



REQUEST FOR CEO ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

PROJECT TYPE: FULL-SIZED PROJECT

THE GEF TRUST FUND

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Submission Date: 06/07/2012

PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

GEFSEC PROJECT ID: 4035

GEF AGENCY PROJECT ID: P120561

COUNTRY(IES): Tunisia

PROJECT TITLE: Ecotourism and Conservation of Desert Biodiversity Project

GEF AGENCY(IES): World Bank

OTHER EXECUTING PARTNER(S): DGEQV, DGF, ONTT, CRDAs

GEF FOCAL AREA(s): BD and LD

GEF-4 STRATEGIC PROGRAM(s): BD1 and BD2; LD-SP1 and LD-SP3

NAME OF PARENT PROGRAM/UMBRELLA PROJECT: MENARID

A. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Expected Calendar (mm/dd/yy)	
Milestones	Dates
Work Program (for FSPs only)	
Agency Approval date	11/30/2012
Implementation Start	01/01/2013
Mid-term Evaluation (if planned)	30/06/2016
Project Closing Date	01/01/2018

Project Objective: To contribute to the conservation of desert biodiversity in the three targeted National Parks. This will be achieved through the piloting of an improved approach to protected areas management that integrates ecotourism development and community engagement.

Project Components	Indicate whether Investment, TA, or STA ²	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	GEF Financing ¹		Co-Financing ¹		Total (\$) c=a+ b
				(\$ a)	%	(\$ b)	%	
1. Promoting enabling conditions for PA management, SLM scale up and ecotourism development	TA	<p>1. Appropriate incentive framework for ecotourism created.</p> <p>2. Policy and regulatory frameworks governing the environment and related sectors incorporate measures to conserve and sustainably use desert biodiversity.</p> <p>3. An increased number of land and water users adopt sustainable land and water</p>	<p>Draft Decree for the revised legislative framework for PAs is prepared.</p> <p>Revised Decree for the classification of accommodations is prepared.</p> <p>3 additional staff per targeted NP (1 conservation engineer, 1 eco-guard/ animator in charge of liaison with communities and environmental education, and 1 socioeconomic activities</p>	1,552,950	36	1,313,500	27	2,866,450

		management practices that support sustainable agriculture and rangeland management and provide long term biodiversity and livelihood benefits.	<p>coordinator are in place.</p> <p>600 stakeholders receive training in the areas of PA management, ecotourism development, SLM, and environmental education using an INRM approach.</p>					
2. Supporting the implementation of INRM in targeted NPs and their adjacent areas	Investment	<p>1. Ecotourism development is taking place within environmentally and ecologically sound, adaptable management of parks and reserves in arid lands.</p> <p>2. Financially viable and sustainable ecotourism ventures established.</p> <p>3. Incentives generated for local communities to implement SLM practices and participate in the maintenance of desert biodiversity.</p> <p>4. SLM applications on the ground are scaled-up.</p>	<p>160 jobs are created linked to park management and economic activities over the three targeted NPs.</p> <p>Targeted NPs achieve higher management efficiency scores (75 for Jbil NP, 65 for Dghoumes NP and 84 for Bouhedma NP, compare to a current baseline of 60 for Jbil NP, 54 for Dghoumes NP, and 76 for Bouhedma NP).</p> <p>12 agreements are signed between the targeted NPs and community associations focusing on environmental improvement and SLM.</p> <p>184 subprojects (community association and microenterprise-</p>	2,515,850	59	2,974,500	63	5,490,350

			based) are supported by the project (% gender). 12 innovative SLM techniques are piloted and promoted.					
8. Project management				203,500	5	500,000	10	703,500
Total Project Costs				A 4,272,300		B 4,788,000		9,060,300

¹ List the \$ by project components. The percentage is the share of GEF and Co-financing respectively of the total amount for the component.

² TA = Technical Assistance; STA = Scientific & Technical Analysis.

B. SOURCES OF CONFIRMED CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT (expand the table line items as necessary)

<i>Name of Co-financier (source)</i>	<i>Classification</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>%*</i>
Government of Tunisia	Implementing Agency	In-cash	2,400,000	50
Government of Tunisia	Implementing Agency	In-kind	360,000	7
Beneficiary contribution	Project Beneficiary	In-Cash	368,000	8
French Development Agency	Bilateral Agency	In-cash	1,660,000	35
Total Co-financing			B 4,788,000	100%

* Percentage of each co-financier's contribution at CEO endorsement to total co-financing.

C. FINANCING PLAN SUMMARY FOR THE PROJECT (\$)

	<i>Project Preparation a</i>	<i>Project b</i>	<i>Total c = a + b</i>	<i>Agency Fee</i>	<i>For comparison: GEF and Co-financing at PIF</i>
GEF financing	200,000	A 4,272,300	4,472,300	427,230	4,472,300
Co-financing	100,000	B 4,788,000	4,888,000		3,400,000
Total	300,000	9,060,300	9,360,300	427,230	7,872,300

D. GEF RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), FOCAL AREA(S) AND COUNTRY(IES)¹

<i>GEF Agency</i>	<i>Focal Area</i>	<i>Country Name/ Global</i>	<i>(in \$)</i>		
			<i>Project (a)</i>	<i>Agency Fee (b)²</i>	<i>Total c=a+b</i>
World Bank	Biodiversity	Tunisia	2,922,300	292,230	3,214,530
World Bank	Land Degradation	Tunisia	1,350,000	135,000	1,485,000
Total GEF Resources			4,272,300	427,230	4,699,530

¹ No need to provide information for this table if it is a single focal area, single country and single GEF Agency project.

² Relates to the project and any previous project preparation funding that have been provided and for which no Agency fee has been requested from Trustee.

E. CONSULTANTS WORKING FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPONENTS:

<i>Component</i>	<i>Estimated person weeks</i>	<i>GEF amount(\$)</i>	<i>Co-financing (\$)</i>	<i>Project total (\$)</i>
Local consultants*	746.6	1,155,750	269,990	1,425,740
International consultants*	0	0	0	0
Total	746.6	1,155,750	269,990	1,425,740

* Details to be provided in Annex C.

F. PROJECT MANAGEMENT BUDGET/COST

<i>Cost Items</i>	<i>Total Estimated person weeks/months</i>	<i>GEF amount (\$)</i>	<i>Co-financing (\$)</i>	<i>Project total (\$)</i>
Local consultants*	35.2	77,750	117,000	194,750
International consultants*	0	0	0	0
Office facilities, equipment, vehicles and communications*		125,750	354,125	479,875
Travel*		0	28,875	28,875
Others**		0	0	0
Total	35.2	203,500	500,000	703,500

* Details to be provided in Annex C. ** For others, it has to clearly specify what type of expenses here in a footnote.

G. DOES THE PROJECT INCLUDE A “NON-GRANT” INSTRUMENT? yes no

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

H. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M &E PLAN:

The Project Coordination Unit (PCU) supported by the M&E specialist, in consultation with the WB, will oversee the identification and measurement of key results indicators related to global environmental benefits (GEBs) and socioeconomic benefits. The PCU will operate an M&E system, which will facilitate monitoring of implementation progress and allow effective evaluation of project success in achieving its Project Development Objective (PDO). In this respect, the M&E system will act as a management tool by enabling the PCU, the National Steering Committee (NSC) and World Bank to assess project effectiveness during implementation and improve project performance in a targeted manner. The Project will utilize the multi-project M&E system currently being used under the World Bank-financed Second Natural Resources Management Project (PGRN2), which the General Direction for Environment and Quality of Life (DGEQV) of the Ministry of Environment (MoE), the project implementing agency, is already familiar with, as it is responsible for the M&E under one of the components of this project.

Monitoring

The PCU, and in particular the M&E specialist, will be responsible for the M&E of the project. The PCU will monitor the project’s PDO-level and intermediate results indicators (see Annex A), including collecting, verifying and analyzing the data received from project implementation partners, and provide a semi-annual update of these indicators to be included in the project’s semi-annual reports. The PCU will also ensure that the GEF-4 tracking tool for the Biodiversity focal area is updated at project mid-term and closing. Should a need arise, the M&E specialist

will be tasked to train PCU members and implementation partners. Specifically for the National Park (NP) Management Plans and small grants program, the implementation progress for these will be jointly assessed by the communities, CRDAs, and partner institution at the end of each year. The results will be consolidated on an annual basis at the regional and national levels to provide an initial assessment of project impacts.

Evaluation

The PCU will contract independent consultants to prepare the mid-term and end of project evaluations. The mid-term evaluation will assess the operational aspects of the project, namely progress in the completion of activities and the achievement of the PDO. The mid-term evaluation will also include recommendations for corrective measures if needed for project implementation to remain on track. The end of project evaluation will have the same scope as the mid-term review but will focus particularly on project outcomes and results at the local, regional, and national levels. The end of project evaluation will also provide recommendations in terms of M&E and replication of best practices, especially for the sustainable NP management and further ecotourism development around NPs. Terms of reference for the mid-term and end of project reviews will be included in the Project Operational Manual (POM).

A summary of the M&E activities relevant to the GEF is provided below. Further information regarding the performance and impact indicators for project implementation, along with their corresponding means of verification are provided within the Project Results Framework (Annex A).

