



FAO/GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT
FACILITY
PROJECT DOCUMENT



PROJECT TITLE: Integrated Natural Resources Management in Degraded Landscapes in the Forest-Steppe and Steppe Zones of Ukraine

PROJECT CODE: GCP/UKR/001/GFF

COUNTRY: Ukraine

FINANCING PARTNER: GEF

FAO Project ID: 640633

GEF/LDCF/SCCF Project ID: 9813

EXECUTING PARTNERS: Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources in cooperation with Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food

Expected EOD (Starting Date): April 2017

Expected NTE (End Date): March 2020

**CONTRIBUTION TO
FAO's STRATEGIC
FRAMEWORK:**

a. Strategic Objective/Organizational Result:

- SO1: Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition
- SO2: Increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner
- SO3: Reduce rural poverty
- SO5: Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises

b. Regional Result/Priority Areas:

- 1 Food security and nutrition
- 2 Natural resources management, including climate change mitigation and adaptation
- 3 Policy and institutional support for entry of Member States into regional and global trade standard-setting and organizations of regional economic cooperation

c. Country Programming Framework Outcome:

Priority area 2: Contribution to land reform, rural development and food security systems

2.4 Capacities and national legislative frameworks in the context of rural development strengthened and support to SME on improving access to information provided

Priority area 3: Agri-food production chain development and access to international markets

3.6 Capacities and public-private dialogue in the grain, dairy and meat sectors promoted

3.7 Review and drafting of legal acts related to producers and cooperatives organizations promoted

Priority area 4: Environment and management of natural resources, including forestry and fisheries

4.1 Raise awareness and capacities of line Ministries and relevant stakeholders to sustainably manage natural resources and of policies in the area of protection and sustainable use of land and other natural resources strengthened and harmonized

4.2 Raise the capacity to develop and implement Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) programmes, including bioenergy initiatives at both national and local scales

GEF/LDCF/SCCF Focal Area: Multifocal area (LD, CCM)

GEF/LDCF/SCCF strategic objectives:

LD-3, Program 4: Scaling SLM through the landscape approach

CCM-2 Program 4: Promote conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks in forest and other land use, reduce emissions from land degradation, and support climate smart agriculture

Environmental and social risk classification (insert v): Low risk Moderate risk High risk

Financing Plan: GEF/LDCF/SCCF allocation:

<u>GEF financing:</u>	USD 1 776 484
<u>Co-financing:</u>	
MENR	USD 6 000 000
MAPF – Leonid P Institute	USD 590 000
Agrogeneration	USD 2 188 267
SEAPG	USD 80 000
Center for Soil Ecology	USD 400 000
FAO	<u>USD 1 065 000</u>
<u>Sub-total cofinancing:</u>	USD 10 323 267

Total Budget: USD 12 099 751

Executive Summary

The objective of the project is to promote restoration of degraded landscapes in the forest-steppe and steppe zones of Ukraine through upscaling of integrated natural resources management (INRM) practices. To remove barriers to scaling up, the project has been designed around three components that will: (i) create an enabling environment for INRM in Ukraine at national and sub-national level; (ii) restore the productivity and resilience of production landscapes through INRM; and (iii) ensure learning and sharing of lessons learned through effective project monitoring and evaluation and adaptive management.

Component 1: Enabling environment for INRM. This component will be led by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources with support from the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food. It provides the critical first step for integrating environmental concerns into sector policies and legislation related to agriculture, combating land degradation and shelterbelt management. Institutional structures and legislation will be strengthened, especially for shelterbelts that today have an unclear status with respect to ownership and management responsibility. Monitoring systems and spatial planning will also be strengthened with the help of remote sensing and geospatial data and improved access to information. In addition, enhanced access to financial resources is crucial for improving the management of natural resources in Ukraine, both through state-led and market-based mechanisms. This requires clarification of ownership rights, especially of shelterbelts, development of criteria for payment for ecosystem services (PES) schemes, and

greening of value chains for selected crops.

