



GEF-6 REQUEST FOR PROJECT ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Project

TYPE OF TRUST FUND: Multi-Trust Fund

PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

| | | | |
|---|---|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Project Title: Revitalising Oasis Agro-ecosystems through a Sustainable, Integrated and Landscape Approach in the Draâ-Tafilalet Region (OASIL) | | | |
| Country(ies): | Kingdom of Morocco | GEF Project ID: ¹ | 9537 |
| GEF Agency(ies): | FAO | GEF Agency Project ID: | 641869 |
| Other Executing Partner(s): | Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Maritime Fisheries, ANDZOA and INRA | Submission Date: | 1/11/16 |
| | | Resubmission Date: | 9/11/16 |
| | | Resubmission Date: | 15/11/16 |
| 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 | [if applicable] | Agency Fee (\$) | 819,950 |

A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK AND OTHER PROGRAM STRATEGIES²

| Objectives/Programs (Focal Areas, Integrated Approach Pilot, Corporate Programs) | Trust Fund | (in \$) | |
|--|------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| | | GEF Project Financing | Co-financing |
| BD-3 Program 7 | GEFTF | 2,548,402 | 8,797,000 |
| LD-1 Program 1 | GEFTF | 4,256,164 | 23,579,000 |
| CCM-1 Program 1 | GEFTF | 526,484 | 2,997,000 |
| CCM-2 Program 4 | GEFTF | 1,300,000 | 5,897,000 |
| Total Project Cost | | 8,631,050 | 41,270,000 |

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

| Project Objective: Revitalise oasis agro-ecosystems in the Draâ-Tafilalet Region to be productive, attractive, and healthy and to sustain and make more resilient the livelihoods of the local communities | | | | | | |
|--|----------------|--|---|------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| <i>Indicators:</i> (i) % increase of investments into pilot oasis agro-ecosystems; (ii) # ha of oasis agro-ecosystems sustainably managed in an integrated and participatory manner; (iii) # of tons of CO _{2e} mitigated through project activities over a 20-year period; (iv) % of land that is degraded over total land area in pilot landscapes; (v) Level of water stress (freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources) | | | | | | |
| <i>Indicative target:</i> (i) 20% increase; (ii) 60 000 ha; (iii) 1,5 million tons of CO _{2e} ; (iv) 60% decrease; (v) 10% decrease | | | | | | |
| Project Components | Financing Type | Project Outcomes | Project Outputs | Trust Fund | (in \$) | |
| | | | | | GEF Project Financing | Co-financing |
| 1. POLICY DIALOGUE: Support policy dialogue at the national and regional levels on the sustainable management of oasis agro-ecosystems | TA | 1.1. Actionable knowledge on oasis challenges and opportunities is used by the government and other national and regional stakeholders to promote the sustainable management of oasis agro-ecosystems through strategies and development plans | 1.1.1. Policy dialogues and knowledge exchange events involving different stakeholders from multiple sectors are held at regional and national levels on critical factors and innovative approaches to ensure the sustainability of oasis agro-ecosystems | GEFTF | 487,300 | 4,050,000 |

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.

| | | | | | | |
|---|--------|--|---|-------|-----------|------------|
| | | <p>Indicators: (i) Number of public and private institutions that adhere to a 'Sustainable Oases Declaration'</p> <p>(ii) Agro-biodiversity, Sustainable Land and Water Management (SLWM) and climate-smart approaches are mainstreamed into the future regional development plans of the Draâ-Tafilalet Region, assisting the advanced regionalization process</p> <p>Targets: (i) at least the 18 partner institutions of ANDZOA</p> <p>(ii) Regional Agriculture Development Plan (PAR) 2021 – 2026 of the Draa-Tafilalet Region.</p> | <p>1.1.2. A multi-stakeholder platform on oasis agro-ecosystems to exchange relevant information, data and best practices for integrated and sustainable management of oasis agro-ecosystems is developed to inform decision-making at national and regional levels</p> <p>1.1.3 Capacity needs assessment and training programme developed and implemented for increased capacity of the National Extension Agency (ONCA), ORMVAT, ORMVAO, ANDZOA, INRA, ADR agents to incorporate agro-biodiversity, SLWM and CCM approaches as well as improved climate-resilient agro-sylvo-pastoral practices in plans and policies</p> <p>1.1.4 A declaration (<i>Charte des oasis durables</i>) is developed in a multi-stakeholder process to inform sector policies and development strategies and plans</p> | | | |
| <p>2. PLANNING AND MONITORING: Improvement of NRM and SPI planning and monitoring systems at regional and local levels</p> | TA/Inv | <p>2.1. Knowledge and information on the state and sustainable management of natural resources (water, land, biodiversity) in oasis agro-ecosystems are improved in the Draâ-Tafilalet Region</p> <p>Indicators: # of monitoring and information systems, including spatial information, is operational</p> <p>Targets: The information system is maintained and updated</p> | <p>2.1.1 Participatory water accounting and auditing is conducted at regional level</p> <p>2.1.2. Land degradation assessment is conducted at the regional level</p> <p>2.1.3 Oasis typology and mapping based on bio-physical and socio-economic factors (ecosystemic and livelihood approaches) are elaborated</p> <p>2.1.4 The sustainability of each oasis type is assessed in a participatory manner</p> <p>2.1.5 Genetic Diversity Assessment and Monitoring is conducted in selected oasis typologies.</p> | GEFTF | 1,440,299 | 12,058,000 |

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|--|-----|--|---|-------|-----------|------------|
| | | <p>2.2. Oasis agro-ecosystem investment and management plans are developed in a participatory manner using an integrated landscape approach</p> <p>Indicators: <i>(i)# of sustainable and integrated oasis agro-ecosystem management and investment plans</i> <i>(ii)% of women representatives participating in the planning process</i></p> <p>Targets: <i>(i)4 investment and management plans</i> <i>(ii)30%</i></p> | <p>2.1.6 Practices and technologies in oasis agro-ecosystems including traditional ones, are collected and assessed, complementing other initiatives</p> <p>2.1.7. Oasis information systems are reinforced and improved using spatial analysis (GIS systems) at the regional level</p> <p>2.2.1. Sustainable and integrated management and investment plans for selected pilot oasis types are developed in a participatory manner</p> | | | |
| <p>3. DEMONSTRATION Oasis agro-ecosystems are restored, safeguarded and sustainably managed through an integrated landscape approach</p> | Inv | <p>3.1. Sustainable and integrated oasis agro-ecosystem management and investment plans are implemented in pilot oasis ecosystems in at least 2 sub-drainage basins</p> <p>Indicators : <i>(i)# of ha under effective agricultural, rangeland and pastoral management</i> <i>(ii)# of ha directly contributing to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use</i> <i>(iii)Crop variety/livestock breed evenness of traditional varieties of crops and animal breeds of global significance (DATAR)</i></p> | <p>3.1.1. Training, technical assistance and knowledge exchange for capacity development of local oasis agro and agro-pastoral communities in order to enable sustainable management and sustainable production intensification of oasis agro-ecosystems</p> <p>3.1.2. Selected good agricultural practices are implemented in pilot oasis agro-ecosystems as identified in the plans</p> <p>3.1.3. Selected traditional and innovative low-emission technologies are restored and/or introduced in pilot oasis agro-ecosystems, as identified in the plans</p> | GEFTF | 5,753,949 | 22,116,948 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|----|--|--|-------|---------|------------------|-------------------|
| | | <p>(iv) Change in water use efficiency</p> <p>Targets: (i) 60 000 ha (ii) 15 000 ha (iii) TBC (iv) 60%</p> <p>3.2. Livelihoods and income of oasis smallholders are more resilient, diversified and strengthened</p> <p>Indicators: (i) % increase of average annual household income disaggregated by sex (sample oasis households in project area) from crop and livestock production</p> <p>Targets: (i) 20% increase for women headed households and 20% increase for men headed households</p> | <p>3.1.4. Selected land degradation protection measures are implemented in pilot oasis agro-ecosystems, as identified in the plans</p> <p>3.1.5. Agro-biodiversity is conserved <i>in situ</i> and used in a sustainable way</p> <p>3.1.6. Inclusive governance mechanism are established in oasis pilot sites</p> <p>3.2.1. Sustainable value chain development of a selection of agro-pastoral products from oasis agro-ecosystems is supported</p> <p>3.2.2. The diversification of rural livelihoods is supported.</p> | | | | |
| 4. Project monitoring and evaluation and knowledge management | TA | <p>4.1. Project progress and results are monitored and evaluated throughout project implementation</p> <p><i>Indicator: An M&E plan developed and implemented</i> <i>Target: 1 M&E plan</i></p> <p>4.2. Project results and information disseminated</p> <p><i>Indicator: A communication strategy developed and implemented</i> <i>Target: 1 strategy</i></p> | <p>4.1.1. Monitoring and evaluation indicators developed and collected during project implementation</p> <p>4.1.2. Project Progress reports prepared</p> <p>4.1.3. Mid-term and final evaluations conducted</p> <p>4.2.1. Project website developed</p> <p>4.2.2. Project communication products developed</p> <p>4.2.3. Technical project reports prepared and disseminated</p> <p>4.2.4. Project results and activities disseminated in national and international events</p> | GEFTF | 538,500 | 2,045,052 | |
| Subtotal | | | | | | 8,200,048 | 40,270,000 |
| Project Management Cost (PMC) | | | | | GEFTF | 411,002 | 1,000,000 |
| Total Project Cost | | | | | | 8,631,050 | 41,270,000 |