Type of M&E	Responsible Parties	Project Budget US\$ (Excluding Project Team Staff Time)	Time frame
Inception Workshop and Report	DGQEV WB	10,000	Within the first two months of project start
Measurement of project results	The PCU supported by the M&E specialist, in consultation with WB, will oversee the identification and measurement of key results indicators related to global environmental benefits (GEBs), and socioeconomic benefits	25,000	Start, mid-term and end of project (during evaluation cycle) and annually as required
	The PCU will monitor the project's PDO-level and intermediate results indicators, including collecting; verifying and analyzing the data received from project implementation partners. The PCU will provide a semi-annual update of these indicators to be included in the project's semi-annual reports. The PCU will also ensure that the GEF-4 tracking tool for the Biodiversity focal area is updated at project mid-term and closing.	30,000	Semiannually

Periodic status/ progress reports	PCU The PCU will report on: (i) procurement progress; (ii) financial progress; (iii) implementation of environmental and social safeguards; (iv) progress in project management and capacity building; and (v) provision of technical services.	--	Semiannually
Mid-term and end of project evaluation	WB External Consultants (i.e. evaluation team)	40,000	Mid-term, and end of project (three months before the end of project implementation)
Audit	PCU WB	30,000	Annually
Field visits	WB Representatives from provincial and national responsible authorities	Paid from GEF agency fee and Government operational budget	Semiannually or more frequently as required
TOTAL indicative M&E costs (excluding project team staff time and WB staff and travel expenses)		135,000	

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION:

A. STATE THE ISSUE, HOW THE PROJECT SEEKS TO ADDRESS IT, AND THE EXPECTED GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS TO BE DELIVERED:

The issue

The tourism sector plays an important role in the Tunisian economy, particularly in terms of employment generation. Tunisia typically receives over 7 million tourists per year, mainly seasonal tourists from Europe (France, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom), with some contribution from the Maghreb market. The sector contributes 7 percent of GDP (2008), generates 17 percent of total foreign exchange revenues, and employs around 380,000 people (95,000 directly), representing around 10 percent of the active population. Tourism also constitutes the most productive activity in terms of revenues for municipalities, which can be channeled into local investments. In the wake of the January 2011 Tunisian revolution, the creation of sustainable and inclusive livelihood opportunities is more important than ever before. Tourism revenues fell by 39.4 percent in the first nine months of 2011 compared with the same period in 2010, whereas arrivals fell by 35.4 percent (declining from 5.2 million visitors from early January to September 2010 to 3.3 million in the same period in 2011).¹ During the first quarter of 2012, tourism revenues have rebounded to around 80 to 90 percent of 2010 levels. Tunisia still has a relatively high unemployment rate at around 20 percent (more than triple the 6.4 percent for all middle income countries in 2008). The overall rate also masks a striking divergence by age, with younger groups of the labor force being more affected. There also remain large disparities between the more affluent coastal areas and the poorer interior regions of the country. Tunisia's desert ecosystems contain unique plant, animal and human communities

¹ <http://www.africanmanager.com/site_eng/detail_article.php?art_id=17341>

that have adapted to survive in these extreme and fragile environments. They are home to a rich biodiversity of unique and highly adapted species of global significance, especially in Protected Areas (PAs). According to the IUCN Red List, such species include the Sand cat (*Felis margarita*) (near threatened), Houbara Bustard (*Chlamydotis undulata*) (vulnerable), Scimitar-horned Oryx (*Oryx dammah*) (extinct in the wild), Dorcas Gazelle (*Gazella dorcas*) (vulnerable), Cuvier's Gazelle (*Gazella cuvieri*) (endangered) and Barbary Sheep (*Ammotragus lervia*) (vulnerable). In an agro-ecological context native species possess valuable drought and heat resistant properties, such as Tamarix, *Thymelia hirsuta*, and *Retama raetam*. Due to human actions, biodiversity in Tunisia's desert ecosystems is increasingly under threat from habitat encroachment, poaching and illegal collection, and desert lands are being degraded through unsustainable practices, namely the overexploitation of resources. Tunisia's desert ecosystems have a high potential for addressing rural economic diversification and employment creation needs through an ecotourism model linked with biodiversity protection in managed PAs. Tunisia's arid ecosystems provide an opportunity for sustainable tourism that is specific to deserts, taking into account their special characteristics, their fragility, and their diversity of natural, human, and cultural resources. In its 2009 Study on the Strategic Development of Ecotourism in Tunisia, the MoE mapped out potential ecotourism "circuits" built around PAs and linking in the rich cultural and historical sites of desert areas. The development of ecotourism activities in Tunisia's desert areas could thus provide specific revenue-generating opportunities for local populations, engendering a "low volume, high value" ecotourism model in which desert ecosystem integrity is intrinsically linked with socioeconomic benefits flowing to communities.

This suggests that the reinforcement of PAs in Tunisia through needed infrastructure investments and improved management, with the full participation of adjacent communities, and the engagement of the private sector, could contribute significantly to the objective of conserving sensitive biodiversity by improving desert livelihoods through the enhanced provision of ecosystem services. Such an approach would also provide opportunities to promote both traditional and innovative land and natural resource management practices within adjacent agro-ecosystems, thus preserving the adaptive response capacity of local communities, and preventing further degradation of fragile lands. Furthermore, the creation of an appropriate incentive framework for the development of ecotourism activities would facilitate engagement of the private sector in the establishment of ecotourism ventures and the piloting of management approaches that include community participation, and create employment opportunities.

Preparatory studies by the MoE, in partnership with the German International Cooperation (GIZ), have identified five main issues/constraints to ecotourism and conservation of desert lands and biodiversity: (i) Environmental: continued land degradation and neglect of ecologically sensitive sites with significant biodiversity values; (ii) Climate change: impact on natural ecosystems, and disruptions of community livelihoods; (iii) Institutional: flaws in the institutional set-up (i.e. laws, regulations, etc.) hinder the capacity of the private sector to develop the ecotourism sub-sector; (iv) PA management: most PAs are lacking or have weak Management Plans, or have difficulties effectively implementing them; moreover a sub-issue is the inappropriate funding support for PA management; (v) Involvement of local communities, the private sector, and NGOs: these stakeholders are often not adequately involved and/or lack capacities for effective participation.

The project

The Ecotourism and Conservation of Desert Biodiversity Project will focus its interventions on three National Parks (NPs) and their neighboring communities in Tunisia's south- and central-west desert areas: Dghoumes NP in the Tozeur Governorate, Jbil NP in the Kébili Governorate, and Bouhedma NP (also a Biosphere Reserve) in the Sidi Bouzid and Gafsa Governorates.

The selection of the targeted NPs for the proposed Project was based on specific eligibility criteria agreed between the Bank team and the National Steering Committee (NSC) (e.g. the existence of significant biodiversity after IUCN classification, level of threat to the biodiversity, the location within existing tourist circuits, the ecotourism potential, appropriateness for replication, location within an arid zone, etc). Based on these, NPs were ranked, and a shortlist was established for further in-depth appraisal, including through additional technical visits by the project team. A description of the main characteristics of the three selected NPs is provided in Table 1 below.

It should also be noted that Chaambi NP (Kasserine Governorate) is currently supported by the French Development Agency (Afd), and includes investments related to: (i) updating the NP Management Plan to include ecotourism and community development aspects; (ii) establishing ecotourism investments, including circuits within the NP, eco-museum, reception and visitor area, etc.; (iii) reinforcing NP management capacity, including the establishment of a multidisciplinary management team and the organization of training, workshops/seminars, and dissemination tools; and (iv) implementing priority community development actions around the NP, including income generating activities, irrigated perimeters, organization of milk collectives, basic rural infrastructure, etc. Harmonization between the proposed Project and the investments in Chaambi NP would contribute to the realization of the Government's long-term vision for the "protected areas network," described below.

Table 1. Main characteristics of the targeted NPs

Jbil National Park²	Dghoumes National Park³	Bouhedma National Park⁴
Area: 150,000 ha (largest NP in Tunisia)	Area: 8,000 ha	Area: 16,488 ha
Location: Nefzaoua region of the Kébili Governorate	Location: Eastern part of the Tozeur Governorate, in the Degache Delegation	Location: Orbata-Haddej-Bouhedma area of the Oriental South Saharan Atlas Mountains (Sidi Bouzid and Gafsa Governorates)
Climatic Characteristics: Saharan bioclimatic zone, with annual precipitation varying between 50-80 mm. Two rainy seasons: (i) from the beginning of November to the end of December; and (ii) a shorter season in March. Evapotranspiration is very high at 2,000 mm annually. Temperatures highly variable ranging from 3-6 degrees Celsius in winter to 55 degrees Celsius in summer	Climatic Characteristics: Inferior arid bioclimatic zone and superior Saharan bioclimatic zone, with annual precipitation averaging 96 mm. One main rainy season in autumn. Temperatures range around 3 degrees Celsius in winter to 45 degrees Celsius in summer.	Climatic Characteristics: Superior arid bioclimatic zone, with annual precipitation averaging 160 mm. One main rainy season in autumn from September to November. Temperatures range around 4 degrees Celsius in winter to 38 degrees Celsius in summer.
Habitat and Flora: Dominated of xero-psammo-halo-thermophilic Saharan species: 106 taxa have been identified in the NP of which 12 are diverse endemic species (3 Tunisian, 5 North African, 2 from the Grand Erg Oriental, 1 Libyan-Tunisian, and 1 Algerian-Tunisian).	Habitat and Flora: Arboreal steppe of <i>Acacia raddiana</i> with a base vegetation cover of <i>Rhus tripartitum</i> and <i>Retama retam</i> in the plains area of the NP. Vegetation varies according to the NP's other habitats, mountainside and piedmont and halophilic species in particular can be found near the Chott El-Jerid.	Habitat and Flora: Arboreal steppe, similar to the pseudo-savannah habitat existing in Tunisia. The NP is home to 8 out of the 14 species in central and southern Tunisia highlighted for prioritized protection in the National Study on Biodiversity: <i>Acacia raddiana</i> , <i>Juniperus phoenicea</i> , <i>Pistacia atlantica</i> , <i>Thymelaea sempervirens</i> , <i>Tetrapogon villosus</i> , <i>Tricholaena teneriffae</i> , and two grass species currently in regression and with high pastoral value, <i>Cenchrus ciliaris</i> , and <i>Digitaria communtata</i> . <i>Acacia tortilis</i> also represents an important specie for the rehabilitation of vegetative cover and erosion prevention in arid regions, with a deep root system, which lends particular resistance to drought, in addition to other adaptive characteristics.
Fauna: Saharan fauna characteristic of the NP's biotopes, namely mountains, Saharan rangelands,	Fauna: Characteristic of Saharan and Pre-Saharan species. The NP sees a large number of	Fauna: Characteristic of the vestiges of an ancient Pre-Saharan savannah ecosystem, similar

² Information taken from the 2008 Jbil NP Management Plan

³ No NP Management Plan yet exists for Dghoumes NP.