Component 2: Restoration of productivity and resilience of production landscapes. Capacity to scale up conservation agriculture with no-till and minimum tillage, use of green manure and useful microflora in the forest-steppe and steppe zones will be developed. This is a sustainable and effective climate-smart agricultural practice, which will reduce soil erosion and enhance carbon stocks in the rich black soils (*chernozems*) that cover most of these agro-ecological zones. So far, it is mainly the steppe area that has adopted CA and only on 2% of soils. There is therefore need for demonstrations of CA for the main crops grown in the forest-steppe zone, such as different cereals and oil seeds. Demonstration activities are expected to be upscaled to roughly 90 800 ha of land at the Oblast level with the support of government and private sector co-financing.

To improve the management of shelterbelts in the agricultural lands of the forest-steppe and steppe zones that have been allowed to degrade and deteriorate since independence due to unclear ownership, guidelines will be developed and capacity strengthened to undertake inventories using modern information and communication technology, such as satellite images, digitized geospatial information accessible through smartphones and tablets. This will be coupled with demonstrations of rehabilitation and multipurpose shelterbelt management for erosion control, carbon sequestration and income generation through e.g. Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) from *Robinia pseudoacacia* (black locust), fruit trees, linden, bushes, yellow acacia (*Caragana arborescens*). Demonstration activities are expected to be upscaled to approximately 230,800 ha. Key institutions that will participate in this component are the State Forest Resources Agency, Ukrainian Nut Association, as well as private sector companies. Rehabilitation of shelterbelts and enhancement of their NTFPs will increase income of local populations. Additional benefits include carbon sequestration and improved habitat connectivity.

Component 3: Monitoring, evaluation and adaptive management. This component will ensure that the project's progress is tracked and periodic evaluations are conducted for learning and adaptive management. The STAP/GEF Guidelines on Resilience, Adaptation and Transformation Assessment (RAPTA) will be applied during project inception and at mid-term to see whether project implementation strategies and pathways need to be adapted to integrate resilience to climate change and other external stressors into INRM approaches. Project results, innovative approaches and achievements will be disseminated for replication and scaling up.

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Acronyms

AWP/B	Annual Work Plan and Budget
BH	Budget holder
CA	Conservation Agriculture
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CC-LDD	Coordinating Council to combat land degradation and desertification
CCM	Climate Change Mitigation
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CPF	Country Priority Framework (FAO)
CSA	Climate-Smart Agriculture
CSO	Civil Society Organisations
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DS-SLM	Decision Support for mainstreaming and scaling up SLM
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EC	European Commission
EEA	European Environment Agency
EECCA	Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
FE	Final Evaluation
FLO	Funding Liaison Officer
FFS	Farmer Field School
FPMIS	Field Programme Management Information System
GCU	FAO GEF Coordination Unit in Investment Centre Division
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GSP	Global Soil Partnership
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
GIS	Geographical Information System
HQ	Headquarter
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
INRM	Integrated Natural Resources Management
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IT	Information Technology
IW	Inception Workshop
LDN	Land Degradation Neutrality
LOA	Letter of Agreement
LTO	FAO Lead Technical Officer
LTU	FAO Lead Technical Unit
M	Million
M4P	Markets for the Poor
MAPF	Ministry of Agrarian Policy
MENR	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation

MTR	Mid-Term Review
NAP	National Action Program (of the UNCCD)
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NSC	National Scientific Center “Institute of Soil Science and Agrochemistry Research named after O.N.Sokolovsky” of the National Academy of Agrarian Sciences
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPF	National Programming Framework
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Product
PC	Project Coordinator
PCU	Project Coordination Unit
PES	Payment for Ecosystem Services
PIR	Project Implementation Review
PPR	Project Progress Reports
PSC	Project Steering Committee
PTF	Project Task Force (FAO)
PY	Project Year
RAPTA	Resilience, Adaptation and Transformation Assessment
REU	Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia
RF	Project’s results framework
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SFRA	State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
SO	Strategic Objective
SPIU	Soils Protection Institute of Ukraine
STAP	Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (of the GEF)
STAR	System for Transparent Allocation of Resources
TCI	The FAO Investment Centre Division
TOR	Terms of Reference
TT	Tracking Tool (GEF)
UCES	Ukrainian Center of Ecology of Soils
UNA	Ukrainian Nut Association
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
URC	Ukrainian Railway Company
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USD	United States Dollar
USRI	Leonid Pogorilyy Ukrainian Scientific Research Institute on Forecasting and Testing Machinery and Technologies for Agricultural Production
WICC	Women’s Information Consultative Center

