PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)
PROJECT TYPE: MEDIUM-SIZED PROJECT
TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF TRUST FUND
For more information about GEF, visit www.TheGEF.org

PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Title:	Conservation of biodiversity and mitigation of land degradation through adaptive management of agricultural heritage systems		
Country(ies):	Morocco	**GEF Project ID:**[1]	5481
GEF Agency(ies):	FAO	**GEF Agency Project ID:**	618618
Other Executing Partner(s):	**National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA)**	**Submission Date:**	October 11, 2013
GEF Focal Area (s):	Multi Focal Area	**Project Duration (months):**	36
Name of parent program (if applicable): • For SFM/REDD+ ☐ • For SGP ☐ • For PPP ☐		**Agency Fee ($):**	**73,332**

A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK[2]:

Focal Area Objectives	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount ($)	Indicative Co-Financing ($)	PMC ($)
BD-2	GEFTF	262,452	2,669,000	13,123
LD-1	GEFTF	277,890	2,826,000	13,894
LD-3	GEFTF	231,576	2,355,000	11,579
Total project costs		771,918	7,850,000	38,596

B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: To strengthen approaches that promotes biodiversity conservation and mitigate land degradation in globally important oases ecosystems by demonstrating adaptive management of agricultural heritage.

Project Component	Grant Type[3]	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount ($)	Indicative Co-financing ($)
1. Creating the enabling environment to maintain the flow of agro-	TA	Outcome 1.1 The enabling environment within the agricultural sector has been enhanced through	Output 1.1.1. One national policy package is developped to support the 3[4]	GEFTF	236,503	2,365,000

[1] Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC.
[2] Refer to the reference attached on the Focal Area Results Framework and LDCF/SCCF Framework when completing table A.
[3] TA includes capacity building and research and development.
[4] The 3 ongoing national programmes include: 1) *Improvement of Agricultural Production Initiative* (ANDZOA), 2) the *Development of the Southern Oases Programme* (Agency for the promotion and the Economic and Social Development of the South Provinces of Morocco), 3) Pillar II of the Morocco Green Plan (ADA).

ecosystems services in Oases systems, sustaining local communities' livelihoods		targeting national policy and regulatory frameworks to support conservation of agro-biodiversity and sustainable use of land and water resources in the Oases Systems, in line with the principles of the CBD and National Charter for Regional Development *Indicator:Score of agricultural policy/framework enhancement, measured by the GEF LD tracking tool (Baseline assessment will be made during project design and planning phase)*	national ongoing programmes for sustainable land and water management, and sustainable use of agro-biodiversity in productive landscapes located in the mountains, valleys and arid areas in oases systems .			
2. Reducing pressures on natural resources from competing land uses, to reverse land degradation trends in the Oases landscapes through the application of good agricultural practices and support for traditional management of collective pastoralism	TA	Outcome 2.1 Agricultural production is enhanced and allows alleviation of land degradation by feeding livestock -traditional management of pastoralism allows to satisfy the needs of livestock and reduce the pressure on grazing areas .. - *Indicators[5]: Measures to reduce degradation, conserve and sustainably use of 350 ha of land lead to improvement of soil fertility,resilience and an increase of productivity by 15%* *At least 100 ha are cultivated each year with foragecrops* *3management plans of*	Output 2.1.1 five (5) sustainable land and water management practices targeting the reversion of land degradation trends implemented in six (6) selected pilot sites in Oases systems Output 2.1.2. 50 staff of Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment, High Commissioner for Water and Forests, NGOs and 6 local communities have improved capacities on decision-making in integrated gender sensitive land and water management and land productivity Output 2.1.3 : Farmers are encouraged and coached to promote forage crops production in the oases taking into	GEFTF	254,155	2,215,000

[5] baseline indicators will be estimated during full project preparation

		rangeland are implemnetd to preserve 5000 ha	account gender approach. Output 2.1.4 Farmers and Livestock breeder and especially women and their organizations are sensitized and supervised in applying a better management of rangelands around oases.			
3.Mainstreming of the biodivesity conservation and sustainable use into the local communities' strategies for economy diversification in Oases landscapes	TA	Outcome 3.1 Biodiversity conservation and sustainable use have been integrated into alternative income-generating mechanisms, with the participation of local communities living in the Oases landscapes *Indicators:* specifications submitted for application for the labeling of four local products (durum wheat, amalagou almond, polio mint and honey) *At least 10 local seed varieties are conserved involving 50 farmers* Area (ha) in Oases-Ecosystems under certification/labelling scheme *At least 2 300 ha, exact size to be determined during PPG-Phase (GEF tracking tool)*	Output 3.1.1 Applications are submitted to the competent authorities for labelling of local Oases products, according to Law No. 25-06 on the distinctive signs of origin and quality of the food and agricultural and fishery products (durum wheat, amalagou almond, polio mint and honey). The labelling criteria will include sustainable production standards in view of biodiversity conservation. Output 3.1.2 Integrated land management plans targeting the sustainable production of selected (labelled) products and the inclusion of ecotourism are developed in a participatory manner and farmers trained in the application thereof. Output 3.1.3 Seeds of local varieties of	GEFTF	170,672	2,315,000

			legumes and forages are conserved and widly disseminated between farmers			
4. Lessons learned and best practices are disseminated and systematized	TA	Outcome 4.1Results-based project management, systematization of project findings and lessons learned	Output 4.1.1 Best practices and lessons learned published and shared throught the programme and national websites. Output 4.1.2 Project monitoring and evaluation system established to provide systematic information on progress in meeting project outcome and output targets. Output 4.1.3. Final project evaluations	GEFTF	71,992	510,660
			Sub-Total		733,322	7,405,660
			Project management Cost (PMC)[6]		38,596	444,340
			Total project costs[4]		771,918	7,850,000

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

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount ($)[7]
GEF Agency	FAO	In-Kind	350,000
National Government	Agency for the development of oases and the argan areas (ANDZOA), according to the national Charta for Landspace Management , and National Scheme for Landspace Management	Unknown at this stage	4,000,000
National Government	Agency for the promotion and the Economic and Social Development of the Southern Provinces of the Kingdom	Cash	1,000,000
National Government	Agency for the Agricultural Development (ADA) , according to 2nd pillar of Green Morocco Plan (Plan Maroc Vert)	Cash	2,000,000
National Government	National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA)	In-kind	500,000
Total Co-financing			7,850,000

[6] To be calculated as percent of subtotal

[7] Co-financing amounts which are unknown at this stage will be confirmed during full project preparation .