⁴ Information taken from the 2005 Bouhedma NP Management Plan

<p>and dunes. Some of the fauna species listed on the IUCN Red List include: the Slender-horned Gazelle (endangered), Dorcas Gazelle (vulnerable), Houbara Bustard (vulnerable), Dupont's Lark (near-threatened), Sand Cat (near-threatened) and Striped Hyena (near-threatened). Several other species now disappeared from the NP are marked for reintroduction including the Addax (critically endangered), Ostrich, Crested Porcupine, and Val's Gundi.</p>	<p>migratory birds, due to the adjacent Chott El-Jerid. Some of the fauna species listed on the IUCN Red List include: Dorcas Gazelle (vulnerable), Aoudad (vulnerable), and Houbara Bustard (vulnerable). In order to restore Pre-Saharan fauna, a reintroduction of the Ostrich (from the Souss-Massa NP in Morocco) has been completed.</p>	<p>to that of the African Sahel. The <i>Acacia raddiana</i> steppe with the presence of threatened or disappeared fauna across the Sahel and Maghreb constitutes the main international importance of the NP in terms of biodiversity. Some of the fauna species listed on the IUCN Red List include the: Scimitar-horned Oryx (extinct in the wild), Addax (critically endangered), Dama Gazelle (critically endangered), Dorcas Gazelle (vulnerable), Spur-thighed Tortoise (vulnerable), Mehely's Horseshoe Bat (vulnerable), Aoudad (vulnerable), Houbara Bustard (vulnerable), Schreiber's Long-fingered Bat (near-threatened), and Striped Hyena (near-threatened). The first Addax and Oryx were reintroduced to the NP in 1985.</p>
<p>Main Threats/Challenges: In the previous NP Management Plan, main pressures on flora were identified as: (i) overgrazing and an absence of transhumance corridors; (ii) the non-respect of environmental protection regulations; (iii) the drying out of groundwater aquifers linked to a multiplication of drilled wells; (iv) an increase in water use from tourism; (v) climate change; and (v) the voluntary or involuntary destruction of vegetative cover.</p> <p>Main threats to fauna include: (i) localized poaching using increasingly sophisticated means; (ii) an increase in motorized transport modifying animal behavior; (iii) a lack of coordination in the implementation of tourism activities leading to modifications to the habitat and generation of wastes; (iv) competition with livestock that use the same area and water sources; (v) the disappearance of native fodder species due to climate change and overgrazing.</p>	<p>Main Threats/Challenges: <i>Acacia raddiana</i> was reintroduced during the last decade, and the great majority of the NP has not yet suffered from vegetation removal or overgrazing. An integral set-aside approach coupled with soil and water conservation works and re-seeding with endemic fodder species, has enabled a rapid regeneration of the vegetation cover, with a return of associated fauna.</p> <p>It should be noted that the full rehabilitation of the <i>Acacia raddiana</i> ecosystem in the NP, would allow for the return of the Eurasian Hoopoe and <i>Turdoides fulvus</i>.</p>	<p>Main Threats/Challenges: In the previous NP Management Plan, main challenges for the NP were identified as follows: (i) a lack of integration of local populations in NP management, particularly with regard to natural resource use and passage through the NP; (ii) a general lack of capacity and means for effective NP management and maintenance; (iii) a lack of promotion of the NP leading to a lack of interest from tour operators and economic actors in general; (iv) the degradation of the natural habitat leading to increased vulnerability of biotopes and ecological niches; and (v) a general lack of environmental awareness.</p>

The Project comprises two major components that directly address the existing pressures and threats to Tunisia's desert ecosystems. The first component is dedicated to creating an enabling environment for an INRM approach to biodiversity and land conservation in the targeted NPs and their surrounding productive landscapes, through capacity building in NP management (national, regional, and local levels), SLM (primarily regional and local levels), and ecotourism development (national, regional, and local levels). The second component will focus on investments in the targeted NPs and surrounding areas to implement this approach. The third component is a project management component. The interventions and activities for each component are summarized as follows:

Component 1: Promoting enabling conditions for PA management, SLM scale up and ecotourism development. Financed by the GEF (US\$ 1,4 million) and the GoT (US\$ 1,31 million), this component will provide the necessary technical assistance to: (i) support revisions to the institutional, legal and strategic framework for NP management and ecotourism development; (ii) build and mainstream national and local capacities in SLM and biodiversity conservation using an INRM approach; and (iii) establish the project M&E system.

Component 2: Supporting the implementation of INRM in targeted NPs and their adjacent areas. Major interventions supported by the GEF (US\$ 2,37 million), the GoT (US\$ 2,61), and local communities (US\$ 0,36 million), will focus on implementing identified priority investments in the three NP Management Plans, scaling up best practices in SLM , as well as promoting ecotourism development, in the targeted NPs and their surrounding areas. The main vehicle for SLM scale up will be through the implementation of a small grants program for community association-based activities linked to the management and development of PAs and the improvement of the local environment including the testing of SLM practices. The small grants program will also include a microenterprise-based window targeting subprojects linked to ecotourism (individuals or groups, with a focus on women and young entrepreneurs). For a more detailed description of the small grants program, please see Annex E.

Component 3: Project management. (GEF US\$ 0.2 million, GoT: US\$ 0.5 million). This component will support the establishment and operationalization of the PCU within the DGEQV, through the provision of goods, consultant services (training, study tours), and incremental operating costs associated with project management and implementation, including procurement and financial management.

Global Environmental Benefits

The project will help contribute to improvements in the global environment, e.g. through: increased vegetation cover on degraded and/or overgrazed areas; increased land productivity; preservation of ecological integrity and functions in the targeted NPs and surrounding landscapes; conservation of biological diversity; enhanced capacity to adapt to climate and system changes; restoration and maintenance of soil fertility; and improvement in water use efficiency. The project will also generate local benefits and will contribute to people's livelihoods and economic well-being, diversifying local revenues through eco-tourism activities and improving the resilience of local populations to drought.

Moreover, the project has broader implications impacting the system-level. For example, the project focuses on the systematic incorporation of biodiversity and land conservation values within the larger landscape by prioritizing: (i) *Project activities piloting microenterprises linked to ecotourism* will support promising sectoral transformation; (ii) the *Implementation of*

participatory NP Management Plans that will further assist mainstreaming of biodiversity and SLM objectives and build recognition of the importance of ecosystem service values for the local government and communities; and (iii) the *Development and uptake of Operational Management Plans (OMP)* along with sustainable financing: this exercise is being considered by the MoE and the General Direction for Forests (DGF) of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) as an important means of developing a comprehensive international standard of management planning as defined for example by the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas.

Project activities, processes, protocols and other applicable GEB lessons developed will be shared with all relevant stakeholders within the Governorates and National development authorities, highlighting the project's potential importance to inform institutional and legislative revisions for NP Management.

Sustainability

The sustainability of project interventions will be promoted through the establishment of an improved legal, regulatory, institutional, and incentive framework that provides for a more autonomous financial and administrative management of PAs and the effective participation of local communities in the decision-making related to PA management. The establishment of these improved frameworks will be informed by the experience of implementing project activities in the pilot PAs, and will ensure that project benefits will not be limited to the pilot PAs, but will also improve the environment for other projects in Tunisia's PA network. The Project will also enhance sustainability at both national and regional levels through the project's approach of encouraging the emergence of horizontally (among local business) and vertically (local businesses with national and international operators) integrated tourism value chains and clusters around key attractions in PAs.

At the local level, the approach of integrating local communities in NP management and planning, as well as ensuring that these benefit from ecotourism will increase their support for and engagement in the sustainability of the NPs. Local communities will profit through enhanced training to improve business and technical skills needed to set up microenterprises targeting restaurants and ecolodges, tour operators or ecotourism activities, as well as handicrafts in and around the NPs and surrounding areas. The project will also contribute to the goals of enhancing environmental sustainability by demonstrating to local communities the value of a diverse biodiversity and sustainable land resource management. The introduction of a new approach to tourism in Tunisia—one that is based on low volume and high value—will help to ensure that natural resources in the fragile arid regions of the country are not negatively impacted. Finally, given the fact that Tunisia has recently tripled its PA network but is missing the necessary underlying finance mechanisms, ecotourism development and improvement in the ability of PAs to generate revenues from visitors by reform of the regulatory environment will contribute to the sustainable financing of the expanded PA network..

B. DESCRIBE THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH NATIONAL AND/OR REGIONAL PRIORITIES/PLANS:

The GoT is making plans to diversify the country's tourism products in order to continue to deliver sustainable growth and job creation in the sector, as well as spread benefits more evenly to the interior of the country. The 2016 National Tourism Strategy developed by the Ministry of Tourism (MoT) lays out five priorities for action: (a) diversification and innovation in tourism

products offered; (b) promotion and marketing; (c) institutional framework; (d) restructuring sector finances; and (e) tourism web compatibility. Within the diversification axis, the following targets have been identified: (i) developing the national "Jasmin" quality certification; (ii) encouraging the promotion of innovation; (iii) diversifying the types of tourism accommodation; and (iv) reinforcing the diversification of products offered. Ecotourism development in desert areas and the diversification of the tourism product generally, could represent an initial step towards addressing the seasonal nature of the tourism sector in Tunisia, as identified above. As beach tourism is concentrated during the peak summer months, other tourism products, including ecotourism, could help draw tourists to the country during other parts of the year.

Since 2007, 20 new PAs have been created in Tunisia, including 9 national parks and 11 natural reserves. PAs in Tunisia now total 44 terrestrial areas and 5 marine and coastal areas that represent 7 percent of the total national area. It should be noted that many of the Red List species mentioned above are found predominantly, and in some cases only, in the PAs, and are overgrazed or hunted outside of these areas. The long-term national vision is to create a "protected areas network", rather than concentrating only on a few areas for PA and ecotourism development and creating a potential imbalance between areas. Such a network would require contributions from different partners and donors, and activities should be complementary, including those of the proposed Project. The network would thus contribute to a harmonization of activities between different government bodies and their financial and technical partners. Along these lines, the proposed Project will collaborate and coordinate its approach with the AfD-led project in Chaambi National Park (financed by the French Global Environment Fund and Monaco) as well as with the International Finance Corporation (IFC), particularly with respect to the reinforcement of the legal and institutional framework for PAs and ecotourism development.

The proposed project is fully consistent with the upcoming Bank strategy for Tunisia, as it will promote different tourism opportunities and if successful, will create new employment paths for women and youth, to a great extent in lagging regions, where the project intervention areas are located. The proposed Project is also included within Tunisia 2012-2013 Interim Strategy Note (ISN) aimed at reinforcing governance and inclusion and fostering economic growth based on the creation of sustainable jobs in the medium-term. The three priority areas for the ISN are: (i) Reinforcing good governance and citizen participation, including access to information as well as transparency and responsibility of institutions; (ii) Promoting economic and social inclusion, including access to basic infrastructure for local communities, social safety net coverage for vulnerable groups; and (iii) Laying the foundations for renewed sustainable growth, including business environment for the private sector, labor market policies, as well as sustainable natural resource management and climate change adaptation.