SECTION 1 – PROJECT RATIONALE

1.1 PROJECT CONTEXT

1.1. The national context

The land area of Ukraine is 603,628 square kilometres, with the largest area of arable land in Europe and almost 40 percent of the world's most productive black soils. Agriculture dominates Ukraine's landscape, covering approximately 70 percent of the total land area. It accounts for 10 percent of GDP and 19 percent of employment. Ukraine's agricultural exports are the largest, at \$3.5 billion, of any EECCA country. Ukraine's agricultural sector is estimated to cause 35-40 percent of all environmental degradation in the country. Ukraine's famously fertile and extensive black soils are suffering from serious erosion and deterioration after many years of intensive production. Many soils are eroded and depleted of soil organic matter and nutrients. They have become acidic, saline, or alkaline due to unsustainable agricultural practices, such as excessive use of mineral fertilizers and outdated technologies. Over 13 million ha of lands have been damaged by water erosion and 6 million by wind erosion. The eroded area is estimated to have increased by 70,000 to 100,000 ha per year during the last decade. Moreover, irrigated land has decreased by approximately 15 percent over the past 15 years, and water losses have increased due to inefficient management.

A special challenge is the management of the extensive network of shelterbelts that were planted in the 1930s to provide protection against erosion of the black soils in the forest-steppe and steppe zones of Ukraine. Forest vegetation used for soil erosion prevention purposes and to improve the useful properties of soil is commonly referred to in Ukraine as "agroforest" or "Ahrolis" and includes shelterbelts and other similar tree plantations. In Ukraine, there are around 440,000 ha of shelterbelts that protect 13 million ha of arable land and agricultural landscapes. Around 30 percent of farm shelterbelts are in bad condition and need reconstruction. After the collapse of the Soviet Union and the collective farms that managed the shelterbelts, ownership and management responsibilities are unclear and the shelterbelts that are rapidly deteriorating are in urgent need of improved management to continue to provide their functions to control and protect against land degradation, including carbon sequestration above and below ground. Improving their management is complicated by the fact that there is no proper legislation and regulation on the exploitation and protection of these agroforests, which continues to cause significant adverse effects in agricultural landscapes. In addition to an improved legislative and regulatory framework, an incentive system is also needed to encourage the development of shelterbelts, as they are long-term investments that will only generate socio-economic and global environmental benefits after a certain capitalization period.

Institutional framework

The institutional framework in Ukraine for sustainable management of natural resources in agricultural landscapes is comprised of a number of national and sub-national institutions whose mandates are summarized in Table 1 below:

Table 1. Institutional framework

Institution	Roles in Project Implementation
National, Oblast and Rayon overnments	
Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR)	The MENR is responsible for rational use, reproduction and protection of natural resources; protection and rational use of lands; conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity, preparation of relevant legislation and regulations.
Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food (MAPF)	The Ministry is in charge of development and realization of agrarian and forestry state policy, state supervision of land use and land

