,426	13,574

¹⁶ If at CEO Endorsement, the PPG activities have not been completed and there is a balance of unspent fund, Agencies can continue to undertake the activities up to one year of project start. No later than one year from start of project implementation, Agencies should report this table to the GEF Secretariat on the completion of PPG activities and the amount spent for the activities. Agencies should also report closing of PPG to Trustee in its Quarterly Report.

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

N/A