Under the Governance and Opportunity Development Policy Loan to the GoT signed in June 2011, one of the reform measures identified is improving services to businesses and citizens through the simplification of formalities and improvement of transparency. The tourism sector in particular has been selected to anchor the credibility of the process. This will include taking stock, mapping, reviewing and streamlining current regulatory and administrative procedures related to business entry and/or operation in the tourism sector. Procedures that will be reviewed in priority include those that are most burdensome on the private sector, as well as the ones that constitute key bottlenecks in the "niche" or "anchor" areas, to ensure that the regulatory simplification reinforces technical assistance provided in other aspects of tourism sector

competitiveness. This will also involve the design and implementation of a "pilot anchor tourism investment project" outside of the coastal areas. The proposed Project will benefit from tight collaboration with the IFC, which is leading this initiative, particularly in terms of activities related to institutional and regulatory framework revision, private sector engagement, and piloting of investments in the new environment.

C. DESCRIBE THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH [GEF STRATEGIES](#) AND STRATEGIC PROGRAMS:

The Project is responsive to the GEF Biodiversity and Land Degradation Strategies⁵. It will contribute to the following GEF-4 Strategic Objectives: BD-SO1 “Catalyzing sustainability of protected areas”; and BD-SO2 “Mainstreaming biodiversity in production landscapes”. It will also contribute to the following GEF-4 Strategic Programs: LD-SP1 “Supporting Sustainable Agriculture and Rangeland Management” and LD-SP3 “Investing in New and Innovative Approaches in Sustainable Land Management”. The Project will also contribute to the mainstreaming of knowledge and lessons learned in INRM and biodiversity conservation in arid lands

Biodiversity: The project objectives align closely with **BD-SO1: Catalyzing Sustainability of Protected Area Systems**. Through Component 1, the institutional, legal and strategic framework for PA management will be reinforced through the revision of the national legislative, regulatory, and institutional PA management framework, as currently mandated by the national Forestry Code, with a view to initiating the establishment of an autonomous PA management agency. Furthermore, national, regional, and local capacities in PA management will be built and mainstreamed through the: (i) reinforcement of the material capacity for NP management in the targeted NPs; (ii) reinforcement of the human capacity in the targeted NPs; and (iii) delivery of adaptive training packages in PA management and environmental education. Through Component 2, priority investments identified in NP Management Plans will be implemented, in particular critical management and monitoring infrastructure. It is anticipated that by the end of the project, 132,488 ha of PAs (the total areas of the three targeted NPs) will be better protected and managed to conserve biodiversity.

The project is also aligned with **BD-SO2: Mainstreaming biodiversity conservation in production landscapes/ seascapes and sectors**. The primary sector targeted by the Project is the budding ecotourism sector in Tunisia. Through Component 1, at the national level, the regulatory framework for ecotourism will be reinforced through the revision of the national classification of accommodations to include ecotourism-specific categories. An international, national, and local ecotourism marketing strategy to promote the three targeted NPs, including communications packages, will also be developed. Building and mainstreaming of capacities will be achieved through the delivery of adaptive training packages in ecotourism development, including income-generating activities (leather goods production, camel tours, local herb and medicinal plant sales, basket weaving, local cultural performances, etc.) associated with ecotourism. Through Component 2, the microenterprise window of the small grants program will incentivize subprojects linked to ecotourism. Local communities will thus be encouraged to play a central role in the in the supply chain for ecotourism, and new job creation opportunities such as reserve rangers, guides, service provision, camp and ecolodge operation, etc. will be sustained by this

⁵ The proposed project was approved under the GEF-4 replenishment.

emerging sector. Component 2 will also support environmental awareness investments linked to ecotourism, namely the rehabilitation of the ecomuseum within each targeted NP, and the establishment of one eco-shop per targeted NP.

Land Degradation: The projects objectives are consistent with **LD SP1: Support sustainable agriculture and rangeland management:** In this regard the project will foster capacity for sustainable agriculture and rangeland management by scaling up SLM practices using an INRM approach that treats each targeted NP and its surrounding productive landscape (mainly agricultural lands and rangelands) as one continuous management unit. Component 1 will support capacity building in the areas of agriculture, agro-pastoralism and pastoralism, using a gender-sensitive approach, given the importance of the traditional participation of rural Tunisian women in NRM. Capacity building activities will draw on good practices and techniques already existing in the desert areas of the country and the region. Component 2 will support investments in SLM within targeted NPs, mainly through needed soil and water conservation works identified in the NP Management Plans, which will also positively impact the surrounding area. Furthermore, the community association window of the small grants program will target initiatives related to sustainable agriculture, agro-pastoralism and pastoralism, through improved natural resource management and productivity.

The project is also aligned with **LD-SP3: Investing in new and innovative approaches in sustainable land management.** As mentioned above, the community association window of the small grants program represents the main vehicle for incentivizing innovative techniques in SLM and their application in the targeted areas. The precise location and technical details of subprojects will be refined in the engineering design studies during the project implementation. It is envisaged that the INRM approach taken by the project, one that combines NP management and the mainstreaming of biodiversity into the ecotourism productive sector, with the upscaling of SLM practices both within the targeted NPs and the surrounding agricultural and pastoral areas, will both improve desert ecosystem resilience and reduce climate risks to local populations.

D. JUSTIFY THE TYPE OF FINANCING SUPPORT PROVIDED WITH THE GEF RESOURCES.

The proposed project aims to receive support from the GEF trust fund and will be implemented using Tunisia's RAF allocation under the GEF-4 replenishment. The incremental support from the GEF to reinforce national baseline initiatives, as well as new national commitments resulting from this Project, will have a catalytic effect in terms of piloting innovative approaches to maintaining desert biodiversity and the sustainability of desert lands.

The project is designed within the interlinked GEF focal areas (LD and BD) and is making a contribution to securing multiple GEBs, which would otherwise not be achieved, given the critical needs in improved PA management and associated land degradation challenges, particularly in the country's arid and desert areas. Support from the GEF through this Project is critical in that an unprecedented multi-stakeholder and cross-cutting discussion has been initiated on an integrated approach to PA management, biodiversity conservation, SLM, and ecotourism. During project preparation, a workshop was held, which included around 100 participants from various government and research institutions, NGOs, and civil society, with the aim of having a collective and participatory brainstorm on the project design and on the vision for the future for an integrated approach to PA management, ecotourism, and SLM more broadly. There was a strong consensus that the current situation of PA management is sub-

optimal, leading to biodiversity losses, land degradation, and the alienation of local communities, and that improvements need to be made at all levels. There was also consensus that there exists significant potential for a new participatory approach, which integrates the management and development of PAs and their surrounding areas, and combines ecotourism development and innovative sustainable land management techniques.

The resulting GEBs from the Project, could include sustainable management of natural resources (land, water and vegetation), protection of threatened dryland and desert biodiversity, and protection against erosion and desertification. These benefits could also contribute to increased resilience of the selected ecosystems and human livelihoods to climate change and variability.

In addition, Tunisia is a middle-income country which nevertheless is facing budget constraints and depends on grant funding for these types of innovative initiatives, particularly in light of the recent sociopolitical events in the country. Beyond that, project support with GEF trust fund resources is justified for three main reasons: (i) the grant support leverages bilateral funds; (ii) grant supports helps integrate/package the funds, including those of the Government, and generates a catalytic impetus for focusing the funds on the biodiversity conservation, SLM, and ecotourism objectives; and (iii) along with the GEF funds, international expertise on biodiversity conservation, SLM, and ecotourism has been and will continue to be provided, that is expected to have a catalytic impact beyond the provision of grant funds.

The proposed project has also benefitted from a Project Preparation Grant (PPG), for a total of \$200,000, which enabled the initial testing of this new integrated and participatory approach to PA management and ecotourism development in the country. The objective of the PPG was to complete the full design of the proposed Project including collecting baseline information; identifying the gaps in information; gathering key data for the design of the components; identifying and confirming the lead entities and implementation arrangements for project components; developing indicators for monitoring and evaluation; and identifying and securing other sources of financing and co-financing.

These project preparation objectives have been reached, through the following activities undertaken at national and local levels during the PPG stage (further details provided in Annex D):

- (i) Preparation of ToRs for the Project Document;
- (ii) Preparation/updating of the NP Management Plans for Jbil, Dgoumes and Bouhedma NPs;
- (iii) Environmental and Social Impact Assessments and preparation of the Environmental and Social Management Plans;
- (iv) Preparation of the Project Operational Manual; and
- (v) Meetings and workshops, training, field visits, design/production/editing of environmental awareness and education support materials.

E. OUTLINE THE COORDINATION WITH OTHER RELATED INITIATIVES:

The proposed Project will enhance the delivery and impacts of the regional GEF Integrated Natural Resources Management in the Middle East and North Africa Region Program (MENARID). The overall objective of MENARID is twofold: (i) to promote integrated natural resource management (INRM) in the production landscapes of the MENA region and (ii) improving the economic and social well-being of the targeted communities through the

restoration and maintenance of ecosystem functions and productivity. MENARID will address the above-mentioned constraints and work towards further mainstreaming INRM, improving the governance of natural and water resources (ground water and trans-boundary water systems), and coordinating investments that will: (a) promote enabling environments to mainstream the INRM agenda at national and regional scales, and (b) generate mutual benefits for the global environment and local livelihoods through catalyzing INRM investments for large-scale impact.

The proposed Project is one of 13 investment projects under the MENARID Program, which are funded by the GEF and co-funded by the African Development Bank, Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations Development Program, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, United Nations Environment Program, and the World Bank. Other participating countries in the MENARID are Algeria, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Morocco, and Yemen. The proposed Project will coordinate, where possible, with the other MENARID Projects in Tunisia, namely the Support to Sustainable Land Management in the Siliana Governorate Project managed by IFAD, and the land degradation component of the Second Natural Resources Management Project managed by the WB, though the geographic areas of these two projects with that of the proposed project are different.