	protection. It can prepare draft legal acts and submit them to the Cabinet of Ministers
State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine (SFRA)	The Agency develops proposals on improvement of legislation and regulations and duly submit them to the Minister of Agrarian Policy and Food for consideration; performs state management and supervision of forestry and hunting; organizes implementation of fire protection and forest-protection measures in areas belonging to its jurisdiction.
Oblast and Rayon State Administrations	The authority of Oblasts and Rayons State Administrations on land management includes: use of natural resources; environment protection; disposal of state-owned lands within the limits determined by the Land Code; coordination of land management and state control over land use and protection; implementation of national policies for land use and protection, development of economic incentives for sustainable land use and protection, some other issues according to the law "On Land Protection".
Oblast and Rayon Councils	The Oblast and rayon Councils do not have legal rights to manage lands outside of settlements' boundaries
Research Institutes	
National Academy of Agrarian Sciences (NSC)	It includes over 50 Institutes, scientific centres and experimental stations. The main objective of the Academy is scientific provision of development of the agro-industrial sector of the country, which envisages implementation of fundamental research, organization and coordination of applied scientific agriculture researches, etc.
Leonid Pogorilyy Ukrainian Scientific Research Institute on Forecasting and Testing Machinery and Technologies for Agricultural Production (USRI)	The institute is a key Ukrainian organisation providing state control for producing and export of agriculture machinery and equipment, assessment and optimisation of technologies, transfer of innovations, etc.
State Institution "Soils Protection Institute of Ukraine" (SPIU)	The institute is a sole state organization which is responsible for the State soil monitoring and agrochemistry passportization of agricultural lands
National Scientific Centre «Institute for Soil Science and Agrochemistry Research named after O.N. Sokolovsky» of the National Academy of Agrarian Science of Ukraine	The institute is a leading science- and methodology center that manages and coordinates relevant research and development activities related to soil science, agrochemistry and soils protection for over twenty entities of National Academy of Agrarian Sciences of Ukraine, Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.
NGOs	
National Association of Agricultural Advisory Services of Ukraine	The purpose of the Association is to promote the improvement welfare of rural populations and rural development by increasing the knowledge and practical skills of rural populations and agricultural producers and protect the social, economic, professional and other common interests of its members.
Ukrainian Nut Association (UNA)	The goal is association of farmers, businesses, and private entities for implementing a unified strategy producing nut products, creating a common base of seedlings and planting material, enterprises for keeping and processing nut products

Legal and policy framework

Preservation and protection of arable land against land degradation and desertification is a national priority in Ukraine and is essential for ensuring sustainable development of agricultural landscapes and reduction of rural poverty. In 1999-2001, several presidential decrees accelerated the process of change in the agricultural sector. Neither the Forest Code nor the Land Code stipulated the legal aspects of using the shelterbelts, resulting in a legislative vacuum. Collective farm forests thus became "orphaned" with nobody laying claim or taking responsibility for them. Later there was an attempt to pass these agricultural forests to the State Department of Forestry (now State Forestry Resources Agency). At first, this idea was met without enthusiasm and rejected because of both objective and subjective reasons. According to the data contained in the Concept of Reformation and Development of Forestry, more than 0.4 million hectares of shelterbelts that help preserve and improve the fertility of about 13 million hectares of arable land, do not have formal landowners.

This happened because the process of obtaining ownership rights for the shelterbelts requires the land users to obtain State Acts for the Permanent Use of the relevant land. Despite the fact that the problem is acknowledged at the national level, including through allocation of state funds and local budgets for receiving State Acts for the Permanent Use of land for afforestation (state target program "Forests of Ukraine" for 2010-2015 envisaged the allocation of 106.87 million UAH), and the adequate regulations for the procedure of obtaining land for permanent use, in practice this problem is not yet resolved due to the length and the high cost of the process. One factor that significantly inhibits the development of private ownership of shelterbelts is the complexity and uncertainty of the procedures. Obtaining title deeds for degraded and unproductive land for afforestation purposes is difficult due to complicated procedure for acquiring this type of land by citizens and legal entities.

At the moment the society and stakeholders have not yet come to a common understanding as to who can be an owner/user of agroforests, and, in particular shelterbelts. There are three forms of land ownership in Ukraine: state, municipal and private. Various stakeholders propose three forms of ownership of shelterbelts. The Department of Forestry and Hunting in Kherson region proposes providing status of municipal ownership to lands under shelterbelts, while the Department of Forestry and Hunting in Poltava region proposes rendering ownership to farmers and agricultural firms. It means that even departments of the State Forest Resources Agency in different regions have different points of view. Local and regional governments also lack a common vision.