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

| Sources of Co-financing | Name of Co-financier | Type of Co-financing | Amount (\$) |
|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Recipient Government | MAPM/ADA/ANDZOA | Grants | 38,970,000 |
| Recipient Government | MAPM/ADA/ANDZOA | In-kind | 600,000 |
| Recipient Government | INRA | Grants | 800,000 |
| Recipient Government | INRA | In-kind | 200,000 |
| GEF Agency | FAO | Grants | 500,000 |
| GEF Agency | FAO | In-kind | 200,000 |
| Total Co-financing | | | 41,270,000 |

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

| GEF Agency | Trust Fund | Country | Focal Area | Programming of Funds | (in \$) | | |
|----------------------------|------------|---------|------------|----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| | | | | | GEF Project Financing (a) | Agency Fee (b) ^b | Total (c)=a+b |
| FAO | GEFTF | Morocco | BD | N/A | 4,374,886 | 415,614 | 4,790,500 |
| FAO | GEFTF | Morocco | LD | N/A | 4,256,164 | 404,336 | 4,660,500 |
| Total GEF Resources | | | | | 8,631,050 | 819,950 | 9,451,000 |

E. PROJECT'S TARGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS³

| Corporate Results | Replenishment Targets | Project Targets |
|---|---|---|
| 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 | 15 000 Hectares |
| Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes) | 120 million hectares under sustainable land management | 60 000 Hectares |
| Support to transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path | 750 million tons of CO _{2e} mitigated (include both direct and indirect) | 1,482,488 metric tons of CO_{2e} * |

*Estimate has been made using the EX-Ante carbon-balance tool (EX-ACT, version 7)

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. DESCRIBE ANY CHANGES IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE PROJECT DESIGN WITH THE ORIGINAL PIF⁴

A.1. Project Description

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

There are no major changes to the project since the PIF. The project objective has not changed, however some of the outputs and outcomes were reformulated to create a more logical flow and in order to reflect further inputs received from national and regional project partners. The table below summarises the changes. A more detailed description of the outcomes and outputs is in the Project Document section 2.2 The GEF Alternative.

Project pilot site selection has not been carried out during the PPG phase, considering the proposed participatory process will take over a year, but criteria for defining oasis typologies and for selecting pilot sites were identified during the PPG phase in a consulted and participatory process and have been agreed upon by project partners. These criteria include biophysical criteria: (i) agro-ecological characteristics; (ii) water sources; (iii) irrigation typology (iv) vulnerability issues and socio-economic criteria: (i) poverty rate; (ii) main economic activities and (3) market access.

Table 1: A Summary of changes to the Components, Outcomes and Outputs

| Project component/ Outcomes at PIF stage | Project component/ Outcomes at CEO endorsement | Expected Outputs at PIF stage | Outputs at CEO endorsement | Justification for the change |
|---|--|---|--|---|
| COMPONENT 1 Outcome 1.2: BD, Sustainable Land and Water Management (SLWM) and climate-smart approaches are mainstreamed into the future regional development plans of the Drâa-Tafilalet Region, assisting the advanced regionalization process | | Output 1.2.1. Training programme developed and implemented for increased capacity of the National Extension Agency (ONCA) agents to incorporate BD, SLWM and climate change mitigation approaches as well as improved climate-resilient agro-sylvo-pastoral practices in plans and policies | Output 1.1.3 Capacity needs assessment and training programme developed and implemented for increased capacity of the National Extension Agency (ONCA), ORMVAT, ORMVAO, ANDZOA, INRA, ADR agents to incorporate agro-biodiversity, SLWM and CCM approaches as well as improved climate-resilient agro-sylvo-pastoral practices in plans and policies | Outcome 1.2. was recast as an indicator for success of Outcome 1.1. Output 1.2.1 was moved under Outcome 1.1 and slightly reformulated to include the need for a capacity needs assessment for tailored training programmes. Outcome indicators and targets have been refined. Please refer to Prodoc, Annex 1 for the updated results framework. |
| COMPONENT 2 Outcome 2.1. Knowledge and information on the state and sustainable management of natural resources (water, land, biodiversity) in oasis agro-ecosystems are improved | Outcome 2.1: Knowledge and information on the state and sustainable management of natural resources (water, land, biodiversity) in oasis agro-ecosystems are improved in the Drâa-Tafilalet Region | | | Outcome 2.1 has been reformulated to target the Drâa-Tafilalet region. Outputs have been reordered to better reflect the logical flow. Indicators and target were refined throughout Component 2 to further reflect outputs and activities. |
| COMPONENT 3 | | | Output 3.1.6. Inclusive governance mechanisms | This additional output was included under Outcome 3.1 |

| Project component/ Outcomes at PIF stage | Project component/ Outcomes at CEO endorsement | Expected Outputs at PIF stage | Outputs at CEO endorsement | Justification for the change |
|---|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| | | | are established in oasis pilot sites | as PPG studies revealed a lack of, and need for, strengthening inclusive community-level structures in oasis management. |

Additional Incremental Cost Reasoning and expected contributions from the Baseline and Co-financing
The table below presents the incremental cost reasoning for each project component:

Table 2: Incremental cost reasoning

| Component | Baseline Scenario | GEF alternative scenario |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| Component 1: Policy dialogue | <p>In the baseline situation, a multitude of public institutions is involved in the management of oasis agro-ecosystems. However, the lack of inter-institutional/inter-sectoral and multi-level coordination has at times lead to mutually counterproductive results. The multiple challenges faced by oasis populations is only partially understood and as a result only partial answers are provided, neither benefitting populations in the long run, nor grasping the full development potential oasis agro-ecosystems can offer. Other results achieved through pilot projects and programmes, successful though with a limited scope in time and space, have remained poorly documented and have failed to feed into the decision making processes for public and private investment plans and strategies. Despite the existence of a complex and highly fragmented legal framework that regulates the conservation, restoration and rehabilitation of oases, the efficient implementation of these legal provisions is hampered by a lack of awareness and understanding of challenges and opportunities from integrated landscape approaches to manage oasis agro-ecosystems sustainably. As a result, the current policy, legal and institutional framework has supported the modernization of - what is believed to be - an archaic production system, with the attempt to increase the productivity of the agro-ecosystems through the development of monocultures (Rosaceae, fruit, date palm groves), unintentionally causing the progressive loss of traditional production systems (including traditional</p> | <p>The GEF project will be used to address these barriers to the full integration of environment and climate concerns in oasis development processes at national, regional and local levels. Under the alternative scenario, GEF funds will be used to lay out the enabling environment for further uptake, sustainability and outscaling of results that emanate from this and other initiatives (including sister GEF funded projects in the country, region and worldwide – full list in section 4.2 of the ProDoc). The technical assistance under this component focuses on capacity building at national and regional levels and hopes to strengthen the current policy, legal and institutional framework for the sustainable, participatory and integrated management of oasis agro-ecosystems. Informed by capacity needs assessments at the national and regional levels, OASIL offers the required support to public and private (companies, NGOs, and others) decision makers in order for them to make informed decisions on investments into oasis agro-ecosystems, mainstreaming agro-biodiversity, climate mitigation, resilience, and SLWM concerns into plans, programmes, policies, strategies and budgets. To this end:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision-makers at the national and regional levels need to be made aware of the unique challenges and opportunities oasis agro-ecosystems face. This sensitization element under component 1 is in support of the mandate of ANDZOA, which mission is to mainstream oasis concerns into policies and plans of line ministries in Morocco. |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| | <p>practices, skills and know-how), eroding the agro-biodiversity richness of the systems and pushing the carrying capacity of the oasis agro-ecosystems beyond their limits. The current polity, legal and institutional framework is unfit to respond to the rapidly evolving context to which oasis agro-ecosystems need to adapt in order to guarantee their very survival.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision-makers at the national and regional levels need to have access to data, best practices, lessons, etc. on sustainable management options tailored to oasis agro-ecosystems and their different typologies in order to make the most cost-effective, durable and socially acceptable investment choices and therefore give direction to the change process. Experiences from OASIL (through components 2 and 3) and other projects (e.g. FAO-GEF project 5798, where 1 component is about collecting and disseminating lessons learnt and best (and worst) practices in Maghreb oasis ecosystems) will be made available to decision-makers via a multi-stakeholder platform. This platform will also greatly support the democratization of data and information, making it widely available for multiple purposes. • As an expression of engagement, an internalization of the awareness and use of available actionable knowledge and data, decision-makers from multiple sectors, at multiple levels reflect the lessons into the strategies and plans, and engage in a 'declaration' for sustainable oasis agro-ecosystems. The idea for such a declaration has been inspired by the successful experience in the pastoral sector, where the Moroccan 'Code Pastoral' (Pastoralism Declaration) eventually informed and shaped the 'Loi Pastoral' (Law on Pastoralism). |
| <p>Component 2: Planning and monitoring</p> | <p>In the baseline situation, a dominant sector focus approach is used in oasis development programs mainly focusing on date palm production and insufficiently taking into account the diversity of oasis agro-ecosystems that exists. As a result, many development plans for oasis agro-ecosystems do not take into account the specificities of the single systems, and there is a tendency to have a one-size-fits-all development plan for oases, regardless of their socio-economic, biophysical and vulnerability factors.</p> <p>Moreover, the lack of institutionalized skills and technical capacity to assess and monitor degradation trends in a harmonized and standardized way, or to use the collected data for adaptive management – is limiting concerned institutions from effectively</p> | <p>In the alternative GEF scenario, the project will elaborate a participatory and comprehensive typology study based on biophysical (i.e. source of water or location), productive (i.e. main crops and livestock) and socio-demographic dynamics (i.e. poverty, gender, access to markets). The resulting oasis agro-ecosystem types will be the basis for the participatory identification of project intervention sites, and the participatory sustainability assessments and planning processes.</p> <p>Participatory tools and related trainings for assessment and monitoring of water stress, land degradation and for genetic diversity will be carried out at different levels and findings will help define investment and management plans for selected pilot sites corresponding to diverse oasis typologies. The plans will address tailored environmental and socio-economic needs and will</p> |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| | <p>monitoring, and therefore, from sustainably managing, oases systems.</p> <p>To address this the project will endeavour to improve the various institutional skills required to properly collect, manage and monitor the most relevant data on water and land degradation, in oases agroecosystems of the Draa-Tafilalet region.</p> | <p>include direct investments to complement and support the sustainability of ongoing government investments such as the Plan Maroc Vert initiatives.</p> |
| <p>Component Demonstration</p> | <p>3: In the baseline situation, SLM and water efficient technologies, as well as improved practices for plant and animal genetic diversity are being implemented in Moroccan oasis systems through a multitude of programmes and projects. Still, barriers such as the lack of an integrated and ecosystem approach, have limited the scale of benefits achieved. While <i>PMV Pillar II</i> projects have achieved some progress in terms of awareness, no adequate financial incentives or financing mechanisms are in place that could provide a compelling economic argument to switch to more sustainable water and land management practices on private and collective land as well as to shift the balance in agricultural production in favour of diversity rich and climate smart approaches. Moreover none of the models advocated for have adopted a systematic approach to tackling the <i>root causes</i> of environmental degradation in the region or sought a fundamental <i>de-coupling</i> of traditional economic development models from one that fully accounts for the carrying capacity and the value of the natural resource base.</p> | <p>Under the incremental scenario, the GEF funds will be used to support action and catalyse investments into sustainable management of oasis agro-ecosystems through the implementation of management and investment plans (developed under component 2). The plans will consist of targeted locally adapted actions, intended to catalyze short term ecosystem resource dynamics and long term ecosystem stability. The aim is to increase production through sustainable intensification practices with due consideration of water and soil efficiency, increased carbon sequestration and increased genetic diversity and richness. At the same time, the plans will include activities aimed at strengthening the livelihoods of oasis populations through alternative income generating activities such as agro-ecotourism.</p> |

Global Environmental Benefits

As stated in the PIF, the project will maintain globally significant agro-biodiversity in critical oasis landscapes and help maintain and improve the sink potentials of these landscapes through improving sustainable land and water management in agricultural production systems that are under increased pressure from a growing population and unsustainable land management. Also new and innovative climate smart agricultural practices and technologies will be introduced in order to help reduce the emissions of GHGs and in order to increase the sink potentials (In particular increasing the soil carbon). The project will reverse land degradation trends on over 60,000 hectares of land. The overall mitigation benefits will amount to 1,482,488 t CO₂e for a 20 year period. More details on this are elaborated in the Project Document Section 2.2 The GEF Alternative.

Innovativeness

The project will pioneer a more participatory, integrated, green, low-emission and climate change resilient development model for sustainable production intensification via sustainable management and investment plans. Farmers and farmer community capacity development and empowerment (through participation in decision making, management and monitoring) will enable them to exercise control over natural resource management in a sustainable fashion. The project will be the first of its kind to take an ecosystem and integrated approach to oasis development focusing on natural resources management and sustainable agricultural

production intensification. It will also be the first to attempt to develop management plans for oasis agro-ecosystems that take into account the specificities of the single systems based on a comprehensive typology study at the regional level.

This project provides the means by which local innovation and best practices can be identified, documented and shared. It will seek to increase the linkages between local communities to ensure that communication and learning occurs horizontally rather than following a more traditional top-down method.

The project seeks to create a platform for cooperation between research, government and communities to support and maintain the sustainable management of oases, as places of great ecological and cultural value. The advocacy strategy, while not innovative in itself, will seek to highlight the uniqueness of the oasis agro-ecosystems, and their place in the broader global environment and socio-economic context.

Sustainability

OASIL puts environmental sustainability at the core of its approaches and change theory. It is poised to achieve and sustain healthy and productive oasis agro-ecosystems through a number of changes at the national, regional and local levels. The landscape approach, by focusing on place-based as opposed to sector-based, is used to integrate environmental, production and poverty alleviation goals.