The following is a summary of the proposed Project alignment with MENARID expected outcomes:

MENARID Expected Outcome	Proposed Project Expected Output
<p>Policy and regulatory frameworks governing sectors outside the environment sector (e.g. tourism) incorporate measures to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity</p>	<p>Draft Decree for the revised legislative framework for PAs is prepared.</p> <p>Revised Decree for the classification of accommodations is prepared.</p>
<p>In intervention areas, appropriate investments in selected ecosystems/productive landscapes are implemented and natural resource systems are restored and managed in an integrated way</p>	<p>12 innovative SLM techniques piloted and promoted in targeted NPs and their surrounding areas.</p> <p>12 agreements are signed between the targeted NPs and community associations focusing on environmental improvement and SLM.</p> <p>600 stakeholders receive training in the areas of PA management, ecotourism development, SLM, and environmental education using an INRM approach.</p> <p>Targeted NPs achieve higher management efficiency scores (75 for Jbil NP, 65 for Dghoumes NP and 84 for Bouhedma NP).</p>
<p>Sustainable livelihood systems are promoted in investment areas</p>	<p>160 jobs are created linked to park management and economic activities over the three targeted NPs.</p> <p>184 subprojects (community association and microenterprise-based) are supported by the project (% gender).</p>

3 additional staff per targeted NP (1 conservation engineer, 1 eco-guard/ animator in charge of liaison with communities and environmental education, and 1 socioeconomic activities coordinator are in place.

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

In addition, lessons learned from the Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands Project (LADA), executed by FAO, and of which Tunisia is one of six partner countries, can both benefit the implementation of the proposed Project, and be shared with the wider MENA-DELP network under the regional umbrella project.

F. DISCUSS THE VALUE-ADDED OF GEF INVOLVEMENT IN THE PROJECT DEMONSTRATED THROUGH INCREMENTAL REASONING :

One of the main challenges for PA management in Tunisia is that most PAs lack up-to-date, implementable and enforceable management plans, as well as sustainable financing for the day-to-day running of the parks, and investment in badly needed infrastructure. In terms of financing, the annual budget from the central government for PAs is currently defined as a percentage of the responsible ministry's budget (DGF) of the MoA and not according to the specific management needs of each PA. This means that PAs lack both enforcement and management capacity, leading to biodiversity vulnerability even within the PA. Furthermore, the legal status of older PAs⁶ does not permit the collection of entrance fees, and even for new PAs, fees are very low, thus limiting revenue-generating possibilities. There is also a high administrative burden for potential visitors, who are required to apply in advance for a government authorization to spend the night in a PA. PAs also lack adequate lodging, sanitation facilities, food and water, signage, access roads and hiking trails, etc. These constraints have resulted in

⁶ Created prior to 2007.

few ecotourism products or services being developed around PAs, with tour operators often neglecting to include national parks in their circuits.

Moreover, adjacent communities have not traditionally been directly involved in the establishment, decision-making or management process for PAs. Their perception is thus that they receive few tangible benefits from biodiversity conservation and PAs and do not have the knowledge or resources to establish related income-generating activities (e.g., ecotourism enterprises) to supplement their revenue. The possibility of local community integration in terms of the use of PAs (including co-management, concessions, partnerships, right to traverse PAs via indicated roads, etc.) is not yet included in a regulatory framework. These factors create a certain level of misunderstanding and frustration about PAs among local communities, leading to the degradation of biodiversity and land resources, both within and outside PAs

GEF support will be catalytic in mobilizing actions by national stakeholders to overcome existing barriers and contribute to the conservation of desert biodiversity and the sustainability of desert lands by piloting an improved approach to protected areas management that integrates ecotourism development and community engagement.

Under Component 1, GEF support will enable reforms in the national legislative, regulatory, and institutional PA management framework, as well as the building and mainstreaming of material and human capacities in SLM, biodiversity conservation and PA management. GEF support will thus promote a participatory approach for PA management, which will allow general sensitization, social mobilization and information development through specialized training sessions addressed to key stakeholders on PA management, SLM, and ecotourism development using an INRM approach. Additionally the international, national, and local ecotourism marketing strategy to promote the three targeted NPs will help showcase the unique natural and cultural assets of Tunisia's desert regions.

Under component 2, GEF support will enable the implementation of physical investments within the three targeted NPs and their surrounding areas in terms of needed infrastructure and sustainable land management that employ local communities. Management of the three targeted NPs is thus expected to improve (see Table 2). This will be tracked through the proposed indicators and relevant Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool. Through the community association window of the small grants program, it is expected that SLM will be scaled up through new and innovative techniques to be applied in the surrounding agricultural and pastoral productive landscapes around the targeted NPs. Moreover, GEF support would test a new approach to ecotourism development opportunities, through the microenterprise window of the small-grants program. As a result of GEF supported interventions, communities will perceive PAs and their associated ecosystem services as an asset, and not a barrier to their development.

As mentioned above, GEF incremental support is critical in the development of this new integrated and participatory approach to PA management, biodiversity conservation, ecotourism development and SLM, given the significant biodiversity loss and land degradation threats in the country's arid areas.

Table 2: Project proposed activities and related NP Management efficiency scores

Related scores	Project proposed activities
1. Legal status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal analyses and the development of options, as well as their validation during a consultation workshop, and the drafting of future legislation;
2. Protected area regulations 3. Law Enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional analyses and the development of options for an “autonomous organism”; and enforcement of material capacity incremental operating costs associated with project management.
4. Protected area objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the draft decree on the classification of accommodations; • M&E activities to facilitate the implementation of various projects; • Support the provision of goods, consultant services, and incremental operating costs.
6. Protected area boundary demarcation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority works such as signage, the construction and rehabilitation of welcome kiosks, guard posts, lodging for staff and observation towers.
7. Management plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision of the national legislative, regulatory, and institutional PA management using a participatory approach; • Support the establishment and operationalization of the Project Coordination Unit (PCU).
8. Regular work plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities related to the preparation of annual work plans and budgets by the PCU.
9. Resource inventory 11. Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hiring of a forestry engineer charged with managing NP investments and coordinating ecological monitoring and research.
12. Resource management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of identified priority investments using INRM approach focused on biodiversity conservation, SLM and ecotourism development.
13. Staff numbers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counterpart funding will support three additional core staff per targeted NP.
14. Staff training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of training needs of NP staff and other institutions and provision of training packages in the targeted NPs for staff (Management Plans, protection of natural resources; nature-based tourism and ecotourism planning, etc.).
18. Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinforcement of the material capacity (equipment) as priority investments for NP management needs.
19. Maintenance of equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance and rehabilitation of infrastructure and buildings as priority investments identified in the NP Management Plans.
20. Education and awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental education activities and implementation of environmental awareness investments.
21. Planning for land and water use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community association-based activities geared towards improved natural resource management of NPs; • The Government of Tunisia will carry out basic soil and water conservation works within targeted NPs.
22. State and commercial neighbors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small grants programme targets mainly adjacent communities.
24. Local communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participatory and consultative process for the preparation and implementation of NPs Management Plans and activities under the small grants programme.
25. Economic benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of ecotourism marketing strategy, including communications packages; • Establishment of additional income generating activities through ecotourism development and SLM.
26. Monitoring and evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition and operation of the project M&E system; • Capacity building in M&E (including environmental and social safeguards) for relevant implementation partners.
27. Visitor facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving services and facilities for ecotourism through priority works.
30b: Condition of values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities related to the promotion of ecotourism, SLM and biodiversity conservation.
30c: Condition of values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International, national, and local ecotourism marketing strategy to promote the three targeted NPs

G. INDICATE RISKS, INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS, THAT MIGHT PREVENT THE PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S) FROM BEING ACHIEVED AND OUTLINE RISK MANAGEMENT MEASURES:

A preliminary assessment of main substantial risks and associated mitigation measures includes:

Critical Risk	Mitigation Measures
<p><i>Stakeholder risk:</i> Local communities continue to perceive protected areas as barriers to their development.</p>	<p>The project premise is that the development of ecotourism activities can create local community support for nature and biodiversity conservation, especially around protected areas, by providing tangible alternative income generation opportunities, and thus reducing the perception of protected areas as barriers to development. Awareness raising and sensitization activities will be supported by the project. Furthermore, participatory National Park Management Plans will be prepared and implemented with the involvement of communities for each project-supported National Park.</p>
<p><i>Stakeholder risk:</i> The impact of climate change on Tunisia’s desert is expected to cause more frequent droughts water shortage, floods and reduced viability of farming, ecotourism and loss of livelihoods</p>	<p>All interventions and practices to be implemented will focus on addressing environmental issues that are the most pressing for Tunisia’s desert ecosystems: preventing land degradation, preserving ecosystem functions, securing water resources within the land and confronting the climate change issues of adaptation and mitigation. The project will also strengthen monitoring and information systems.</p>
<p><i>Sector and Multi-Sector:</i> The current lack of a common vision and coordination among key players in terms of ecotourism could hinder project preparation, implementation and ecotourism development in general.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The nomination of a focal point for ecotourism, within each relevant line ministry, who will sit on the National Steering Committee, early during project preparation, will ensure a coordination of project activities; - Regular meetings of the National Steering Committee with representatives of all key agencies during project preparation and implementation will ensure higher level coordination; and - A Project Operations Manual (POM) will be prepared and specify the roles and responsibilities of key players involved in project implementation.
<p><i>Design:</i> Climate change impacts can potentially negatively affect conservation outcomes, the ecotourism value of sites, and project outcomes in general.</p>	<p>In the light of projected climate change impacts and given that the project is being implemented in an arid region, any activity related to the ecotourism sector will be carefully planned while paying close attention to the sustainable use of scarce resources in arid areas (especially water usage). Moreover, NP staffs, communities and ecotourists will be educated about the implications of climate change and awareness will be raised on the good practices to follow to mitigate their environmental footprint.</p>
<p><i>Design:</i> The pilot nature of the project, the novelty of ecotourism and alternative approaches to protected areas management in the country, and the remoteness of project sites could make project outcomes uncertain.</p>	<p>Project design will draw from best practices from the region and elsewhere, and will be streamlined as much as possible. Project preparation will ensure the development of a realistic results framework that takes into account the pilot nature of the project. During project implementation, the PCU would pay close attention to these particular aspects through the operationalized M&E system.</p>

<p><i>Delivery Monitoring and Sustainability:</i> Ownership of project investments by local communities and the private sector and availability of resources for O&M after project closure.</p>	<p>The project will include capacity building for community and private sector involvement in the maintenance and management of investments after project closure, as well as a Government commitment where relevant, particularly in terms of protected areas management. Furthermore, appropriate awareness-raising and sensitization activities will be implemented to enhance ownership of investments by local communities.</p>
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H. EXPLAIN HOW COST-EFFECTIVENESS IS REFLECTED IN THE PROJECT DESIGN:

It is expected that the proposed Project will be cost-effective in part because an integrated approach will be used that will bring together various Ministries in a defined, collaborative manner, and it will also bring together the key stakeholders, which, jointly, will have a higher likelihood for success than the current approach where Ministries and stakeholders act independently in the areas of PA management and ecotourism.