Another aspect concerns ownership of the land that the shelterbelts and forests are growing on. The State Forest Resources Agency manages 66% forest lands of Ukraine; however the Agency is a permanent land user (not land owner). The municipal enterprises also use forest lands as permanent users. The State is a landowner of state and municipal forests. The idea to pass ownership of shelterbelts to farmers and private organisations requires updating of the legislation (Land and Forestry Codes of Ukraine) and procedures in order to enable use of state lands by private landowners and landusers.

The proposed Project can thus facilitate and support discussions of various stakeholders in order to come to a common decision on shelterbelt ownership and conditions for their management and responsibilities. The Government of Ukraine considers agroforestry development and management a high priority and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine approved the Concept (Strategy) of Agroforestry Development in Ukraine by its Resolution on September 18, 2013, # 725-p. The Concept's goal is identification of areas in need of institutional changes and improvement of legislation, which will provide optimization of location of linear-type shelterbelts on a zonal basis, and provisions for their effective management. It is important to underline that the Concept pays attention only to

shelterbelts of linear type, leaving out other important types of agroforestry. The Cabinet of Ministers by its Resolution approved the Plan of Activities on Realisation of the Concept of Agroforestry Development in Ukraine on June 18, 2014 #582-p, consisting from 7 activities. The Plan includes the following activities:

1. Prepare proposals for amendments and changes to legislation and regulation on rehabilitation, use and maintenance of linear type shelterbelts (hereinafter – shelterbelts).
2. Develop a system of government incentives for rehabilitation of linear type shelterbelts.
3. Provide an inventory of land occupied by linear type shelterbelts.
4. Ensure necessary forest use regulations of linear type shelterbelts.
5. Establish a system to monitor linear type shelterbelts as part of the forests monitoring.
6. Define standards for planting linear type shelterbelts based on types of soils and natural zones.
7. Develop qualification characteristics for profession of an agroforestry meliorator.

The Project will take into account and build on the abovementioned activities related to shelterbelt management. In addition, Ukraine is on the way towards adopting climate-smart agriculture (CSA) as an overarching principle. Among key directions are development of organic agriculture, improvement and maintenance of agroforests and use of relevant agro-technologies. Below follows an overview of the legislative and regulatory framework for natural resources management that needs strengthening in order to improve the status of shelterbelts and integrated management of natural resources at the landscape level (Table 2).

Table 2. Legal and policy framework.

Name	Law/regulation number	Areas /law regulation applies to
National Law	Land Code (October 25, 2001, # 2768-III)	Amendments for changing lands ownership under agroforests and shelterbelts, exclusion of shelterbelts from lands of forestry designation, financing, etc
	Forest Code (January 21, 1994, # 3852-XII)	Amendments allowing private landowners and landusers to bear responsibility and manage shelterbelts, monitoring of shelterbelts
	Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offences (07.12.1984 # 8073-X)	Responsibility for damage to shelterbelts and administrative procedures
	Draft Law “On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine”	Allotment, changing the intended purpose of land plots for afforestation, settlement of issues regarding functional use of lands and development of plantations for energy crops fast-growing plants
	Draft Law “On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine”	Economic incentives for land use and land protection as well as for soil fertility improvement
	Draft Law of Ukraine “On Soil Preservation and Fertility Protection”	Soil Preservation and Fertility Protection. Soil improvement is very actual because the most o agricultural lands are private owned and they need special legal provisions
Government Regulations	Draft Amendments to Decree “On Approval of the List of Activities, that	Amend in order to include the rehabilitation and aforrestation of shelterbelts to a sphere of nature protection activities (additional