D. INDICATIVE TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA(S) AND COUNTRY[1]

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Funds	Focal Area	Country Name/ Global	Grant Amount ($) (a)	Agency Fee ($) (b)[2]	Total ($) c=a+b
FAO	GEFTF	Biodiversity	Morocco	268,105	25,470	293,575
FAO	GEFTF	Land Degradation	Morocco	503,813	47,862	551,675
Total Grant Resources				**771,918**	**73,332**	**845, 250**

[1] In case of a single focal area, single country, single GEF Agency project, and single trust fund project, no need to provide information for this table. PMC amount from Table B should be included proportionately to the focal area amount in this table

[2] Indicate fees related to this project.

E. PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)[8]

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

A PPG is applied for, in order to :

- analyze the present state of customary institutions and their involvement in natural resources management, and identify in each site their problems and actual impact on local life;
- analyze their potential and willingness to participate in the project;
- identify producers' organisations and women organisations;
- inventory, from basis level, the actual capacity of local administrations to participate, and at what compensation; the same for local NGOs;
- develop a stakeholder participation plan;
- review the available of information;
- pre identify , then select products and services to be assessed for a commercial promotion;
- assess base line , existing policies and their actual implementation , the existing incentive mechanisms
- identify the exact areas for implementation;
- identify local project holders, and build working agreements;
- establish a baseline information for tracking purposes;

	Amount Requested ($)	Agency Fee for PPG ($)[9]
• No PPG required		
• (Upto) $50k for projects up to & including $ 1 million	$ 50,000	$ 4,750
• (Upto) $100k for projects up to & including $ 3 million		
• (Upto) $150k for projects up to & including $ 6 million		
• (Upto) $200k for projects up to & including $ 10 million		
• (Upto) $300k for projects above $ 10 million		

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

Type of Trust Funds	GEF Agency	Focal Area	Country Name/ Global	PPG ($) (a)	Agency Fee ($) (b)	Total ($) c=a+b
GEFTF	FAO	LD	Morocco	35,000	3,325	38, 325
GEFTF	FAO	BD	Morocco	15,000	1,425	16, 425
Total Grant Resources				**50,000**	**4,750**	**54,750**

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION[10]

[8] On exceptional basis, PPG amount may differ upon detailed discussion and justification with the GEFSEC.

[9] PPG fee percentage follows the percentage of the GEF Project Grant amount requested.

[10] Part II should not be longer than 5 pages

A. PROJECT OVERVIEW

A.1. Project description:

Global environmental problems and baseline scenario: Morocco is a highly rich biodiverse country; inventory of biological resources indicate that the country has more than 32,000 taxa, a number that could be underestimated. Increasingly, the country is considered as a centre of diversity for a number of cultivated crop plants and wild relatives. Nearly 15 percent of the known species are endemic, placing the country among those having a high level of endemism. The ecosystems of the Atlas mountain regions, and in particular their oases, are rich with diverse habitats and species diversity. Their importance is global and, as such, they have been inserted into the IUCN[11] list. Most of the selected IUCN sites are above 2500 meters and are covered with alpine and subalpine vegetation. These sites are also very rich in endemic species, such as the National Park of High Atlas Oriental where the rate of endemism exceeds 80 percent. Other examples consist of the National Park Talassemtane, and Bou Bou Naceur Iblane; Park National Ifrane National Park Upper East Atlas. The ZIP[12], which are important sites for plant biodiversity in Morocco characterized by a high number of national endemic and steno-endemic species . The richest areas are Jebel Ifrane National Park (196), the Toubkal National Park (164) Ayashi (75) and the Jebel Bou-Bou Iblane Naceur (92). Five of the selected project sites are located in IUCN areas as follows: Imilchil site located in Parc Haut Atlas Oriental (Ramsar Site and a ZIP), Tata, Assa and Figuig sites located in the Reserve Biosphère des Oasis, and Ait Mansour site located in the Reserve Biosphere Arganier Parc du Haut Atlas Oriental.

The valuable biodiversity in the country, and more specifically the Atlas Mountains and its oases systems, is being lost. Increasing pressure on the Atlas' mountains and oases multiple resources has led to deterioration of biodiversity, and gradual simplification and loss of uniqueness in the ecosystem. As a result, there has been a depletion of natural productivity, mostly a reduction in biodiversity. On estimate, 25% of the endangered plant species (1700 taxa) and nearly 600 animal species have reached the threshold of non-renewal and are registered as endangered species[13]. This has negatively impacted the life quality standards and sustainability and livelihoods of the traditional communities in Morocco. In turn, their pressure on natural resources is increasing.

Furthermore, the loss of biodiversity has been emphasized by the inadequate support to agricultural practices which in turn has led to massive amounts of soil erosion, with a total annual soil loss evaluated at 100 million tons[14], which is often irreversible. Along with overgrazing, this is causing land degradation and serious desertification throughout the country. At the same time, desertification caused by: a) decreasing rainfall; b) faster and more intense water discharge due to upstream improper agricultural practices and removal of trees and shrubs from watershed slopes; and c) overexploitation of groundwater reserves in the valley floor (for irrigation, livestock watering and human consumption) is progressing. Depletion of soil fertility is a major biophysical cause of low per-capita food production. Over decades, small-scale farming operations have removed large quantities of nutrients from the local soils without applying sufficient quantities of manure or fertilizer to replenish them. Wind erosion is damaging most agricultural lands. There is a loss of 500 ha/year in Morocco. Similarly, oases communities are threatened by the depletion of aquifers through deep pumping for modern irrigated agriculture and disruption of traditional institutions for water management and associated knowledge systems.

Morocco, has an impressive 20 year long capital of research results on the rewards of conservation agriculture regarding: a) water retention in the soil (real underground water and not from the dam), b) erosion reduction in all forms and c) reversing of the carbon cycle from the emission to sequestration with the reconstruction of the vertical soil structure; these achievements provide all necessary elements for a better management of natural resources.