Another main aspect of project cost-effectiveness lies in the preparation/updating of the NP Management Plans for the three targeted NPs, which are now being completed under the PPG Grant, as opposed to under the actual Project as originally planned in the PIF. In addition to being cost effective, the completion of this activity during project preparation will enable the jump start of investments in the targeted NPs upon project effectiveness and will also liberate corresponding GEF funds to be allocated to increase these investments. The preparing/updating of the Management Plans process will make sure to build on the existing work and studies for these NPs, in particular, the previous Management Plans for Jbil and Bouhedma NPs.

Furthermore, the harmonization of the proposed Project with the AfD funded Chaambi NP project, as described above, will help to progress the Government vision of a "protected areas network", where different government bodies and their financial and technical partners contribute to complementary activities to enhance the country's PAs. In addition, the proposed Project will also harmonize approaches with the Chaambi project with respect to the reinforcement of the legal and institutional framework for PA management and ecotourism development, with cost-effectiveness benefits.

Finally, the proposed Project's main approach to determining cost-effectiveness will be to compare output and outcome indicators to the component costs. Beyond that, expert judgment will be used and the results compared with cost-effectiveness of similar operations in other countries during the mid-term and end-of-project evaluations.

PART III: INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION AND SUPPORT

A. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT:

The main project institutional structures are as follows:

The **Project Coordination Unit (PCU)** will comprise a project coordinator, financial management specialist, and procurement specialist (seconded from the DGEQV), as well as an M&E/environmental and social safeguards specialist recruited under the project. The PCU will be responsible for coordinating the technical and fiduciary aspects of project implementation at

the central level, including managing the activities of implementation partners, preparing annual work plans and budgets, ensuring collaboration between stakeholders and conducting the M&E for the project.

National Steering Committee (NSC): The PCU will be guided by an NSC, chaired by the MoE. Based on the implementation progress reports submitted on a semi-annual basis by the PCU, the SC will provide an overall supervision and strategic guidance to the project (including on procurement, financial management, disbursement, M&E and reporting matters), approve annual work plans and associated budgets submitted by the PCU, ensure coordination with other government programs at the national level, as well as advise on corrective measures and provide conflict resolution, as needed. The NSC will include focal points from relevant line ministries, as well as focal points from relevant private sector organizations. The NSC will meet on a semi-annual basis or more frequently as needed.

Consultative and Scientific Steering Commissions (CSSC)⁷ at the regional level would be chaired by the CRDA Director General in each targeted governorate (three in total). The CSSCs would be responsible for providing technical advice and guidance on project implementation at the regional and local levels, particularly in relation to the scientific and technical aspects of NP management, including the promotion of NP natural resources through ecotourism development and community engagement, as well as reviewing annual work plans and budgets. The CSSCs may also make recommendations to be discussed by the NSC. Focal points from the respective CRDAs, regional representations of relevant line ministries, regional university, and environmental NGOs, will form members of the CSSCs. The CSSCs will meet on at least a semi-annual basis, or more often as required.

The project will be implemented according to detailed procedures defined in a Project Operational Manual (POM) to be prepared prior to project Negotiations.

It should be emphasized that there is a strong ownership of the proposed project at the national level, which has a champion in the DGEQV of the MoE, and partner institutions in the MoA's DGF and the MoT's ONTT. The NSC for the proposed project, including a core group of representatives from relevant ministries, has been closely involved and has met regularly to advise on project design since the onset of project preparation. The PCU, including the Project Coordinator, has also been in place throughout project preparation.

B. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENT:

The main implementing agency for the proposed Project will be the General Directorate for Environment and Quality of Life (DGEQV) of the Ministry of Environment (MoE). The DGEQV is mandated to evaluate the general quality of the national environment, propose strategic orientations for national policy with regard to environmental protection and improvements in quality of life, as well as elaborate action plans for natural resource conservation, and pollution abatement. The DGEQV has experience in implementing other World Bank-managed GEF projects, particularly the Second Natural Resources Management Project (PGRN2) and Gulf of Gabès Marine and Coastal Resources Protection Project. The

⁷ It should be noted that the CSSC or *Commission Consultative Scientifique et Technique* is an institutional structure mandated by the decree for the creation of new PAs, in this case Dghoumes NP, and one that can be adopted for the old PAs targeted by the project, Bouhedma and Jbil PAs.

DGEQV also has experience with implementing a number of other donor-funded projects including from the AfD (including the Chaambi NP project), French Global Environment Fund, and German International Cooperation.

Project components will be implemented by the following partners as follows:

Components 1 and 2 will be implemented by the DGEQV in collaboration with four main partners: the DGF, Regional Commissariats for Agricultural Development (CRDAs)⁸, ONTT, and an international or national partner institution to be identified on a competitive basis for the management of the small grants program under Component 2.

The DGEQV will implement the national-level PA management framework reform and capacity building activities in collaboration with the DGF under Component 1. The DGEQV will also collaborate with the ONTT to implement the national ecotourism development framework reform and capacity building activities under Component 1. The DGEQV will implement the environmental education activities under Component 1, and through its PCU, will also implement the establishment and maintenance of the project M&E system under Component 1. The DGEQV will rely on its three Regional Representations in Tozeur, Kébili and Sidi Bouzid to manage project implementation at the regional level.

As per their mandate, the CRDAs of the Sidi Bouzid (Bouhedma NP⁹), Kébili (Jbil NP), and Tozeur (Dghoumes NP) Governorates will manage the three targeted NPs, including the updating or preparation of the NP Management Plans, the identification of priority investments, as well as the reinforcement of material and human capacities for NP management, under Component 1. CRDAs will also manage the implementation of priority investments identified in the NP Management Plans under Component 2. CRDAs are full-fledged decentralized administrations of the MoA and are currently mandated to manage the PAs in their respective governorates¹⁰, among other functions.

The ONTT will manage the implementation of the ecotourism marketing strategy at the international, national and local levels under Component 1, as well as the rehabilitation of the ecomuseums in the three targeted NPs under Component 2. The ONTT will also rely on its three Regional Representations in Tozeur, Kébili and Sidi Bouzid to oversee implementation of relevant activities at the regional level.

The international or national partner institution will implement the small grants program under Component 2. The organization of local communities into associations or microenterprises to harness and manage the commercial benefit potential of targeted NPs represents a new approach in Tunisia, one that requires close collaboration with communities and specific expertise. The PCU will launch the competitive selection of the partner institution during project preparation with the objective of completing the selection before project effectiveness. This will require that the PCU develop appropriate ToRs, identify and initiate discussions with potential institutions with the required expertise, as well as launch the selection process during project preparation.

⁸ *Commissariat Régional au Développement Agricole.*

⁹ The Bouhedma NP stretches across two governorates with two-thirds of the area lying in the Sidi Bouzid governorate and one third lying in the Gafsa governorate.

¹⁰ Specifically the Forestry Departments of the CRDAs (*Arrondissements des Forêts*), under the central DGF of the MoA.

Component 3 and its project management activities will be implemented by the DGEQV through its PCU.

The DGF, CRDAs, and ONTT will be responsible for managing the technical implementation and monitoring of their respective activities as described above, as well as the technical aspects of the procurement for these, as needed. The terms of collaboration between the DGEQV and these main partners, will be outlined in Conventions to be signed between the DGEQV and each respective partner before project effectiveness.

Figure 1. Project Institutional Arrangements

	Steering	Implementation	Coordination
National	National Steering Committee	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 2px;">Project Coordination Unit</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 2px;">DGEQV</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 2px;">DGF</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">ONTT</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 2px;">Other Line Ministries: Agriculture, Regional Development and Planning, Equipment, Culture and Heritage</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Private Sector Entities: Tunisian Federation of Tour Operators, Tunisian Federation of Hoteliers</div>
Regional	Regional Consultative and Technical Steering Commissions	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 2px;">DGEQV Regional Representation</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 2px;">CRDAs</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 2px;">ONTT Regional Representations</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Partner NGO</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 2px;">Other Donor-funded Projects : Afd and Monaco</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Research Institutions and Universities</div>
Local		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Community Associations and Micro-enterprises</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Local Environmental and Sustainable Development NGOs</div>

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

The proposed Project remains fully aligned with the GEF Focal Area Objectives and Strategic Programs as stated in the PIF, as well as the overall project design in the original PIF. Main changes between the project as outlined in the PIF and the current Project Appraisal Documents are outlined below.

One change in the project design, which does not impact project outcomes, has been the streamlining of project components from the six originally in the PIF to two technical components, plus a project management component in the current proposed project. The current Component 1 focuses on promoting enabling conditions for PA management, SLM scale up and

ecotourism development through: (i) reinforcing the institutional, legal and strategic framework; (ii) building and mainstreaming national and local capacities; and (iii) establishing the project M&E system. The current Component 2 focuses on supporting the implementation of INRM in targeted NPs and their adjacent areas through: (i) implementing identified priority investments in NP Management Plans; (ii) supporting INRM in the national parks and surrounding areas through (a) providing training to agricultural extension staff including visits to sites with best practices; (b) public awareness and sensitization meetings in key communities; and (c) scaling up of best INRM/SLM practices; (iii) mobilizing partnerships local communities and the private sector around targeted NPs; and (iv) implementing environmental awareness investments. The current Component 1 thus focuses on the TA and capacity building aspects of the proposed Project, while Component 2 focuses on the Investment activities.

Thus, Component 1 and Component 2 (minus the preparation/updating of the NP Management Plans which have been completed during project preparation with the PPG funds) of the original PIF have been merged into the current Component 1 “Promoting enabling conditions for PA management, SLM scale up and ecotourism development”. Components 3 (minus the training and public awareness activities, which have been moved under Component 1 of the proposed project), Component 4 and Component 5 of the original PIF have been merged under the current Component 2 “Supporting the implementation of NP Management Plans, SLM practices, and ecotourism”.

The current Component 3 focuses on project management and remains the equivalent of Component 6 of the original PIF, minus the M&E activities, which have been moved under Component 1 of the proposed project.