The project will directly contribute to reduce land degradation and ground-water overexploitation, promote agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable production intensification practices. The project will also generate important benefits with regard to adaptation to climate change, improving the resilience of local communities to climate change variability and increasing carbon sinks from better SLM practices. Low-emission technologies and practices will also be promoted.

It is also expected that policy dialogue activities will contribute mainstream the restoration and conservation of oases agro-ecosystems services in national and regional development and investment plans.

In terms of social sustainability, farmers and farmer community capacity development and empowerment (through participation in decision making, management and monitoring) will enable them to exercise control over natural resource management in a sustainable fashion. This is a precondition for sustainability, and is therefore central to the project approach. The other essential component is the generation of income from the sustainable use of natural resources and agro-biodiversity through identifying the full economic value of its components and through the creation of improved market opportunities. The social and economic benefits that emanate from the project for these vulnerable households form the exit strategy of the project, which is strongly rooted into FAO's Incentives for Ecosystem Services in Agriculture approach (IES). This approach considers that existing markets do not value ecosystem services fully.

Without short and long term incentives, farmers and people depending on natural resources for their incomes are not able to invest the time and money required to change or adopt practices and overcome technical, cultural or financial adoption barriers. It is thanks to improved practices and resulting agro-ecosystem health, that farm productivity can be more resilient, rural livelihoods are protected and rural and urban food security ensured. IES are diverse, ranging from regulatory (permits, laws, ...) to voluntary (certification, labelling), public (subsidies, taxes,....) and private (PES, Corporate Environmental and Social Responsibility). OASIL will pilot some IES, including subsidies, labelling and certifications and will support a better understanding of how IES can support the revitalization of oasis agro-ecosystems in the medium-long term. These incentives and investments will also be fully captured in the sustainable and integrated oasis agro-ecosystem management plans, which include production intensification and/or diversification depending on oasis typology and priorities identified by its people in the participatory planning and management processes.

The project will also endeavor to create decent rural employment, aligned with the social standards FAO applies throughout its portfolio of projects and programmes.

Upscaling

The scaling-up of the project approach and innovations will be promoted in several ways throughout the project.

The information, including maps, arising from the assessments conducted under project Component 2 will have the potential to increase the sustainability of future projects in oasis agro-ecosystems in the Drâa-Tafilalet region. Project outputs such as the oasis typology, water accounting and auditing, land degradation and biodiversity assessment, etc. will be an important information source for regional and national institutions, such as ANDZOA or ORMVA, which will enable decision-making on investments in oasis agro-

ecosystems for at least the next decade. Furthermore, the characterization of oasis typologies will allow to extrapolate some sustainability issues and pilot-tested actions to the oases with similar characteristics outside the Region.

Furthermore, policy dialogues under Component 1 will promote sustainable approaches in oasis ecosystems and attract investments such as government funding, bank loans and external donor support, to revitalize oases in Morocco. Policy dialogues will also share and disseminate the experiences and lessons learnt of the project at national and regional level and will provide the elements to prepare a Sustainable Oases Declaration which will constitute the global framework for sustainable oases in Morocco. The success of the approaches promoted and tested in selected pilot oasis agro-ecosystems, the involvement of multiple stakeholders across different levels, and the demonstration of new and re-introduction of traditional practices, tools and methods are believed to support a further uptake and up-scaling across similar territories in the Southern part of the country, while strengthening various agricultural and animal value chains nationwide.

The project intends to foster collaboration between and among oases communities. The potential for scaling up the project's approach will be encouraged through the dissemination of tested models for planning at the ecosystem level, lessons learned and experiences in implementing dynamic conservation of oases, and to raise awareness and ensure that the local communities and stakeholders understand and adopt the NRM, SLWM, and SPI approaches and tools.

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

In order to ensure buy-in and ownership of project activities, the institutions and partners in this project have been involved from the start in the project's design, during the project preparation phase. The project preparation phase included a Project Preparation Inception Workshop (held in July 2016) and brought together all stakeholders and potential partners, and other prospective stakeholders that were identified during the course of project preparation. A second design and consultation mission took place in September 2016, during which the preparation team discussed on project's methodologies, result matrix, criteria for defining oasis typologies and on environmental degradation, and climate change impacts on local livelihoods. Detailed report of the inception, consultation and validation missions are provided in the Project Document's Annex 9.

During its implementation, the project will engage in a continuous conversation with different stakeholders and will facilitate the exchanges among multiple groups to contribute to policy debates related to the sustainable management and conservation of oasis agro- ecosystems. Relevant stakeholders will participate in the definition and mapping of the oasis typology and sustainability assessment, as well as in the discussion and implementation of successful approaches and strategies. The involvement of stakeholders will be facilitated through consultations and the use of participatory methodologies and tools.

A full-time social and gender expert will be hired by the project to ensure that all communities affected are equally involved. At project inception, he/she is expected to conduct a participatory mapping and documentation of land usage, natural resources, communication channels/media and customary rights in the region and support the establishment of a Free, Prior, Informed Consent (FPIC) agreement with affected Indigenous Peoples. In each project site, Indigenous Peoples' concerned and their respective representatives will be identified, geographic and demographic information through participatory mapping will be collected, and preliminary resources and time required to conduct FPIC will be determined. The project will ensure effective communication with the indigenous peoples throughout all stages of the process.

A.4. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

In oases, social, cultural, moral and religious power is in the hands of men. The participation of women in the public life is still very limited. Even though the strong patriarchal mentality perpetuates and influences family relations, women are involved in decision making at the household level mostly.

It is recognized that women play a key role in the management, organisation and resilience of oasis agro-ecosystem. They handle all the domestic work and most of the livestock care making a significant contribution to agricultural activities. Women are also responsible for the education of children, for the caring of the elderly in the family as well as, for maintaining social relations with

neighbors and relatives. In terms of agricultural activities, women support weeding operation, packaging harvesting of agricultural product and their transport to the storage site. Some women, among the poorest farmers, assist their husbands or replace them in the installation of crops and irrigation operations. In parallel with daily domestic, agricultural and livestock, women in oasis have cumulated skills in the packaging, processing and storage of many products (butter, dry vegetables, dry meat, dates). Women's know-how about medicinal and aromatic plants (recognition, use, preparation) is undeniable and needs to be safeguarded and promoted.

Still, the current situation of women in Moroccan oasis is changing. A degrading resource base and economy has pushed mostly men out of the oases, in search for a better life in nearby cities. Consequently, the role of women remaining in the oases has changed. Moreover, new forms of social organizations are emerging, such as women associations and cooperatives, generating new productive activities, increasing their margin of economic and social maneuver (access to credit, sale of local products, literacy programs, education and training).

The project will directly involve women in all phases of project design and implementation (if needed, women will be involved in the participatory planning process separately). Some of the project outputs will be directly geared towards women for a more empowered and resilient community with equal voices for men and women. For instance, the management plans will put a particular emphasis on women issues, on the tasks and responsibilities they cover and their needs. Alternative livelihood options that will be explored will make the same considerations and ensure the project brings benefits to women and men alike. Women's Groups and Women Organizations, such as the Union of Moroccan Women (UNFAM), will be mobilized and involved in participatory implementation of the project activities. Emphasis will be given to community-based participatory approaches with a strong focus on women-headed households that are often the poorest, including targeted awareness and capacity development to improve their livelihoods.

Moreover, local governance mechanisms will be strengthened, guaranteeing inclusiveness and ensuring meaningful participation of youth, women and minority groups, taking into account the specific constraints and barriers they may face. Training of women will be designed and organized at times and in locations that women can easily access and using tools and methods that are mindful of literacy levels, socio-cultural and language barriers.