[11] International Union for Conservation of Nature.
[12] Zone Importante pour les plantes.
[13] Human Development Report 50: Document de Synthèse du Rapport Général
[14] ICARDA 2012, Oasis Country Report 2 – A Review of Available Knowledge on Land Degradation in Morocco

Integrated management of irrigation water for Morocco provides an essential basis for sustainability, through concrete succes stories, including: management of demand, gradual introduction of non-conventional water, delegated management that goes along with decentralization, pricing, water users' associations .

Morocco is one of the pilot countries for the new strategic water policy of FAO, where purely technocratic vision is substituted by a holistic and comprehensive vision through multidisciplinarity, stakeholders' and beneficiaries' involvement and water management seen as an input for the development of all components of agriculture.

In the specific case of the Oases systems, the main environmental problems faced by oases communities and farmers include the mounting water scarcity, fragile soils, water and wind erosion, and land and water degradation. These problems are resulting in a spiral of increasing rural poverty and acceleration of degradation of natural resources, such as pastoral genetic resources and local vegetation, with outward migration of poor people to urban areas and abroad (mainly young men)[15]. The replacement of customary institutions (including indigenous knowledge systems) by new forms of state organisation are leading to the progressive abandonment of traditional agricultural systems, and resulting in a gap in the transmission of traditional methods to younger generations (if not contempt) and on the long term, genetic erosion and loss of wild species. For example, in Tafilalet Oases, production levels have declined by 21% for cereals, 6% for lucernes, 34% for date palms and 16% for fruit trees in the past 5 years. This productivy decline is due to the shrinking of sustainable land area for agriculture (3.5% of the total area of Oasis every year) caused by water shortage.

Associated baseline projects: The Government of Marocco is implementing several national programmes and initiaves under the coordinating umbrella of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of Morocco. One of them is the initiative for the development of oases and the argan areas (ANDZOA), on the ***Improvement of Agricultural Production in Oases*** (2010-2020), which aims at conserving and developing products from Oases systems and on planting 1 million dates palms by 2015. Furthermore, the project contributes to the objectives of INRA's ***Agricultural and Environmental Research Programme*** (2013-2020), which focuses on the in-situ conservation of agricultural biodiversity and value-adding of the products derived from mountain areas and oases systems.

Another national initiative is the ***Development of the Southern Oases Programme*** (2010-2015) from the Agency for the promotion and the Economic and Social Development of the South Provinces of the Kingdom. This programme seeks to mainstream different activities implemented by governmental departments, towards economical and social development of southern provinces.. In addition, the UNDP's project to ***fight desertification and poverty by maintenance and promotion of oases in the province of Tata,*** aims to support a viable and environmental operating system by restoring the oases agrosystem and to support the reforms of public policy in relation to oases context. (1,5 milion USD).

The ***« Programme de Développement Territorial Durable des Oasis du Tafilalet »*** (POT), financed by UNDP, which has, as its main objective, the elaboration and implementation of a sustainable territorial development plans for the Tafilalet region, based on community and inter-community development plans. The declared objective is to fight against desertification and poverty, through the safeguard and promotion of Oases development.

Although the national government is implementing the above-mentioned initiatives to respond to the growing environmental problems in the country and, in particular, in the oasis systems, further efforts are needed to meet the challenges to ensure sustainable development. The package of engineering and technology solutions, long put forward to solve the problems in these areas have demonstrated failure. These solutions, sometimes conceived outside of the socio-cultural context of the people concerned and their practices, have resulted in adverse negative effects. The baseline scenario shows 3 main barriers:

[15] Even though no global figures exist, field case studies indicate that migration more than compensates the natural increase of population: De Haas, Hein (2001) Migration and Agricultural Transformations in the oases of Morocco and Tunisia. Utrecht: KNAG; Mohamed Aït hamza et B. El faskaoui Les oasis du Drâa au Maroc (pp 56-69) http://www.cairn.info/revue-hommes-et-migrations-2010-2-page-56.htm

Barrier #1: The institutional and regulatory frameworks are inadequate and fail to integrate development plans and program practices into sustainable land and water management, which in turn fails to reduce the degradation of land and to promote the conservation of biodiversity. As consequence of the economic pressure and cultural globalization, the loss of century old knowledge leads to individualistic, excessive threats on natural resources, and weak approaches to cooperate towards economical or environmental initiatives. Similarly, the agricultural, cultural, artistic, architectural and natural heritage have not been integrated in the local economic development. At local level, policies' coordination is weak

Barrier # 2: The introduction of the market law and increasing monetization of exchanges have greatly upset the world oasis, which is traditionally dependent of a solidarity-based economy. The thrust of individualism and the new economy have led to the gradual dismantling of the traditional structures. This upheaval is exacerbated by the harshness of the climate, the scarcity of water, the poor irrigation management practices, overgrazing of natural vegetation, limited provision of organic fertilizer, and the over-harvest of woody vegetation for firewood in the pastoral areas at the periphery of the oasis to cover the needs for fuel wood. The operators in the oasis are engaged in a race to the water. The use of excessive pumping became the common reflex, which has resulted in the depletion of groundwater.

Barrier # 3: The lack of integration of biodiversity promotion in the mechanisms of the market, the low marketing infrastructure and incentive schemes[16] for farmers, and the weak institutional capacity of local and national actors (extension workers) to develop market strategies that improve the social and economic benefits of the systems oasis. In addition, local production is not integrated into the market economy.

Proposed alternative scenario: To address the barriers presented in the baseline scenario, the project will implement a holistic approach, and promote a better coordination between traditional institutions and regulations with 'modern' ones, as well as more efficient processes which builds on the lessons learned and experiences of the project executed by the Government of Morocco and FAO (funded by IFAD through UCODEP, presently OXFAM Italia) [17] in the site Imichil Amellagou. This approach aims at enhancing the sustainable management of the ecosystems and their natural resources, while focusing on a balance between conservation, adaptation and socio-economic development. The proposed project has potentialities of up-scaling the approach in a broader landscape, and provide the necessary focus to the once valued oases agricultural practices which include conserving ancient efficient irrigation and water management systems, farming and sheep breeding practices, and strenghten the customary community participatory management practices for natural resources.