Also in line with streamlining, the PDO in the original PIF stated as “to help develop sustainable nature-based tourism (or ecotourism) as a means to promote environmental, financial, and social sustainability in Tunisia,” has been further streamlined and specified to the following “to contribute to the conservation of desert biodiversity in the three targeted National Parks.” This objective will still be achieved through the piloting of an improved approach to PA management that integrates ecotourism development and community engagement, and so the scope of the project as in the original PIF has not been changed.


The final change in the project design is in the composition of cofinancing sources, with a positive outcome for the project. Government cofinancing has increased compare to the original PIF (US\$ 0.50 million in kind and US\$ 2.40 million in cash currently compare to US\$ 0.5 million in kind and US\$ 1.5 million in the original PIF). Beneficiary contribution is of a total amount of \$US 368,000. The AfD contribution has been specified and is now US\$ 1.65 million in-kind to account for all relevant investments and activities under the Chaambi NP project and work in the institutional and legislative reform of PA management, from which the proposed project will benefit. The total co-financing for the project now stands at US\$ 4.78 million compare to US\$ 3.30 million in the original PIF.

It should be noted that, despite the GEFSEC request for a 1:2 cofinancing ratio at the PIF stage, the Government has increased slightly his cofinancing but is not in a position to increase it beyond the current amounts, or explore alternative financial instruments, given the current new environment in the country and corresponding pressing national priorities. The project design ensures, however, that implementation can be successful using the current resources allocated,

and the project has the full support of the Government, given its emphasis on community participation and job creation.

PART V: AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for CEO Endorsement.

Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	Date (Month, day, year)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Karin Shepardson		07/12/2012	Song Li	202-473-3488	Sli@worldbank.org

RESULTS FRAMEWORK

: To contribute to the conservation of desert biodiversity in the three targeted National Parks.

Baseline	Cumulative Target Values**					Frequency	Data Source/ Meth.	Resp. for Data Collection	Description (indicator definition etc.)
	YR 1	YR 2	YR 3	YR 4	YR5				
0/0	90 (20%)	400 (35%)	1000 (45%)	1500 (55%)	2000 (65%)	Annual	Reports	DGEQV / CRDA	- At the local level, local communities, including grassroots groups/organizations, farmers' associations/cooperatives, women's organizations, youth organizations, community development groups, environmental NGOs and private sector. - At the national level, central and regional representations of the DGEQV, CRDAs, DGF, ONTT,
D 0/0	0/0	2	20		50	Annual	Reports	CRDAs	Includes permanent and seasonal jobs disaggregated by park and by : - Jobs linked to park management - Jobs linked to economic activities
B 0/0	0/0	2	40		80				
J 0/0	0/0	2	15		30				
D 54	54		60		65	Annual	Reports	CRDAs	Disaggregated per park. Refer to GEF-4 Biodiversity Tracking Tool.
B 76	76		80		84				
J 60	60		65		75				

INTERMEDIATE RESULTS

: Promoting enabling conditions for PA management, SLM scale up and ecotourism development

Baseline	Cumulative Target Values**					Frequency	Data Source/ Meth.	Resp. for Data Collection	Description (indicator definition etc.)
	YR 1	YR 2	YR 3	YR 4	YR5				
0	1	3	3	3	3	Annual	Reports	DGEQV	Points system (1 point per step): 1. Analysis report for the revision options of the legislative framework 2. Consultation with all stakeholders 3. Draft Decree

legislative framework for PAs												
<i>Intermediate Result Indicator Two:</i> Level of progress towards the revision of the regulatory framework for ecotourism		Level	0	1	2	2	2	2	Annual	Reports	ONTT	Points system (1 point per step): 1. Stakeholder consultation on the need for « ecolodge » accommodation classification category 2. Proposition of a new revision of the text of the Decree of classification of accommodations.
<i>Intermediate Result Indicator Three:</i> Level of progress towards the adoption of the integrated and participatory Management Plans by key stakeholders		Level	D 0	1	1	1	1	1	Annual	Reports	DGEQV / CRDA / DGF	Disaggregated by park. Points system (1 point per step): 1. Management Plan adopted
			B 0	1	1	1	1	1				
			J 0	1	1	1	1	1				
<i>Intermediate Result Indicator Four:</i> Additional key staff in targeted parks		Number	D 1 ^b	2	3	3	3	3	Annual	Reports	DGQEV/DGF/CRDA/ONTT	Disaggregated by park. At least three additional positions per park: - Conservation engineer (CRDA/DGF) - Eco-Guard Animation - Liaison with communities/environmental education) (DGEQV) - Socioeconomic activities coordinator (marketing, eco-tourism development) (ONTT)
			B 1	2	3	3	3	3				
			J 1	2	3	3	3	3				
<i>Intermediate Result Indicator Five:</i> Number of person trained		Number	0	30	100	240	395	600	Annual	Reports	Component 2 partner	- Number of person trained (disaggregated by type of stakeholder)

(disaggregated by type of stakeholder)												
Intermediate Result (Component Two): Supporting the implementation of INRM in targeted NPs and their adjacent areas												
PDO Level Results Indicators*	Core	Unit of Measure	Baseline	Cumulative Target Values**					Frequency	Data Source/ Meth.	Resp. for Data Collection	Description (indicator definition etc.)
				YR 1	YR 2	YR 3	YR 4	YR 5				
<i>Intermediate Result Indicator One:</i> Number of agreements between the NP and community associations		Number	0	0	3	6	9	12	Annual	Reports	Component 2 partner	Operational criteria for the association: - Minimum of 5 members - Official status (visa) - Operational plans - Annual budget - Partnership agreement (or other form of contract) between association and the park - Minimum training package delivered
<i>Intermediate Result Indicator Two:</i> Subprojects supported by the project (% women)		Number	0	6	52	111	178	184	Annual	unity s	Component 2 partner	Defining “successful”: 1. Following of specifications for community association subprojects 2. Generating positive revenues for microenterprise subprojects
			0	1	18	50	98	120				
<i>Intermediate Result Indicator Three:</i> Innovative SLM techniques piloted and promoted in targeted NPs and their surrounding areas		Number	0	2	5	7	10	12	Annual	Reports	Component 2 partner	

Legend: D=Dghoumes NP; J=Jbil NP; B=Bouhedma N

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)

RESPONSE TO STAP COMMENTS AT PIF STAGE:

STAP Comments	Agency Response
<p>a. STAP's main observation is that the "main issues/constraints" are not detailed explicitly. Further information on each constraint would help understand better the reasoning for each project intervention. For example, the proposal contains little detail of the problems to be addressed, including extent and type of land degradation, status and challenges with respect to biodiversity and protected areas. Furthermore, no baseline is provided against which implied cross-cutting interventions can be measured. The programmatic framework does not provide details at the country level; thus, it reinforces the notion that during the next steps of project development the main challenges on sustainable ecotourism and desert biodiversity conservation in Tunisia should be articulated.</p>	<p>This has been fleshed out in the Project Appraisal Document. Please refer in particular to Part I. A. "Strategic Context"; B. "Sectoral and Institutional Context"; and C "Higher Level Objectives to which the Project Contributes"; as well as Part III C. "Lessons Learned and Reflected in the Project Design". For baseline information and the incremental cost analysis, please refer to Annex 6.</p>
<p>b. The PIF also seems to provide an ambitious list of global environment benefits without specifying how these benefits will be measured and tracked. For example, one of the expected global environment benefits is soil and water conservation (SWC), but no details are provided on what SWC technologies will be used, or what methods will be used to estimate the expected increase in soil carbon stocks. Similarly, the project aims to conserve the globally significant desert biodiversity in Tunisia, but few details about the ecosystem (status of the desert biodiversity) are presented in the proposal.</p>	<p>This has been fleshed out in the Project Appraisal Document. Please refer in particular to Part III A. "Project Components"; as well as the more detailed Annex 2 "Detailed Project Description." For more information on biodiversity, please see above comment.</p>
<p>c. It is unclear what sustainable land management practices (SLM) and water efficiency measures will be promoted through extension services. More details on these practices would be useful, including how local knowledge will form part of the SLM + water extension services, and how extension services can be gender disaggregated so that SLM innovations from women farmers are recognized.</p>	<p>This has been fleshed out in the Project Appraisal Document. Please refer in particular to Part III A. "Project Components"; as well as the more detailed Annex 2 "Detailed Project Description." The gender dimension is integrated in the Project Results Framework in Annex 1.</p>
<p>d. Monitoring and evaluation, with clear problem baselines and associated outputs, need to be further elaborated beyond standard evaluations offered.</p>	<p>This has been fleshed out in the Project Appraisal Document. Please refer in particular to Part IV B. Monitoring and Evaluation as well as the relevant section in the more detailed Annex 3.</p>

ANNEX C: CONSULTANTS TO BE HIRED FOR THE PROJECT USING GEF RESOURCES

<i>Position Titles</i>	<i>\$/ person week*</i>	<i>Estimated person weeks**</i>	<i>Tasks to be performed</i>
For Project Management			
Local			
Procurement Specialist/Trainer	1,500	10.5	Delivery of training on procurement
Financial Management Specialist/Trainer	1,500	10	Delivery of training on financial management
Safeguards Specialist/Trainer	1,500	10	Delivery of training on environmental and social safeguards,
Project Management Specialist/Trainer	1,500	8	Delivery of training on project coordination
Translator	1,200	16.7	Translation services
International			
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
For Technical Assistance			
Local			
Legal Adviser	2,500	7	Legal advice to the DGEQV, DGF and ONTT and analysis of the reform options for the PA legislative framework
Lawyer	2,500	18	Preparation of revised draft laws and decrees for the revised legislative PA framework
Legal Adviser	2,500	4	Analysis of the reform options for the PA institutional framework
Lawyer	2,500	6	Preparation of the draft constitution and decrees for the revised institutional PA framework
Human Resources Specialist	1,500	26.7	Preparation of Manuals/Terms of Reference for the new autonomous PA management agency
Human Resources Specialist	1,500	26.7	Recruitment of core staff to the new autonomous PA agency
Lawyer	2,500	0.8	Revision of the Decree for the classification of tourism accommodations
Park Management Specialist	1,500	10.7	Study on training needs in NP management and identification of trainers
Park Management Specialist/Trainer	1,500	55.5	Delivery of adaptive training for monitoring and surveillance Jbil NP
Park Management Specialist/Trainer	1,500	55.5	Delivery of adaptive training for monitoring and surveillance Dghoumes NP
Park Management Specialist/Trainer	1,500	55.5	Delivery of adaptive training for monitoring and surveillance Bouhedma