A.5 Risk

Risks to the successful implementation of the OASIL project have been identified in a participatory fashion during the PIF development phase and re-confirmed during the PPG phase. During the PIF development phase, meetings were held with key national stakeholder both in capital and in the region. During these meetings, assumptions and risks had been discussed and further analysed by the project preparation team. During the PPG phase, each consultant was tasked to analyse the risks in his/her area of competency, re-confirming the set of risks identified during PIF development.

| Risk | Rating | Risk Mitigation measures |
|--|--------|---|
| <p>Institutional risk: Decrease in project ownership and support from governmental agencies (There is a large number of government actors from different institutions and ministries involved in oasis development. Mandates are different, though at times partially overlapping or steering in opposite directions. Institutional sensitivities can</p> | L | <p>OASIL will ensure relevant government agencies (MOE, MAPM, ADA, ANDOZA, INRA, ORMVAT) are fully involved in the project implementation through its institutional set-up which engages partners in different capacities through the project steering committee, the project management unit and focal points and the technical working groups per component. Roles and responsibilities have been discussed and agreed upon, and contributions and comparative advantage of each partner identified for successful project progress. Multi-stakeholder engagement will also be strengthened through Component 1 which will facilitate</p> |

| Risk | Rating | Risk Mitigation measures |
|---|--------|--|
| cause some partners to be only partially involved and engaged.) | | policy dialogues and knowledge exchange involving different governmental agencies. |
| Operational risk: Limited capacity of local/national institutions for implementing project activities | M | The limited capacity of the national, local and oases dependent communities will be addressed through targeted training and capacity-building activities. Training activities of local personnel will also be part of all aspects of the work and the relevant institutions will be encouraged to expand the staff base if it is weak in particular areas. A capacity needs assessment will be conducted to identify knowledge and capacity gaps and target project interventions. This assessment will look both at the technology/technical capacity gaps and the governance issues faced by local populations to engage in OASIL and similar processes. |
| Social risk: Lack of interest and participation of beneficiaries (This risk stems from both the lack of incentives to engage in alternative options as compared to BAU, the lack of awareness on co-benefits from proposed alternative options, and the lack of instruments to engage in alternative options.) | L | <p>Envisaged interventions will include awareness-raising workshops on the negative impacts of climate change, land degradation and loss of biodiversity in oasis systems directly involving local institutions and communities. The project will promote a suite of participatory and gender sensitive approaches that intends to place communities at the driving seat of planning and monitoring processes.</p> <p>Moreover, OASIL will work at the regional and national level to strengthen an enabling environment for the larger adoption of OASIL demonstrated tools, approaches and technologies, including the development of a <i>multi-stakeholder platform on oasis ecosystems to inform decision-making at different levels</i>. It will also try to involve the private sector in order to support new and additional investments into oasis agro-ecosystems, alongside those already committed from the public sector.</p> |

| Risk | Rating | Risk Mitigation measures |
|--|--------|---|
| Climate risk: An increasingly drier and hotter climate / More frequent droughts and floods | M | The changing climate and extreme events, as already experienced for the past decades and further estimated in various scenarios, accentuates social imbalances in oases, increases stress on water resources and negatively impacts production yields. OASIL gives high priority to climate resilience of oasis agro-ecosystems, particularly offering diversified and complementary development options (new livelihood options alongside sustainable production intensification options for instance). Climate variability and extreme events are built in the project approach and will be considered from assessment through to planning, implementation and monitoring. For instance, a specific assessment of the climate resilience of farmers and pastoralists, also incorporating the views and needs of those people, will be conducted. This information in conjunction with climate data will serve as baseline information for monitoring and will also inform and guide investment and farmers' practices as well as curricula and local and national policies. |

A.6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

FAO will be the GEF Agency responsible for the supervision, and provision of technical guidance during the implementation of the project. ANDZOA will be the lead national executing partner and will host the Project Management Unit (PMU), which will be staffed by a dedicated Project Coordinator, supported by Liaison Officers from various line ministries.

The Ministry of Environment will chair a multi-stakeholder Project Steering Committee (PSC) which will bring together the key institutions including ANDZOA, ADA, DIAEA, DDFP, ONSSA, DRA of Drâa-Tafilalet, ORMVAO, ORMVAT, INRA, IAVHII, Ministère d'Aménagement Territorial, Ministère de l'Artisanat et de l'ESS, SMIT, ONCA, Conseil Régional de Drâa-Tafilalet, Agence Régionale d'exécution des projets de Drâa-Tafilalet, Chambre d'Agriculture de la Région Drâa-Tafilalet, Délégations Régionales de Tourisme d'Errachidia et Ouarzazate, Producers Associations including FIMADATTES, NGOs, the private sector and FAO. During project preparation, consultations were held with other UN agencies with related projects in Morocco. These agencies will be invited to participate in the PSC to ensure coordination of the project with key related initiatives.

The Project Steering Committee, meeting at least once a year, will guide and oversee implementation of the project. PSC TORs are included in the Prodoc section 4.2.

The Project Management Unit will be established within ANDZOA in the Drâa-Tafilalet region. The PMU will be staffed by a full-time Project Coordinator, Project Assistant, national subject matter Experts and short-term consultants paid by the project. The PMU will work closely with Liaison Officers of the following institutions: ANDZOA, DRA Drâa-Tafilalet, ORMVAO, ORMVAT, INRA, ONCA, ONSSA, Agence régionale d'exécution des projets, Agence de bassin, Délégations Régionales de Tourisme d'Errachidia and Ouarzazate. The PMU will be responsible for the day to day management of the project and timely and efficient implementation of and monitoring of approved annual work plans. PMU activities are listed in page xx of the Prodoc.

As well as the Project Coordinator, the PMU will be supported by Liaison Officers from the above mentioned institutes, which are government appointed officers guaranteeing a high level of integration with the relevant line ministries, ensuring among others that technical inputs are provided in an efficient and timely manner for the Technical Teams as needed; that high level officials are briefed and able to participate actively in the Project Steering Committee; and that the appropriate government procedures are smoothly navigated in terms of compliance monitoring.

Technical Working Groups (TWG) will be established to provide technical advice on specific project components and outcomes and will provide technical advice to the PSC, backstop the PMCU on request, advise the PMCU on other on-going and planned activities and facilitate collaboration between the Project and other programs, projects, and initiatives of sector agencies and research institutions. The TWGs may also be involved in technical evaluation of project progress and outputs, and identification of possible solutions and/or changes in project activities when technical issues arise in the course of project implementation.

The institutional arrangements of the components and project management mechanisms are schematized in the organigramme in the ProDoc section 4.2.

The project will seek to coordinate with implementing and executing agencies of a range of ongoing initiatives related to sustainable management and monitoring of oasis ecosystems in Morocco so as to identify opportunities and facilitate mechanisms for achieving synergies with such relevant GEF-supported projects, as well as with projects supported by other donors mentioned below. These include other FAO activities in the region, to ensure that best practices are incorporated into project's approaches. A list is provided in the ProDoc section 4.1

Additional Information not fully elaborated at PIF Stage:

A.7 Benefits

To strengthen the livelihoods of oasis populations, the project intends to catalyze greater economic returns to oasis farmers and communities for their produce and to promote alternative income generating activities such as agro-ecotourism. The project will catalyze innovations in assisting farmers participate in value chains for portfolios of products rather than focusing on single value chains, as this will offer prospects for more resilient diversified farming systems. With an interest in valuing agro-biodiversity, the project will identify and develop value adding actions that include improving the quality of local material, increased access to preferred local material together with information on the adaptive qualities of local material, marketing strategies that include marketing of local agricultural input products, and new products.