To achieve its objectives, the proposed project will promote the interlinked relation of the sustainable management of the land resources for biodiveristy conservation. The proposed project will hence address land degradation and biodiversity loss in Oases systems by focusing on three main intervention areas. First, it will work in creating an enabling environment to maintain the flow of Oases goods and services, targeting national policies and regulatory frameworks. The project will also strengthen the capacities of involved stakeholders in the preparation and implemention of sustainable development plans for the integrated management of the Oases natural resources. Furthermore, support will be provided for the establishment of a biodiversity friendly market mechanism aimed at enhancing the income of local communities and fostering investment and partnerships for Oases development. As a cross-cutting activity, awareness will be raised on the importance of Oases agricultural biodiversity and traditional practices to ensure the long-term engagement and commitment of local communities, institutions and governmental departments. In this context one intergovernamental and interagency committee has been already established by the national counterpart. .

The new identified sites are 1) Tata, 2), Figuig, 3) Ait Mansour, 4) Aït Bougamez and 5) Assa (in addition to the pilot site of Imilchil Amellago). The approximate cultivated surface and population per site are detailed in Table 1. The exact area of intervention will be defined in the project document .

Table 1. Proposed project sites

[16] Incentive schemes from the government to farmers include provision of free equipment for conversion to drip irrigation, digging equipment for wells and some support to the enhancement of production through labialization.

[17] Unity and Cooperation for People's Development funded project "The implementation of Globally Important Agricultural heritage Systems in Morocco , collaboration FAO/UCODEP" implemented by the Government and FAO from 01 May 2010 to 30 Jun 2011.

Site	Cultivated surface (ha)	Population	Local Communities
Imilchil-Amellago	6180	39.000	7
Tata	6626	82.558	3
Assa	6718	33.600	1
Figuig	1452	30.000	1
Ait Mansour	tbc	tbc	1
Ait Boughamez	5600	20.000	2

The proposed project is divided in four main components:

Component 1: Creating the enabling environment to maintain the flow of agro-ecosystems services in Oases systems, sustaining local communities' livelihoods. This component aims at overcoming barrier 1. It will focus on reviewing national policies and regulatory frameworks to propose improvements and programmes that promote the sustainable and integrated use of land and water resources and the conservation of the ecosystem's biodiversity. The project will promote a better coordination between policies, institutions and processes affecting Oases' development. A coordinating committee met already at national level, and will identify transversal approaches, in order to enhance the efficiency of the sectoral policies:This component will support the development of a policy package covering 3 national programmes and incorporating suggestions for the improvement of national policies to ensure a greater support for the conservation and sustainable use of the Oases genetic resources. Component 1 will be complemented with a total co-financing of approximately US$ 2,500,000 distributed as follows: US$ 100,000 from FAO in-kind services, US$ 1,425,000 (cash) from the *Improvement of Agricultural Production Initiative* from the national government institution, ANDZOA, US$ 125,000 (in-kind services) from the *Agricultural and Environmental Research Programme* from INRA, US$ 350,000 (cash) from the *Development of the Southern Oases Programme* of the Agency for the promotion and the Economic and Social Development of the South Provinces of the Kingdom, and around US$500,000 (cash), from the Pillar II of the Morocco Green Plan supported by the national agency, ADA. The project will directly support the objectives of the programme *Development of the Southern Oases Programme* by promoting the integration of traditional agricultural products in the local development plans and supporting the labellisation of Oases products.

Component 2: Reducing pressures on natural resources from competing land uses, to reverse land degradation trends in the Oases landscapes. Under this component the project will focus on reducing the degradation of the natural resources, through the implementation of locally adapted sustainable land and water management practices in six selected Oases landscapes, with an aggregated area of 350 Ha. Some of the sustainable measures to be implemented by the project include planting of water current banks, improvement of crop productivity, strengthening the local seed sector and beekeeping techniques/honey production, adapting grazing intensity to actual pasture capacity (and sanctioning overgrazing) support to the development of aromatic and medicinal plants, construction of protection walls and irrigation schemes, development and rehabilitation of khettaras, strengthening of the institutional framework for traditional water or pasture management, and biological stabilization, among others. This component will promote the maintenance of the Oases ecosystems's services and enhance the community's institutional arrangement. Capacity building will be conducted in the areas of community based territorial planning and decision-making for an integrated management of Oases natural resources, the rational management of resources, rehabilitation and development of dykes, sills water diversion and khetarras, conservation agriculture, and soil fertility. In addition, an assessment of Oases biodiversity (including traditional agricultural products) and its contribution to the food security, nutrition and livelihoods of local communities will be conducted. The project will target the creation of synergies for a smooth coordination between local and regional policy makers, people in charge of justice ; operators and beneficiaries, while promoting the establishment of farmer associations and cooperatives, emphasizing on women participation. The national initiatives complementing component 2 include: *Improvement of Agricultural Production Initiative* (ANDZOA) with around US$1,400,000 (cash), *Agricultural and Environmental Research Programme* (INRA), with approximately US$125,000 (in-kind services), Pillar II of the Morocco Green Plan (ADA), with US$750,000 (cash), and the FAO support with approximately US$ 75,000 in in-kind services.

Component 3: Mainstreming of the biodivesity conservation and sustainable use into the local communities' strategies for economy diversification in Oases landscapes. This component addresses barrier 3 by promoting

the integration of , biodiversity conservation and the sustainable use of the Oases genetic resources into alternative income- generating mechanisms, with the participation of local Oases communities.. Based on the results and experiences from the previous project in Imilchil Amellagou site, which recommended the further development of medicinal and aromatic plants as an alternate income generating activity, the need to strengthen the capacity of local communities in integrating local products to the market, and the urgency of ensuring the integration of in-situ conservation in the new market access legislations for local products such as local seeds (organization, production standards, labeling, distribution), it bases also on on going Moroccan initiatives to valorise traditional products, such as Argan oil, and saffron.

The project will seek to enhance the economic benefits from Oases systems for the local communities. In particular, this component will focus on product or service labelling according to standards of sustainable production, biodiversity conservation , and market access development. For that purpose land management plans will be developed in a participatory manner and farmers from selected sites will be trained in growing identified local products according to labelling requirements. The management plans will also incorporate ecotourism where applicaple as an income generating activities for farmers in order to foster the labelling scheme in selected areas. A preliminary economic valuation of a few selected Oases's environmental services (water resources cycle, sequestration of carbon, conservation of soil. conservation of local varieties)will be led, to identify and build with the stake holders a plan to link traditional oases products with the market and private sector.