	Belong to Environmental Protection Measures” 17.09.1996, #1147	source of financing)
	Draft Amendments to Decree On Approval of Regulation for Land Inventory (23.05.2012, # 513	Amend in order to simplify inventory’s procedures and reduce prices for land inventory under shelterbelts
	Draft Amendments to Decree “On approval of Division of Forests into Categories and the Allocation of Specially Protective Forest Areas” 16.05.2007,#733	Awarding special protective status to shelterbelts
Presidential Decree		
Ministerial Regulation	New regulations, to be approved by the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food and the MENR	Development of the Manual on Rehabilitation and Afforestation of Shelterbelts in Ukraine
	Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food, Regulations	On Approval of Order for Organization and Execution of Forest Certification
	Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food.	“On Approval of Instruction for Development of Forestry Management”
Oblast Regulation	Regional (oblasts) programs of economic and social development	Take into consideration provisions of the Concept to combat land degradation and desertification and issues of the INRM in the course of elaboration and implementation of regional (oblasts) programs of economic and social development in a sphere of utilization and protection of lands, environment protection and sustainable use of natural resources, and adaptation to climate changes.
Rayon Regulation	Order	On inventarisation of shelterbelts

Gaps in national legislation

Gaps and inconsistencies concerning the legal status of shelterbelts that currently exist can only be addressed using a balanced and coherent state legislative policy through adoption of appropriate regulations. The following key gaps and contradictions have been identified in existing environmental legislation of Ukraine concerning the regulation of the legal status, use, care and protection of agroforestry:

1. Under the current environmental legislation, agroforests (shelterbelts) are not defined as a separate kind of forest vegetation used to deal with wind and water erosion and soil degradation, with droughts, desertification, blizzard and cold winds, and to improve useful properties of soils, resulting in increased efficiency of agricultural production. Additionally, there is no statutory definition of functional characteristics and composition of agroforestry vegetation. The solution to this problem is possible by making appropriate changes to the Forest

Code of Ukraine and the Government Decree “On approval of Division of Forests into Categories and the Allocation of Specially Protective Forest Areas”, and other regulations that apply to the division of forest types by their functional purpose.

2. Lack of legislative support for the activities of agroforestry. A separate legal act must be adopted to not only define the general principles of the agroforest soil erosion measures, such as types of agroforestry management, division of responsibility between state and local governments, farmers, landowners and landusers in agroforestry, general principles of financial security of agroforestry etc. but also the general principles of research to be undertaken by soil scientists.
3. Lack of regulatory consolidation of agroforest norms, standards and rules on creation of the agroforest vegetation, such as general principles of design and placement of agroforests, methods and techniques for protective afforestation, including efficiency indicators for the shelterbelts - the width of protective forest plantations, specific places of their location, their placement sequence, the quality of the woodlands, and so on. To address this gap, it is advisable to develop with the assistance of experts in agroforestry, a manual on creation of agroforestry vegetation on the territory of Ukraine, including recommendations on composition of plant species for afforestation of agroforestry in the all geographical zones of Ukraine. Compositions of species have to take into account resilience of planted agroforestry to climate changes in future.
4. Lack of legal regulation of the establishment and maintenance of the agro-landscapes.
5. Lack of proper regulation and monitoring of protection and care of the agroforests (and the forests in general), and monitoring of the implementation of state programs, concepts and other solutions to problems of the agroforestry (and forestry in general).

The agroforests (shelterbelts) do not have special legal definition, taking into account the specific set of environmental services provided by them.

The Cabinet of Ministries of Ukraine approved the “Strategy of Development of the Agricultural Sector for the period till 2020” on October 17, 2013 # 806-p. Among key strategic objectives of the agrarian sector development is “creation conditions for implementation of the most productive, resource-intensive and energy-efficient means of production and technologies”. The strategy does not pay attention to wider use of no-till and other land friendly technologies. These technologies are used in Ukraine. The State Statistic services do not survey farmers and other users of such technologies. The questionnaire for these purposes has not been developed in the country yet.