A.8 Knowledge Management

Knowledge generation and management is integrated throughout the project's components. Component 1 will help support decision makers at the national level mostly to get acquainted with and familiar with the particular issues faced by different typologies of oasis agro-ecosystems and the sustainable and integrated development solutions that can be offered. Decision-makers at both national and regional level, through increased awareness and a knowledge base accessible through a platform/information system is believed to help mobilise actors at multiple levels and feed a policy dialogue on challenges and potentials of oasis agro-ecosystems that cuts across stakeholders and sectors. Component 2 closely dialogues with the first component, and will provide the data and knowledge on the state and sustainable management of natural resources in oasis agro-ecosystems to make informed planning decision for sustainable and integrated oasis management and monitor progress, particularly at the regional and local levels. Component 2 will also provide information and insight to the local planning process on the most successful pathways towards sustainable development of the selected oasis agro-ecosystem. Component 3 incorporates broadening the knowledge base of local communities in order to implement NRM and SPI practices, methods and tools - this will include training, technical assistance and knowledge exchange (between oasis agro and agro-pastoral communities) in SLM, improved practices increasing genetic diversity and sustainable production intensification to improve the livelihoods and resilience to climate change and environmental threats. The capacity of local institutions to sustain project activities will be enhanced through training and inputs to local extension, NGOs, extension colleges, associations, and more. This will include programmes in participatory decision-making and developing collaborative action-research activities to enhance or create monitoring and management skills, and capacity to undertake ecosystem service enhancement and agro-biodiversity conservation activities.

Component 4 will identify and disseminate lessons learned, best practices, and support awareness raising through and beyond the project's area. Exchanges among project beneficiaries will be encouraged through study tours, forums and workshops, and the project will use best available technologies and partnerships with key national and international partners to ensure lasting capacity building. Community-led and gender differentiated dissemination systems of selected technologies will also be established and user-friendly dissemination materials will be developed to specifically target women and women's groups for relevant technologies.

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.:

The project will contribute to Morocco's engagement towards the implementation of the Rio conventions through its focus on sustainable agriculture and land management, on the conservation and rehabilitation of key ecosystems and on the nexus between development objectives and environmental sustainability. In particular, the project proposal is aligned with the 5th NBSAP of Morocco (2015) as already evidenced in earlier sections of this document.

The project will contribute to the nation-wide effort to curb the GHG emission curve, as outlined in the INDC (2015 – see sub-section 1.4 in this document). The project is further consistent with priorities identified in the NCs to the UNFCCC, particularly the Third National Communication (May 2016). This latter not only underlines the potential important contribution of the agriculture sector to achieving GHG emission reduction targets, but also underlines the fragility and vulnerability of oasis ecosystems to the impacts of climate change.

The project also establishes direct linkages with the recent initiative of the High Commissariat for Water, Forests and Desertification Control (HCEFLCD) related to the updating and implementation of the National Action Plan to combat desertification (PANLCD). The aim of such initiative is to include the adaptation of the NAP to a specific homogeneous areas while taking into account the objectives of the ten-year strategy (2008-2018) of the UNCCD and interactive aspects with other Rio Conventions (UNFCCC, CBD) including the effects of climate change. Morocco is a participating country in the Land Degradation Neutrality Setting Programme, though a national report has not been finalized yet. Given the key cross-sectoral influence of the land sector, the process of setting national LDN targets is anchored in the national portfolio for implementing the SDGs. It leverages both on the national processes for the implementation of the other Rio Conventions and on the interventions of multiple development partners at the country level.

The proposed project establishes direct and clear linkages with the new Green Morocco Plan (Plan Maroc Vert) whose primary goal is a competitive upgrading of the agriculture sector through modernization, greater integration into the world market and the creation of wealth along the whole value chain, while assuring a sustainable management of natural resources. The project builds on the 2nd pillar of the Plan Maroc Vert by targeting mainly smallholders focusing on the reduction of poverty by significantly increasing the income of the most vulnerable farmers, particularly in mountain and marginal zones. The Plan Maroc Vert supports two types of projects within its second pillar: i) Intensification projects (improving existing advances in animal and plant sectors by supervising the farmers to enable them to have better techniques and significantly improve their productivity and the value of their production); and ii) Diversification projects (support for the promotion of special local products or "produits de terroir" (honey, medicinal plants, etc.).

The project also builds on and works towards the objectives of the 2020 Strategy for Sustainable Rural Development by contributing to the increase in agricultural production, the increase in opportunities for agricultural employment and income, and the reduction in anthropogenic environmental degradation.

Recently the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries developed a very ambitious transregional program in pre-Saharan and Saharan zones of Morocco aiming the sustainable development of pastoral areas, through the rehabilitation and sustainable management of pastoral resources, organization and capacity building of pastoralists, promotion of the various local products associated with rangelands, as well as the regulation of transhumance flows and the development of socio-economic infrastructures.

The project is also relevant to the objectives of the Morocco's National Poverty Reduction Strategy which is represented through the National Human Development Initiative (NHDI) which was launched by the Kingdom of Morocco with the aim of reducing poverty, vulnerability and social marginalization.

The project is perfectly in line with "National Charter for Environment and Sustainable Development" piloted by the Ministry delegated to the Minister of Energy, Mining, Water and Environment, for the environment.

Lately the Ministry of Interior initiated a national dialogue to "explore the future prospects of collective lands within a participatory approach, involving all stakeholders." Organized under the theme "collective land: for sustainable human development", this national debate aims to conceive with various stakeholders and partners, consensual and participatory future vision, which may integrate changes underway in order to meet the expectations of different stakeholders. With this respect juridical and institutional reforms relating to this issue are needed.

Among innovative outcomes of this project it is necessary to mention the fact that this region correspond to the new territorial organisation of the Moroccan administration. Indeed the project of advanced regionalisation has been implemented recently in 2015.

C. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M & E PLAN:


| Type of M&E Activity | Responsible Parties | Time-frame | Budget |
|--|--|--|--------------------|
| Inception Workshop (IW) | PMU in consultation with the LTO, BH, PSC | Within 1 month after Start-up | USD 6,000 |
| Results-based Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP/B) | PMU in consultation with the FAO Project Task Force | 3 weeks after Start-up and annually with the reporting period July to June | Project staff time |
| Project Inception Report | -PMU in consultation with the LTO, BH FAO-Morocco -Report cleared by the FAO BH, LTO and the FAO GEF Coordination Unit and uploaded in FPMIS by the BH | 1 month after Start-up | Project staff time |
| Project M&E Expert | Short Term Consultant | 1 month after Start-up | USD 100,000 |
| Finalisation of baseline information, and reassessment at mid-term and project closure | Short term consultants | During project year 1, 3 and 5 | USD 34,400 |
| Supervision Visits | FAO | Annually | Project staff time |
| Project Progress Reports (PPR) | -PMU based on the systematic monitoring of output and outcome indicators identified in the project's Results Framework - The PPR will be submitted to the BH and LTO for comments and clearance. BH to upload the PPR on the FPMIS. | No later than one month after the end of each six-monthly reporting period (30 June and 31 December) | Project staff time |
| Project Implementation Review report (PIR) | LTO (in collaboration with the PMU) will prepare an annual PIR covering the period July (the previous year) through June (current year) to be submitted to the BH and the TCI GEF Funding Liaison Officer | August 1, of each reporting year | Project staff time |
| Co-financing Reports (Disbursement, Output) | PMU | On a semi-annual basis, and will be considered as part of the semiannual PPRs | Project staff time |

| | | | |
|--|---|---|---------------------------------|
| GEF Tracking Tools | PM and reviewed by FAO LTU | At mid-point and end of project | Project staff time |
| Technical Reports | Project staff and consultants, with peer review as appropriate | As appropriate | Project time + consultant costs |
| Mid-term Review | External consultant, FAO Office of Evaluation in consultation with PMU, GEF Coordination Unit and other partners. | During PY3, at mid term | USD 46,000 |
| Independent Final Evaluation | External consultant, FAO Office of Evaluation in consultation with PMU, GEF Coordination Unit and other partner | 3 months prior to terminal review meeting | USD 56,050 |
| Terminal Report | PMU with assistance of other project staff and the FAO LTU | 2 months before project end | USD 6,550 |
| Lessons Learned workshop and impact assessment | Project Staff, short-term consultants and FAO | At project end | USD 6,000 USD20,000 |
| Overall estimated cost of project staff time for M&E | | | USD 16,250 |
| Total Budget | | | USD 291,250 |

PART III: CERTIFICATION BY GEF PARTNER AGENCY(IES)

A. GEF Agency(ies) certification

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies⁵ 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 |
|---|---|----------------------|--|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Gustavo Merino Director, Investment Centre Division Technical Cooperation and Programme Management. FAO |  | 15/11/16 | Maude Veyret- Picot Technical Officer, FAO GEF Coordination Unit. Investment Centre Division. | +3906 570 52362 | Maude.veyretpicot@fao.org |
| Jeffrey Griffin Senior Coordinator, FAO GEF Coordination Unit. Investment Centre Division. | | | | +3906 570 55680 | GEF-Coordination- Unit@fao.org |

⁵ GEF policies encompass all managed trust funds, namely: GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF and CBIT

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).