Component 3 will be supported by the FAO with approximately US$ 75,000 in-kind services, the *Improvement of Agricultural Production Initiative* (ANDZOA) with around US$1,175,000 (cash), *Agricultural and Environmental Research Programme* (INRA), with approximately US$125,000 (in-kind services), the *Development of the Southern Oases Programme* with around US$ 325,000, and Pillar II of the Morocco Green Plan (ADA), with US$750,000 (cash).

Component 4: Lessons learned and best practices are disseminated and systematized. This component will ensure an efficient implementation process and facilitate the sharing and dissemination of the project's findings and experiences for future application. Under this component the project will disseminate best practices and share knowledge with stakeholders at different levels (government, partner institutions, private sector, NGO's, local communities, etc. to raise awareness of the importance and value of Oases ecosystems and their biodiversity and increase investment pro the conservation of Oases systems in Morocco. Component 4 will be complemented by *the Agricultural and Environmental Research Programme* (INRA), with approximately US$125,000 (in-kind services), the *Development of the Southern Oases Programme* with around US$ 325,000 (cash) and approximately US$100,000 from the FAO in-kind services.

Incremental cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline: The current management practices and situation in the Oases systems is unsustainable, as migration of human labour tends to increase and the natural resources continue to become degrade due to the mis-management by local communities. The project seeks funding to support the initiatives and efforts initiated by the government that address these environmental and social problems. The general incremental value of the proposed project is therefore to reinforce a multidimensional approach, including a larger number of local ecosystem products associated to traditional oases agricultural practices, to increase the multiple benefits and services derived from the Oaes systems.

The project contributes to the implementation of a long-term territorial approach, which conducts a selective planning process based on the actual capacity and state of local resources. This approach is implemented by the project at two complementary levels: through the preservation of water and soil, and the valuation of crops and products. This approach will strongly contribute to overcome barrier #1 by enhancing coordination capacity of local authorities and integrating local development strategies.
FAO is currently implementing this approach in other countries, such as Tunisia and Algeria, with the support of GEF and ISESCO funding. This methodology and experience can be adapted and applied to the present proposal.

Young people as well as adults, men and women, lack professional qualifications, which makes it difficult to find employment, sustaining unemployment even after the exodus without mentioning the shortfall of income level of families. The project will address the development of human resources by implementing a number of actions for the different components of the population, such as the expansion of education/capacity, the advancement of women, and professional/technical training. This will enable the population to participate sustainably in the development of the project and foster ownership within the community. The activities of the

four component will contribute to the awareness of local stakeholders and foster a better management of natural resources, more integration into the market economy, and help maintain social cohesion of local communities.

The fragility of the environment and the precariousness of agricultural resources do not allow the agricultural sector to be placed at the center, and less as an engine for the development of the oasis. The project will contribute to the development of agricultural, cultural, natural, and artisanal heritage ensuring the coherence of sectoral activities to make it the engine of development of the target area. Local communities will be encouraged to further develop their local production, to generate high quality original products (appellations of controlled geographical identification, label,) for the internal and external market. The production integrates perfectly with the development of eco-tourism, and maintains the respect to the environment. Because of this, the territorial differences can be radically transformed in accordance with structural progress.

Global environmental benefits: The government of Morocco gives particular emphasis to conserving and promoting food products of agricultural biodiversity, particularly local produce with high nutritional value for sustainable diets. By supporting an improved soil health and fertility and promoting sustainable agricultural practices, the project will enhance food production and improve the livelihood of the local communities. Moreover, the project will improve the sustainability of protected areas by supporting the conservation of biodiversity in the selected project sites, which are located in natural reserves. More specifically, the project will deliver the following GEBs: i) in situ conservation of selected crops/plants including staple foods such as local durum wheat, rye, local vegetalbles, alfalfa and corn which are important for nutrition and food security; ii) improvement of soil health and fertility, enhancement of soil resilience to increase organic matter; iii) reductioin of soil erosion in mountain ouadi valleys, iv) mainstreaming of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into public policies, programs, and regulatory frameworks, v) mainstreaming of biodiversity considerations into market mechanisms and increased investments in SLM (product labeling), The benefits will be verified by monitoring: i) the number of local varieties preserved and cultivated, the number of drafted and submitted applications for product labeling (incl. seeds); ii) the agricultural area (at least 3500 ha) benefitting from improved agricultural practices and labelled production standards, iii) agricultural area (200ha) protected against flooding iv) the reduction of degraded rangeland areas (5000 ha through vegetation monitoring; v) the adoption of SLM and sustainable production intensification practices by at least 500 rural farmers in the 6 selected sites.

This proposed project will also generate GEBs by contributing to Aichi Targets #1 and 2 by i) raising awareness on the value of biodiversity and the necessary steps to safeguard it and sustainably management, ii) supporting the integration of biodiversity conservation and its value into national policies and strategies in Morocco, through policy recommendations and advocacy.

Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up: The project innovativeness lies on the concept of adapting agricultural practices based on the communities' culture, traditional knowledge and needs, for the integration of agro-biodiversity in the local economy and as an engine for local development. Outputs are: appropriation of theobjectives by h the local stake holders by participatory approach. Local institutions are sensitized to strongly support this proposal by guaranteeing the ownership and their participation in project implementation A local steering committee will be created in which local partners participate in drafting project documentionand subsequently contributing to the implementation of project activities.

The project aims at identifying potential opportunities for up-scaling the results and experiences of the previously implemented FAO/UCODEP project at a broader landscape, while adapting its approach based on its recommendations and emphasizing on an integrated territotial landscape management to reduce land degradation and conserve the valuable biodiversity in Oases systems. The innovative and sustainability strategy is based on a dual approach: ensuring ownership and commitment of local communities and the national government, and mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and SLM practices in national policies and programmes.

With this approach the project intends on creating a management model and sustainable development plans to be proposed to the Moroccan authorities, to promote partnerships and synergies between different governmental departments.
The potential for scaling up the project's approach will be encouraged through the dissemination of lessons learned and experiences, to raise awareness and ensure that the local communities and stakeholders understand and adopt, with the Government support, the dynamic development model, to manage it and to promote it in the neighbouring areas. This model will be proposed to national and local authorities to create synergies and match their needs and strategies and ensure the appropriation of the development approach.