MENR was authorized by the Government to be in charge of forming and supervising the State policies in respect of sustainable use, reproduction and protection of natural resources; protection and sustainable use of land; conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity. There are more than 60 laws, regulations, policies, and programmes in Ukraine on various aspects of natural resources management. Nevertheless a lot of gaps were identified in the INRM of land resources, shelterbelts, CSA. Most of them are reflected in the NAP to Combat Land Degradation and Desertification of Ukraine. The NAP envisages covering some these gaps by improvement of legal and regulations base as well as implementation of other numerous actions. Among them there is preparation of:

- Draft resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine “On amendments to resolution of Cabinet of Ministries of Ukraine on Order of the collection, use and dissemination of information on desertification and land degradation”;
- Draft Regulation “On the standards for afforestation od shelterbelts considering the soil types and natural zones”;

- Draft Law of Ukraine “On Soil Preservation and Fertility Protection”;
- Draft Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine “On Amendments to the Regulation on State Environmental Monitoring System”;
- Draft Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine “On approval of the Procedure for economic incentive, use, and protection of land, and soil fertility improvement”;
- Draft Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine “On soils quality standards”;
- Draft regulation “On approval of Instruction for development of forestry management”;
- Draft regulation “On Approval of Order for Organization and Execution of Forest Certification”.

The proposed project is designed to support key aspects of the implementation of the UNCCD NAP in Ukraine and will contribute to a strengthened enabling environment for INRM.

1.1.2 Areas of intervention

The project intervention areas are located in the first-steppe and steppe zones of Ukraine in areas with fertile black soils with good agricultural potential that are currently suffering from loss of above and below carbon stocks due land degradation and inadequate management of shelterbelts and trees in the production landscape. Based on the analysis of baseline investments and opportunities to influence both the institutional, legal and policy enabling conditions as well as management interventions on-the-ground, Kharkiv, Kiev and Mykolaiyev oblasts (districts) were selected (see map Figure 1) and a number of rayons (sub-districts) within each oblast.

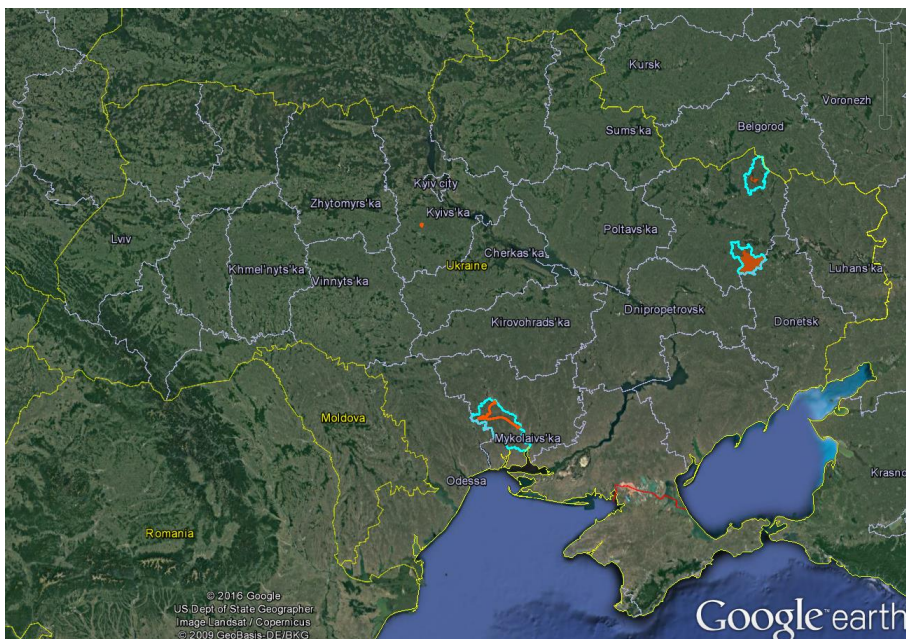


Figure 1. Project areas.