			NP
Park Management Specialist/Trainer	1,500	26.7	Delivery of adaptive training for the core staff of the new autonomous PA management agency
M&E and Safeguards Specialist	1,500	123.3	TA to the PCU on M&E and Safeguards
Project Management Specialist	1,500	13.3	Preparation of mid-term and end-of-project evaluations
Institutional Specialist/Trainer	1,500	123.3	Delivery of training to DGEQV and DGF on team building, network establishment
Communication Specialist	1,500	10.0	Communication expertise TA to the PCU
Ecotourism Specialist	1,500	3.3	Analysis of the institutional reform options for ecotourism development
Ecotourism Specialist	1,500	40.0	TA to the PCU on ecotourism development
Ecotourism Specialist	1,500	92.0	Delivery of training packages on: (i) sustainable tourism, ecotourism and biodiversity to the local population, the private sector, and finance institutions; and (ii) subprojects to the local population
Communication and Marketing Specialist	1,500	3.3	TA for the development of an international marketing strategy with the ONTT
Communication/Media and Marketing Specialist	1,500	24.0	Marketing for Jbil, Dghoumes and Bouhedma NPs
Sociologist	1,500	9.0	TA for marketing and promotion of Jbil, Dghoumes and Bouhedma NPs
Environmental Education Specialist	1,500	4.0	Design of booklets for students and teachers for Jbil, Dghoumes and Bouhedma NPs
Architect/Interior Design Specialist	1,500	8.0	Design for the rehabilitation of Jbil, Dghoumes and Bouhedma NP ecomuseums
International			
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Office facilities, equipment, vehicles and communications	The provision of radios, field equipment for guards, computers, office supplies and furniture, utilities, as well as other miscellaneous charges, for the three targeted NPs, will be through cofinancing sources. The provision of office equipment for the PCU, include the purchase of computers, and utilities, will be financed under the GEF Grant. Equipping of the expositions for the three targeted NP ecomuseums will be through the GEF Grant. Vehicles will be purchased under the GEF for the three NPs, to carry out NP management activities across the whole area of each NP. In total 4 vehicles (\$30.000 each) and 3 quads (\$8.000 each) will be purchased. These are essential implementation tools for the under-funded, under-equipped NPs targeted by the Project. Maintenance of the vehicles will be funded by cofinancing sources.		

Travel	Only cofinancing resources will be used as travel will be required for field visits for supervision and consultations, and attendance to international tourism fairs.
Others	N/A

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

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

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

The objective of the PPG was to complete the full design of the proposed Project including collecting baseline information; identifying the gaps in information; gathering key data for the design of the components; identifying and confirming the lead entities and implementation arrangements for project components; developing indicators for monitoring and evaluation; and identifying and securing other sources of financing and co-financing.

These project preparation objectives have been reached, through activities undertaken at national and local levels, that are completed or are soon to be completed during the PPG stage:

- (vi) *Preparation of ToRs for the Project Document:* At the onset of project preparation, ToRs were completed to undertake the preparation of the Project Document. The ToRs outlined the requirements for the full project concept, including an assessment of existing information, identification of information gaps, definition of project components, specification of implementation arrangements, and the development of project indicators. In addition, the ToRs were extensive in the sense that they also provided important baseline information and analysis on sustainable tourism and ecotourism in the country, and linkages with biodiversity conservation and land resource management in the context of PAs. The preparation of this Project utilized a broadly consultative and collaborative approach, allowing for main stakeholders to collectively identify a vision for improved PA management and ecotourism development in the country. All concerned ministries (MoE, MoA, and MoT) contributed directly to the finalization of these ToRs, which formed the basis for the preparation of the Project Appraisal Document.
- (vii) *Preparation/updating of the NP Management Plans for Jbil, Dgoumes and Bouhedma NPs:* The original plan was to undertake this activity during project implementation. However, in order to initiate the new participatory approach for PA management and ecotourism development upfront, the activity was moved under the PPG. Since the preparation/updating process for these documents builds upon the existing work and studies for these NPs, in particular, the previous Management Plans for Jbil and Bouhedma NPs, this will enable the collection of additional baseline data on the NP areas, as well as the consolidation of existing data. Furthermore, the completion of this activity earlier in the project preparation process will also enable the jump starting of actual investments in the targeted NPs upon project effectiveness and will also liberate corresponding GEF funds to be allocated to increase these investments.
- (viii) *Environmental and Social Impact Assessments and preparation of the Environmental and Social Management Plans:* The preparation of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessments and corresponding management framework enabled a deeper environmental and socioeconomic analysis of the project areas and beneficiaries, as well as the definition of a framework to manage main project impacts during implementation. The conclusions of these assessments have been directly incorporated into the project design. Furthermore, the direct consultations undertaken during the preparation of these documents have reinforced the participatory approach, allowing further input of local communities into the project design.
- (ix) *Preparation of the Project Operational Manual:* The Project Operational Manual will outline the main implementation procedures for the Project, including the roles, responsibilities and collaboration modalities of main project partners, with regard to the implementation of project components.
- (x) *Meetings and workshops, training, field visits, design/production/editing of environmental awareness and education support materials:* It should be highlighted that during project preparation, a workshop was held that included around 100 participants from various government and research institutions, NGOs, and civil society, with the aim of having collective and participatory brainstorm instrumental to the project design. There was a strong consensus that the current situation of protected areas management is sub-optimal and that improvements

need to be made at all levels, but that there exists a significant potential for a new approach, which integrates ecotourism development and community engagement.

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

None

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

<i>Project Preparation Activities Approved</i>	<i>Implementation Status</i>	<i>GEF Amount (\$)</i>				<i>Co-financing (\$)</i>
		<i>Amount Approved</i>	<i>Amount Spent To date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>	<i>Uncommitted Amount*</i>	
Preparation of ToRs for the Project Document	Completed	10,000	10,000	0	0	6,500
Preparation/updating of the NP Management Plans for Jbil, Dgoumes and Bouhedma NPs	Initiated	120,000	0	120,000	0	60,000
Environmental Impact Assessment and preparation of the Environmental Management Framework	Completed	10,000	10,000	0	0	7,500
Social Impact Assessment and preparation of the Social Management Framework	Completed	10,000	10,000	0	0	8,000
Preparation of the Project Operational Manual	Initiated	10,000	0	10,000	0	8,000
Meetings and workshops, training, field visits, design/production/editing of environmental awareness and education support materials	Initiated	40,000	10,000	30,000	0	10,000
Total		200,000	40,000	160,000	0	100,000

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

ANNEX E: *Technical Note on the Implementation of Component 2 Small Grants Program*

In light of the potential for increased environmental pressures in and around PAs after the revolution; educational activities combined with the grant support mechanism envisaged under Component 2 are expected to foster local populations' appreciation of and knowledge about targeted NPs and help them understand the need to comply with ecotourism standards if this potential is to be fully harnessed. The selected partner institution would therefore start implementation with an extensive consultation process around the parks, which will seek to improve the understanding of the population in the surrounding zones of the new opportunities and establish close relationships. The experience of similar projects in the vicinity (e.g., FAO support to the oases) show that young people are ready to invest in the creation of local associations and tour guide networks if properly supported. In order to bestow credibility to the participatory and consultative process, the terms and conditions and procedures for the matching grants will therefore be revised jointly. The main modalities elaborated so far are shown in the table below.

The subprojects to be financed by the project include both community association-based activities such as environmental cleanup, SLM and combating of land degradation, as well as microenterprise-based subprojects that are linked to the improved conditions and management of the parks through ecotourism. The project will also finance relatively small ecotourism and soil conservation infrastructure investments such as the rehabilitation of eco-museums, the establishment of small lodging/camping and catering facilities, nature trails, improvement of access roads, installation of signs, and anti-erosion gabions. These are mostly small, very localized and substantially of the same types for the three NPs.

Terms and conditions	Support to microenterprise-based activities	Support to community association-based activities
Objectives	Promoting ecotourism or the biodiversity, involvement of the local population and improvements of living conditions, in and around the targeted NPs	
Target groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals and formal or informal groups and associations interested in environmental issues and protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals, formal or informal groups and societies interested in income generation activities around the project's objectives
Main conditions for support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credible and transparent local initiative closely related to project objectives; • Promoters are resident in the areas adjacent to the selected parks; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of ecotourism, biodiversity, environmental standards or 'green employment' in and around the selected parks; • Technical competence and managerial experience commensurate with the requirements of the proposed initiative; • Business plan for larger sub-projects • Viability • Coherence in case of groups/associations
Grant support	Up to US\$ 6,700	Up to US\$ 4,000 (for projects up to a total value of US\$ 13,300) depending on subproject size
Equity	Labor, time, competence and expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40% in cash for project sizes below

contribution of promoter		US\$ 1,300 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50% in cash for project sizes above US\$ 1,300 and below US\$ 5,300; • 60% in cash for project sizes above US\$ 5,300;
Gender and youth dimensions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20% of all grant support reserved for women • 20% of all grant support reserved for youth (below 30 years, and up to 35 years if unemployed for a longer period) 	

The total amount envisaged for the matching grant facility is US\$ 0.45 million, of which about 10 percent is for community association-based activities and 90 percent microenterprise-based activities.

The partner institution would assist the local population to understand the support concept and prepare projects complying with the required conditions, and would finally submit certified proposals to a grant committee. Grant committees would be established at the governorate level for each park and comprise the Park Conservation Officer, the head of the CRDA Forestry Department, other units in charge of environment, financial support to the agricultural sector, development and planning, and private sector. The Committee would meet at least quarterly and as required by the number of incoming grant applications. Preliminary calculations indicate that about 60 community association and about 290 microenterprise initiatives could be supported during the five years, implying about 100-150 sub-projects per national park zone. The anticipated ratio between grants and investments would be 1:2.

Given the strong demand for transparency and accountability by the general public, the project will publish on a website linked to the MoE details of the projects funded and rejected, including an interactive map showing realizations with photographs and a link to their GPS coordinates. In addition to the information, mobilization and consultation campaigns, and the comprehensive direct support to groups and individuals interested in the grants, the service provider would also attempt to elaborate a wider concept of ecotourism with the communities involved, provide environmental training and education to interested parties through audio-visual aids, facilitate concluding agreements between the communities and the local administration on park management and use and on general environmental protection in the area, and facilitate access of local associations of eco-guides and tour operators to similar experiences. Where needed, the service provider would provide specific technical support assist local groups develop their own associations capable to manage the interests of their members.