Please see Annex 1 in the Prodoc.

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).

Questions from the US Council Member at work programme inclusion:

In response to the questions from the US CM, which are relating to the principles of decent rural employment (DRE), note that FAO developed an applied definition of DRE to facilitate the operationalization of the decent work⁶ concept to rural areas, and the agricultural sector in particular.⁷ The definition emphasizes six priority dimensions that are crucial to achieving decent employment in rural areas, irrespective of whether rural workers are covered in labour legislation at national level or relevant ILO Conventions are ratified by the country. In particular, FAO specifies that any activity, occupation, work, business or service performed by women and men, adults and youth, for pay or profit, in rural areas can be considered decent if it at least:

- respects the core labour standards as defined in ILO Conventions, and therefore: a) is **not child labour**; b) is not forced labour; c) guarantees **freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining** and promotes the organization of rural workers; and d) does not entail discrimination at work on the basis of race, colour, sex, religion, political opinion, national extraction, social origin or other;
- provides an adequate living income;
- entails an adequate degree of employment security and stability;
- adopts **minimum occupational safety and health (OSH) measures**, which are adapted to address sector-specific risks and hazards;
- avoids excessive working hours and allows sufficient time for rest; and
- promotes access to adapted technical and vocational training.

DRE is **one of the nine environmental and social standards of FAO**, therefore promoting direct action to foster decent rural employment, promoting fair treatment, non-discrimination and equal opportunity for all workers, protecting and supporting workers (particularly disadvantaged and vulnerable categories of workers), and promoting the application of international labour standards in the rural economy, including the prevention and elimination of child labour in agriculture.

OASIL meets the FAO Environmental and Social Standards, setting out specific requirements relating to different social and environmental issues.

More specifically:

Question 1 Will the project endeavor to involve unions to ensure that workers have the benefit of direct training?

The suggestion is well taken and also unions will be involved the participatory process for the planning, implementation and monitoring of management and investment plans of pilot oasis agro-ecosystems. Still, note that though the agriculture sector is the backbone of the economy in the Drâa-Tafilalet region, the sector is barely unionized. There are a number of reasons for this. Only years after the enforcement of the 2004 Labour Code, right to trade union representation for companies with more than 100 employees has been extended to the agriculture sector⁸. Unionization of this sector is therefore still recent and limited to large companies, which are outnumbered by subsistence farmers and family farming. Hence, OASIL will strongly involve cooperatives and producer organisations, and as such endeavor to represent farmer and farmer communities (women, men, youth and elderly alike) in an as balanced and equitable way as possible.

⁶ Decent work has been defined by the ILO and endorsed by the international community as “productive work for women and men in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity” It is productive work that delivers a fair income, security in the workplace and social protection for families; better prospects for personal development and social integration; freedom for people to express their concerns, to organize and participate in the decisions that affect their lives; and equality of opportunity and treatment for all women and men. Decent work is a universal and indivisible objective, based on fundamental values and principles.

⁷ FAO. 2015. Factsheet on understanding decent rural employment (available at <http://www.fao.org/3/a-bc270e.pdf>)

⁸ ILO, 2010 *Labour relations and collective bargaining in Morocco*

Question 2 Because children often work informally in these sectors, could basic training on identifying child labor and connecting those families with livelihoods and educational services be included where possible?

The comment is well taken. FAO found that indeed nearly 60% of child labour globally is found in agriculture and therefore works with its partners to address the **root causes of child labour**, through knowledge sharing and capacity building, support to regional and national government institutes and the promotion of global action.

The Decent Work (or DRE as mentioned above) Standard of FAO ensure that FAO projects and programmes help further prevent and reduce child labour.

Therefore, OASIL will include measures to contribute to address the root causes of child labour, if the project area is found to be a high risk area⁹. In its second component (Planning and monitoring: Improvement of NRM and SPI planning and monitoring systems at regional and local levels), a Rapid **Sustainability Assessment of Food and Agriculture systems (SAFA)** will be carried out. One important dimension of sustainability is the social dimension and among the indicators to be measured through the Rapid SAFA (principles and indicators are decided upon in a participatory fashion) child labour can be featured. The information from the SAFA will inform the project team and partners what the current situation is, and assess different future situations (with or without OASIL intervention and different OASIL scenarios), providing technical support to decision-making.

Question 3 Would it be possible for the project to involve MOL Occupational Safety and Health inspectors to help build their capacity to inspect for safe workplace in agri-/aqua-culture?

The potentials for OASIL to train Occupational Safety and Health inspectors will be evaluated. A safe and healthy workplace is indeed important (see FAO ESS mentioned above), and training may be primarily considered in the context of parallel projects and investments such as the PAGIE baseline project (illustrated in the PIF and particularly interested in further developing and strengthening GIE).

Question 4 With regards to stakeholders, could the project involve the Date Industry Association in the region?

Considering the importance of date production in the oasis agro-ecosystems, the institutional set-up of OASIL has included **FIMADATTES** in both the steering committee of the project as well as the technical working groups at the component level. FIMADATTES is the Inter-professional federation of date producers in Morocco (Figuig, Errachidia, Tinghir, Zagora, Ouarzazate and Tata). The federation's objectives are multiple, including the protection of the date value chain, promotion of water use efficiency, protection of the value chain against environmental degradation impacts, and more. For instance, the federation organizes meetings and sensitization events, participates in national events, and participates in the organization of cooperatives (GIE – Groupements d'Intérêt Economique).

It should be noted though that OASIL is not solely focusing on sustainable production intensification and natural resource management in support of date production and producers. The oasis agro-ecosystems are agro-biodiversity hotspots and are typically 2 or 3 tiered, with palm dates one of the 2/3 tiers. OASIL will support the valuing of the other agricultural (crop and animal) products from oases.

Questions from the German Council Member at work programme inclusion:

Question 1 Opportunities for and pathways towards sustainable intensification of agricultural enterprises are only vaguely described. Therefore, Germany recommends placing more emphasis on improved irrigation practices, practices building soil organic matter and sound groundwater management.

⁹ UNDAF 2017-2021 of Morocco mentions that 86,000 children aged between 7 and 15, mainly living in cities, work in inappropriate conditions.

A similar question was brought forward by STAP, and OASIL has addressed this concern by building in the safeguards to avoid ecosystems (in particular land, water and biodiversity) are pushed beyond their carrying capacity. Therefore, the FAO Sustainable Production Intensification (SPI) approach will be applied. SPI provides opportunities for optimizing crop production per unit area, taking into consideration the range of sustainability aspects including potential and/or real social, political, economic and environmental impacts. Thus, a participatory assessment of the main issues related to the sustainability in different oasis agro-ecosystems will be conducted to ensure that actions promoted respond to sustainability challenges identified. Doing more with less is more than a slogan, and also in fragile and vulnerable ecosystems SPI initiatives can have positive results. For instance, improved water-use efficiency through the introduction of water-conserving practices and increase investment in water-efficient technologies will be key for promoting SPI in oases ecosystems.

Question 2 As Morocco is part of the Target Setting Programme for Land Degradation Neutrality, reference should be made to this and related national commitments.