The experiences acquired by the FAO under the GIAHS and GEF financing around the world will be capitalized to contribute to the innovation of the approach and the sustainability of the activities planned under the project.

A.2 Stakeholders. Identify key stakeholders (including civil society organizations, indigenous people, gender groups, and other as relevant) and describe how they will be engaged in project preparation.

The following table provides a preliminary description of the key stakeholders and will be updated and improved during the project preparation phase.

Institution/ Stakeholder	Role
National Institute for Agricultural Research	Lead facilitating institution designated by Government. Responsible for coordination of programmes on agriculture and related environmental research. Main facilitator of policy and technical dialogues.
Ministry of Agriculture, and Marine Fisheries /ADA	State agency responsible for revitalizing agriculture, and responsible for sector policies on agricultural biodiversity and natural resource management
Ministry of Environment	Ministry responsible for the conservation, management, development and proper use of the country's environment and natural resources, including those protected areas, watershed areas and lands of the public domain, as well as the licensing and regulation of all natural resources utilization.
The Agency for the promotion and the Economic and Social Development of the Southern Provinces of the Kingdom	State agency responsible for the economic and social development especially the southern provinces. Policy advice.
Agency for the Development of Oases zones and the Argan (ANDZOA)	State agency responsible for the oases region, and for the promotion of the economic and social development. Lobby and public awareness. Policy advice.
General Council of Agricultural Development (CGDA)	The council is responsible for agricultural development, acts as advisory institution to the minister of agriculture. Policy advice.
Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO)	Specific organization in 56 Islamic states, based in Morocco and very keen to promote capacity within their member states. Sharing lessons learnt.
Haut Commissariat aux Eaux et Forêts et à la Lutte Contre la Désertification (HCEFLCD)	High level, cabinet appointment, with oversight responsibilities on departments in charge of any aspects of environmental management. Responsible for regulation and coordination of development activities in rural areas to ensure development which is economically and environmentally sustainable.
Regional Offices for the agricultural development (ORMVA)	Technical support the during the project life, in different administrative areas
Non Governmental organizations working directly with local	Community mobilization, local capacity building, sharing lessons learnt

communities (among others to be identified, OXFAM Italia)	
Small-scale farm households in pilot sites	Main beneficiaries and key partners to empower marginalized or disadvantaged individuals, groups, communities and help them improve their living conditions, including women
Traditional customary rights associations (Jmaa)	Local planning and community mobilization. Documentation and protection of local traditions important to local population.
Private sector: tourism professionals, craftsmen, food transformation (to be identified during project preparation)	Increasing food security through investments and enhancing commercial components of the proposed project

A.3 Risks. Indicate risks, including climate change risks, potential social and environmental 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 (Table format acceptable).

Risk	Rating	Mitigation measure
Climate shocks risk: high-probability of occurrence of extreme weather events which may affect crop and livestock cycles and increase food/nutritional insecurity, as well as natural climate shocks which may cause contingencies and emergencies during project operations	M	The project will mitigate those risks by implementing land conservation and SLM activities and by strengthening collaboration within institutions that should sustain pro-active and coordinated responses. As well, ecosystem wise management plans will take into consideration climate shocks. Finally, appropriate linking with on-going emergency / post-emergency initiatives and with Governmental programs regularly supporting animal health, such as ORMVAT – which counts with a network of private veterinarians, will improve responses to those risks.
Limited capacity of local/national institutions implementing and co-financing project operations	L	There in increasing capacity in the national level and it needs only assistance to help national institutions to build local capacities. The proposed project will assist/ streamline/ mobilize capacity of different actors, national and international, to gradually transfer SLM skills to local counterparts during the project implementation
Low level of participation in the project activities by conflicting stakeholders and local institutions	L	Mitigated through local institution involvement in the ecosystem-wide participatory preparation of community-based landscape management plans and partnership building capacities of local stakeholders.
Economic context affecting availability of co-financing commitments	L	During the preparation phase of the project, involvement from the national institutions will be promoted and the pending co-financing commitments will be confirmed with the partners.

A.4 Coordination. Outline the coordination with other relevant GEF financed and other initiatives.

The proposed project builds on and supports on-going initiatives in the country. This proposal will seek collaboration opportunities and find synergies with the following GEF financed projects:

- Project GEF-World Bank5292: "*Morocco GEF Social and Integrated Agriculture (ASIMA)*", which supports the Plan Maroc Vert,and whose specific objectives, falling under the GEF areas of Land Degradation and Biodiversity are value chain vertical and horizontal integration and social integration with a specific emphasis on gender promotion.

This project perfectly complements the activities of the above project in the integration of networks between conservation agriculture and natural resource management and social integration. ASIMA

has concerns in the regions of Sous Massa and Haouz while the MSP Project in the oases, all which are considered priority areas in the Country Development Plan and in the implementation of the Green Morocco Plan.

- Project GEF-UNDP 3989: *"A circular economy approach to agro biodiversity conservation in the Souss-Massa Drâa Region of Morocco"* which shares the common goal of conserving agro-biodiversity and promoting local products in the country. It seeks the economic viability of agricultural systems and local communities in Morocco through the promotion of alternative income generating activities derived from ecosystem services such as PES schemes, tourism and development of local businesses.The proposed project will establish partnership with the executing agency, UNDP, to share experiences in relation to the labelling of local production and mainstreaming biodiversity conservation in the market mechanisms.
- Project 3919 GEF – UNDP: *"Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Value Chains for Medicinal and Aromatic Plants in Morocco"* in GEF's strategic program of fostering markets for biodiversity goods and services. The proposed project will create synergies and share information and experiences with the GEF-UNDP project on the areas of capacity building on development of sustainable land management plans, biodiversity-friendly procesing and market integration, which are common areas of work.
- Project GEF-IFAD-UNIDO 2632: "MENARID[18] *Participatory Control of Desertification and Poverty Reduction in the Arid and Semi-Arid High Plateau Ecosystems of Eastern Morocco"* which aims at combating desertification and protecting ecosystems functions. The proposed project will complement the activities under MENARID through knowledge sharing and regular exchanges of experiences related to strengthening the enabling environment for SLM as a way of reducing desertification and land degradation. Moreover, the proposed project will coordinate the activities related to Oases management with HCEFLCD, which is the executing partner of the MENARID program.
- Project 2127 GEF-FAO: *"Conservation and Adaptive Management of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)"* covering Algeria and Tunisia. This proposal will benefit from the lessons learned and results of the GIAHS project in other Oases systems to further enhance the benefits of its approach. In the specific case of Morocco, FAO/IFAD project raised awareness on the importance of agricultural heritage systems at a local and national level, and set up the first building blocks for promoting its conservation, sustainable management and development. It established the initial links between the national government and local institutions, including farming communities in the pilot site of Imilchil-Amellagou. The proposed project directly benefits from the stocktaking and research conducted by FAO in Morocco and the network created by this project, as it seeks to broaden its results into 5 additional pilot sites and integrate the work of INRA and FAO in the Imilchil Amellagou site.
- Project GEF ID 4922 GEF-FAO: "*Land Degradation Assessment and Monitoring for Sustainable Land Management Decision Support and Scaling up of Best Practices (LADA Phase II)"* which aims at improving the capability of the member Countries of the UNCCD to assess and report on the status of their land resources and to adopt climate change resilient Sustainable Land Management (SLM) solutions. This proposal will foster partnerships, share experiences and seek coordinations with the LADA project to harmonize and broaden FAO's approach to sustainable land management.
- The progressive integration of tools and approaches developed by the FAO would reinforce sustainability, rational management and reduction the pressure on natural resources