Reference to the LDN Target Setting Process had been made in in paragraph 217 of the ProDoc (page 65). Morocco has politically committed to translating the global Land Degradation Neutrality target into country-specific targets and actions that generate multiple benefits and substantially contribute to the achievement of the SDGs. Though Morocco is pioneering how to put the evolving LDN concept into practice, participating in the LDN target setting process, this process is just starting and national priorities and targets have yet to be set. To the extent possible, OASIL and its partners will support the LDN target setting process and fully align to it. Furthermore, LDN is believed to accelerate the SDGs and in particular SDG 15, but also SDGs 1, 2, 6, 7, 12 and 13. OASIL reflects this, and has included a number of indicators of the SDG framework into its results matrix.

Question 3 A similar project has recently been proposed to the GCF (Development of Argan Orchards in degraded environment). Secretariat should liaise with the GCF to clarify potential overlap.

Thank you for highlighting the potential links with a recently approved Argan ecosystems' GCF project. The DARED GCF project will be implemented in the Sous-Massa region, while OASIL is being implemented in the Drâa-Tafilalet region. Furthermore, DARED targets the argan agro-ecosystems, and OASIL is focused solely on oasis agro-ecosystems. Despite these fundamental differences, there are similarities, such as a shared desire to sustainably develop these fragile and degraded agro-ecosystems, and promote their revitalisation. OASIL will ensure that consultations with the DARED team are scheduled and the projects exchange on approaches and tools/methods, so as to learn from each other and mutually reinforce each other. These consultations will be facilitated through ANDZOA, the Executing entity for DARED and main co-executing partner of OASIL.

Questions from the STAP:

STAP provided a number of comments, references and questions. These inputs have guided the project design, and helped improve and broaden the scope and outreach, for instance providing a stronger focus on resilience. The questions are answered below, though details can be found in the project document, particularly in the description of the GEF Alternative.

1) How is groundwater management included in a sustainable approach for oases. Groundwater availability, use and governance will be assessed under component 2 and therefore lays at the basis of the planning process and monitoring foreseen in the context of the OASIL project. This component foresees to conduct a participatory water accounting exercise at the regional level. In addition, investment plans will also include governance mechanisms to allow sustainable and equitable management of natural resources, including integrated groundwater management.

2) How are the approaches and technologies soundly based on stakeholders' knowledge of agro-sylvo-pastoral practices, soil and water management and biodiversity conservation.

OASIL puts a strong emphasis on stakeholder engagement and offers participatory assessment, planning, implementation and monitoring approaches. For the selection and promotion of technologies, the ProDoc provides detailed language on how traditional knowledge and know-how will be accounted for and built in in management and investment plans. Please, see pages 56 and following of the ProDoc. Please, also refer to the summary of the assessments that have been carried out during the PPG phase, and that are captured in the report entitled 'Composante agro-écologie: états et lieux'. Annex I summarises the different technologies considered, including a high number of traditional ones.

3) Reinforce the theory of change by highlighting lessons from past projects (including eventually those from the GGW initiative). We thank the STAP for providing some additional references and best practices and lessons learnt from other projects and programmes targeting oases in particular. Lessons from a suite of past and ongoing projects in the region and beyond will be capitalized during project implementation and will be fully embedded in the management and investment plans for the pilot oasis agro-ecosystems as laid out under outcome 2.2 of the ProDoc (pages 53 and beyond). Furthermore, it must be recalled that OASIL will establish strong ties with the regional GEF project on oases (GEF ID 5798), which will result in a collection of best (and worst) SLWM practices in oasis zones.

4) Is intensification realistic in already highly fragile ecosystems?

This crucial point is well understood, and OASIL has built in the safeguards to avoid ecosystems (in particular land, water and biodiversity) are pushed beyond their carrying capacity. Therefore, the FAO Sustainable Production Intensification (SPI) approach will be applied. SPI provides opportunities for optimizing crop production per unit area, taking into consideration the range of sustainability aspects including potential and/or real social, political, economic and environmental impacts. Thus, a participatory assessment of the main issues related to the sustainability in different oasis agro-ecosystems will be conducted to ensure that actions promoted respond to sustainability challenges identified. Doing more with less is more than a slogan, and also in fragile and vulnerable ecosystems SPI initiatives can have positive results. For instance, improved water-use efficiency through the introduction of water-conserving practices and increase investment in water-efficient technologies will be key for promoting SPI in oases ecosystems.

5) Consider the issue of adequate capacity and skills for local peoples to adequately participate in planning and management.

A capacity needs assessment will be conducted at different levels. The governance and technical capacity will be assessed at the grassroots level. Details are provided in the description of component 3 on pages 54-56 of the ProDoc.

6) Describe the multiple benefits related to agrobiodiversity.

The ProDoc develops some language on co-benefits from agro-biodiversity, including its positive impact on carbon sequestration by having an impact on recalcitrant carbon in the soil, carbon sequestered in wood products, and carbon in standing biomass. Thus, practices increasing genetic diversity, at various time scales, that can help increase productivity year-round, can indirectly increase the ecosystem's ability to sequester carbon (Lal and Kimble, 1997; West and Post, 2002). The biomass the oasis system maintains, through the genetic richness of its crop varieties, has ensured continuous biomass coverage under extreme climatic conditions, and thus, the continued sequestration and regulation of CO₂ (pages 57-58). The ProDoc also highlights the inter-connectivity between realizing the right to adequate and nutritious food and agro-biodiversity (pages 75-76). These co-benefits add to the well-established and documented benefits as also captured in the GEF-6 programming directions.

7) Describe the shocks and stresses faced by the oases ecosystems and how the integration between biodiversity conservation and SLWM will address them.

STAP requests to develop this detail once the target sites are identified. Component 2 foresees thorough analysis on a number of indicators in order to adequately and comprehensively respond to this concern.

8) Include resilience in the framework, for instance with the use of RAPTA.

Resilience is central to the OASIL approach promoted for oasis agro-ecosystem management. Therefore, a specific assessment of the climate resilience of farmers and pastoralists, also incorporating the views and needs of those people, will be conducted. To do this, the Self-evaluation and Holistic Assessment of climate Resilience of farmers and Pastoralists (SHARP)¹⁰ approach will be used. The approach uses a participatory self-assessment survey of smallholder farmers to both measure their resilience and to engender discussions on how to increase farmers' and pastoralists' resilience. This information in conjunction with climate data will serve as baseline information for monitoring and will also inform and guide farmers' practices as well as curricula and local and national policies.

9) Identify the main drivers of degradation.

The main drivers of environmental degradation have been identified and are elaborated in section 2.1 of the ProDoc. Salinity is one issue oasis populations are faced with as highlighted in the documents. RAPTA has not been considered for use in OASIL, but other

¹⁰ SHARP background document: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4495e.pdf>

participatory assessment approaches and tools have. Details are available in the ProDoc section 2.2, i.e. the description of the GEF Alternative.

10) Provide the full reference of the study mentioned on page 13 of the PIF.

The publication referred at is Vincent et al. 2013, *A prioritized crop wild relative inventory to help underpin global food security.*

ANNEX C: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES AND THE USE OF FUNDS¹¹

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

| PPG Grant Approved at PIF: 200,000 | | | |
|---|------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i> | <i>GEF Amount (\$)</i> | | |
| | <i>Budgeted Amount</i> | <i>Amount Spent To date</i> | <i>Amount Committed</i> |
| Activity 1 : Elaborate component 1 | 12,881 | 12,881 | 0 |
| Activity 2: Elaborate component 2 and 3 | 89,738 | 58,381 | 31,357 |
| Activity 3: Detailed design of the project components, results frameworks, ESS and financial plan and budgets | 70,000 | 54,657 | 15,343 |
| Activity 4: PPG workshops and stakeholder consultations | 27,381 | 27,381 | 0 |
| Total | 200,000 | 153,300 | 46,700 |

¹¹ 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)

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

N/A