In addition, this proposal will coordinate actions with the GIZ[19]'s project *"Integrated water resources management"* in the area of protection of sustainable water management practices, whose objective is to improve the capacity of the institutions in the water sector so that they are able to guarantee an integrated, sustainable management of water resources.An integrated and shared management of water resources and the protection of groundwater resources is an integral part of Oases sustainable management. As such, the project will seek to foster partnership with the GIZ initiative to enhance the benefits and impacts in the country.

B. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:

[18] Integrated Nature Resources Management in the Middle East and North Africa region (MENA) Program
[19] German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

B.1 National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under the relevant conventions, if applicable, i.e., NBSAPs, national communications, UNDAF etc.

The proposed project is fully aligned with a wide range of progressive national development priorities, strategies and plans of the Government of Morocco. In 2009, Morocco elaborated the fourth national report showing that the country's development depends, in large part, on its ability to better manage all its resources and natural areas. However, the challenge is not only to reconcile between "development" and "environmental protection", but also to achieve a balanced human development in stringent environmental conditions for semiarid provinces.

As a signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) since 1992 (ratified in 1995), Morocco developed the country's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) in 2004. In line with Morocco's priority areas, the project emphasises on supporting the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity through holistic approaches and multi-stakeholder participatory processes (sensitisation programmes) that engage the oases local communities (women groups, community based organizations) as well as private and public sectors (component 1, 2 and 3 of the proposed project). In this context, the project is perfectly aligned with the Nagoya Protocol underlining and recognising the importance of conserving genetic diversity to put in place effective strategies to prevent further losses of genetic diversity and therefore increase the likelihood of long term persistence.

Furthermore, the project is consistent with the National Initiative for Human Development (NIHD), a World Bank funded project, which was launched in 2005 to alleviate poverty and exclusion. From this initiative derived Morocco's agricultural strategy until 2015, the Plan Maroc Vert (the Green Morocco Plan), which was adopted in 2008. The proposed project will contribute to Pillar II of the Plan " support to small farming in less favorable rural areas (mountains, oases, semi-arid land) to enhance production and improve and maintain farm income and the fight against poverty" and its 6th component: "sustain Moroccan agricultural development". One of the main challenges the plan is addressing is the utilization of water resources for agriculture. In order to cope with drastic water scarcity, over exploitation of ground water and increased competition among users, the Plan is aiming at a reorientation of the water management policy.

In this context, the second component of the proposed project is coherent with the existing agricultural strategy. The Moroccan Government places significant importance towards integrated rural development, income generating activities from agro-ecosystem services and conservation of natural resources as it ratified the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and adopted, in 2001, the National Action Plan for Combating Desertification (NAPCD). The main principle of the NAPCD is that it recognizes the eminent role the local population and entities have to play in reversing the detrimental trend of land degradation and desertification. The second and third component of the proposed project are harmonized with the conservation of natural resources component and the capacity building of local actors component of the NAPCD.

The project will contribute to the National Strategy for the Protection of the Environment and Sustainable Development's goal of reducing the environmental degradation to the 1992 levels by 2020. It is consistent with the strategy's environmental priority of "Protection and conservation of soils and coastlines", and more specifically with its quality objectives of: a) conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources and b) conservation and rehabilitation of rangelands, the improvement of anti-erosive soils. Moreover, the proposed project is also in line with the two main areas under the sustainable management of soil resources, sustainable water management and, sustainable management of natural environment under the National Action Plan for the Environment (NEAP).

The proposed project is fully consistent with Moroccan development Charte communale, launched to enhance and modernize the legal structure to manage the local governance and contribute to the optimization of its economic potential including agricultural, industrial, handicraft, tourism and services. Through this Charte and through the local development plans, the proposed project will develop a real participatory approach which takes into account the needs of populations but also the objectives of the elected.

Furthermore, the project is in line with a number of national and local policies, plans and initiatives that have been initiated to address the environmental problems like deforestation, erosion and flooding, particularly in promoting integrated and participatory approaches such as the King Mohammed VI Initiative on Sustainable management of Oases.

The proposed GEF project is finally in harmony with the **United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF)** targeting poverty reduction, decentralisation to local level to allow development actions to be adapted to specific problems, partnership approaches to program development and execution using participatory mechanisms together with the beneficiaries. One of the main outcomes of the environmental component of the UNDAF will be the implementation of the principles of the Charte nationale de l'environnement et du développement durable (National Charter for Environment and Sustainable Development), which has been adopted in 2011.

The proposed GEF project is totally in line with the Country Programming Framework jointly elaborated between FAO and the Government of Morocco (CPF, currently under finalization), in particular with priority axe N. 2 "Sustainable management of natural resources and improving livelihoods of rural people, especially more vulnerable groups, in a context of climate adaption".

B.2 GEF focal area and/or fund(s) strategies, eligibility criteria and priorities

The project is consistent with the GEF Biodiversity and Land Degradation Focal Areas and it will support the implementation of the GEF-5 Biodiversity Strategic Objective 2. By strengthening policy and regulatory frameworks to promote adaptive approaches and effective conservation of agricultural biodiversity for oases communities the project will directly contribute to BD-2 Mainstream Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use into Production Landscapes/Seascapes and Sectors.

In particular, the project will support the conservation (in situ and ex situ) of local agrobiodiversity by:

- technical and economical support for use of local varieties
- direct support to the regulatory framework concerning local seed varieties
- enhancement of agricultural production by labeling local oases' products (durum wheat, amalagou almond, polio mint and honey)
- support the traditional rangeland management and enforce the cycle of collective pastoralism.

The project will also support the objectives of the Land Degradation Focal Area, specifically LD-1: "Maintain or improve flows of agro-ecosystem services to sustain livelihoods of local communities" by promoting and revitalizing heritage oases agricultural practices contributing to ecological and social sustainability. In particular, the MSP will support cultural practices that allow:

- Improvement of soil fertility by balanced cropping (cereal-legume) and the contribution of manure
- Introduction of efficient irrigation systems
- Planting vegetation barriers along rivers to protect soils and crops when flooding, increase water retention and help stabilize income of local populations-

All these actions will also contribute to the achievement of the LD-3 objective by reducing the pressure on natural resources from competing land uses in the wider landscape, valuing traditional knowledge systems and applying best agricultural practices.
The use of local varieties will increase agricultural production in a balanced system in which forage rotation (corn and alfalfa) will contribute to feed livestock and reduce the pressure on rangelands. The traditional management of collective pastoralism will preserve vegetation cover and protect soil , enhance water infiltration and consequently reduce floods.

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

FAO's Strategic Framework (2010-2019) specifically highlights the twin objectives of sustainable intensification of production to reduce hunger and poverty and sustainable management and use of natural resources. In adopting this Framework, FAO assists member countries in their pursuit of food security,

sustainable rural livelihoods, equitable access to resources, and promotion of multidisciplinary and ecosystem-based approaches on sustainable agricultural and rural development. In the area of sustainable land management, FAO has a long history supporting member countries on a wide range of complementary SLM technologies and approaches, through training, information, communications, tools and equipment, advisory services for institutional strengthening, policy reforms and national programming. FAO has introduced and promotes a range of SLM programmes and approaches, such as farmer field schools, conservation agriculture, catchment and farming systems approaches to integrated land and water management and better land husbandry, "gestion des terroirs" and local land planning, integrated plant and pest management (IPPM) and sustainable forest management.

As an intergovernmental body, FAO facilitates the promotion of sustainable traditional agricultural practices to its member constituencies (such as ministries of agriculture, forestry and fisheries) in different fora through intergovernmental bodies. FAO continues to enhance awareness, knowledge and understanding of crop-associated biological diversity providing ecosystem services to sustainable agricultural production; demonstrate methods for conservation, and sustainable management of agro-biodiversity; and promote mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation in sectoral plans and policies. FAO is already playing a pivotal role in the management of natural resources through a number of initiatives and projects in Morocco. It recently implemented the GIAHS project in selected pilot countries including a small UCODEP grant in Morocco to preliminary assess the oases agroecosystems. The gained experience and established network with national partners in Morocco are important elements of FAO's comparative advantage to implement the proposed project. This proposal intends to to build on the foundation of lessons learned and good practices to broaden its adaptive approach towards sustainable land and water management and valuing agricultural heritage of the oases community.

FAO expertise in support to this project will be a combination of a biodiversity specialist, from the Plant Production and Protection Division (AGP) of the Sub-Regional Office for Near East, former regional coordinator of projet GEF-PNUD-Bioversity 'Maghreb Date Palm project'; as well as by a Land and Water specialist, also from the Sub-Regional Office for Near East. From HQs, when and if needed, the Territorial Development Officer of the Land and Water Division, NRL, will also be available for technical assistance.

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

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

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE *(MM/DD/YYYY)*
Mohamed Benyahia	GEF Operational Focal Point Directeur du Partenariat, de la Communication et de la Coopération, Département de l'Environnement	Ministère de l'Energie, des Mines, de l'Eau et de l'Environnement	JULY 9, 2013

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 project identification and preparation.					
Agency Coordinator, Agency name	**Signature**	**Date** *(MM/DD/YYYY)*	**Project Contact Person**	**Telephone**	**Email Address**
Gustavo Merino Director Investment Centre Division Technical Cooperation Department FAO Rome, Italy TCI-Director@fao.org		October 11, 2013	Michael Hage, FAO Representative in Morocco	+21205376 54776	Fao-ma@fao.org
Barbara Cooney FAO GEF Coordinator Email: Barbara.Cooney@fao.org Tel: +3906 5705 5478			Abdelwahab Belloum Land & Water Officer FAO Subregional Office for North Africa Tunisia	+216 71906553	Abdelwahab.Belloum@fao.org

Annex 1. GEF projects intervention in Morocco

Agency	Project	Region
World Bank	Morocco GEF Social And Integrated Agriculture (Asima)"	Souss-Massa-Draa Marrakech-Tensift-Al Haouz
PNUD	A Circular Economy Approach To Agro Biodiversity Conservation In The Souss-Massa Drâa Region Of Morocco	Souss-Massa Drâa
PNUD	Mainstreaming Biodiversity Into Value Chains For Medicinal And Aromatic Plants In Morocco	Oriental (Jerada &Tilsint) Romarin Moyen-Atlas-(Timahdit – Azrou) Pyrethre Rif : Origan Marrakech Thym
IFAD-UNIDO	Participatory Control Of Desertification And Poverty Reduction In The Arid And Semi-Arid High Plateau Ecosystems Of Eastern Morocco	High Plateau Ecosystems Of Eastern Morocco
FAO	"Land Degradation Assessment And Monitoring For Sustainable Land Management Decision Support And Scaling Up Of Best Practices (Lada Phase Ii)	National

FAO new GEF project intervention:

Imilchil-Amellagou	Haut Atlas Oriental
Ait Bougamez	Haut Atlas Central
Ait Mansour	Sous Massa
Tata	Oasis Du Sud
Assa	Oasis Du Sud
Figuig	Oriental

Annex 2. Map of Project's Intervention Areas

★ Other GEF Projects
Project 3919 and 4922: at national level