Field activities will be implemented in the following rayons:

Barvinkovskiy rayon (Kharkivska oblast) has 60 settlements and covers 136,450 ha. The total area of agriculture lands is 120,157 ha. The urban and rural population of the rayon is 24,300, including 10,104 urban and 14,280 rural people. The population density in the area is 17.8 persons/km². The area is located in the steppe zone, the climate is continental. Important natural resources of the rayon are black soils, pastures and water reservoirs, which allows for the development of crops, livestock and fisheries. Agricultural activities are dominated by crop (grain and industrial crops) and livestock (cattle breeding, sheep and pigs) production.

Velykoburlutskiy rayon (Kharkivska oblast) has 81 settlements and covers 122,080 ha. The total area of arable lands is 83,900 ha and 16,800 ha of pastures. The urban and rural population of the rayon is 22,724, including 5,576 urban and 17,148 rural people. The population density in the area is 21.7 persons/km². The area is located in the steppe zone, the climate is continental. Agriculture employs over 60% of all workers. Agricultural activities are dominated by crop (grain and industrial crops) and livestock (cattle breeding, and pigs) production. The main area of livestock production is breeding of large cattle for meat and dairy. There are 31 agricultural enterprises/farmers.

Doslidnytske village (Vasylkivskiy rayon, Kyivska oblast) has 1,911 inhabitants and is located in the forest-steppe zone at a distance 70 km from the city of Kyiv. Surrounding areas are mostly flat terrain with black soils and shelterbelts with many streams, ponds and lakes. Leonid Pogorilyi Ukrainian Scientific Research Institute on Forecasting and Testing Machinery and Technologies for Agricultural Production (USRI) is the largest organization of the village. It is subordinated to the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food (MAPF) of Ukraine. USRI has a network of regional affiliates in different parts of Ukraine and the German-Ukrainian Agricultural Demonstration and Training Centre. USRI manages 880 ha of lands, which are used for development and testing new technologies and agrarian machinery. 17 km of shelterbelts are found in the area and cover 34 ha of land.

Mykolaiivskiy rayon (Mykolaivska oblast) has 52 settlements and covers 142,990 ha. The total area of agriculture lands is 106,090 ha. Forest and shelterbelts cover 3% of rayon's area. The population of the rayon is 31,081, including 54% of women. The population density in the area is 22 persons/km². The area is located in the steppe zone, the climate is moderate continental. Agricultural activities are dominated by crop (grain and industrial crops).

Veselynivskiy rayon (Mykolaivska oblast) has 54 settlements and covers 120,000 ha. The total area of agriculture lands is 83,900 ha. The urban and rural population of the rayon is 23,380, including 8,095 urban and 15,285 rural people. 4815 persons work in agriculture. The population density in the area is 20 persons/km². The area is located in the steppe zone, the climate is moderate continental. Agricultural activities are dominated by crop (80%) and livestock production (20%). There are 19/155 agricultural enterprises/farmers.

Vosnesenskiy rayon (Mykolaivska oblast) has 47 settlements and covers 139,190 ha. The total area of agriculture lands is 112,780 ha (arable lands – 90,397 ha). The urban and rural population of the rayon is 30,600, the population density in the area is 22, 5 persons/km². The area is located in the steppe zone, the climate is moderate continental. Agricultural activities are dominated by crop (84%, grain and industrial crops) and livestock production (13%). There are 337 enterprises/farmers

1.2 THE CURRENT SITUATION

1.2.1 Threats to Global Environmental Benefits

Socio-economic transformations after the breakup of the Soviet Union together with climate change effects have been widespread in Ukraine and it has accelerated the degradation of natural resources.

Land degradation is an extremely urgent issue for Ukraine because it has a direct impact on soil fertility and agricultural production which can lead to significant economic losses (more than 6 billion US dollars annually). The most large-scale degradation processes include soil erosion by water and wind (nearly 57 percent of country's territory), inundation of land (about 12 percent), acidification (almost 18 percent), and salinization and sodification (over 6 percent). According to various criteria, approximately 20 percent of Ukrainian lands are polluted. Almost 23 thousand cases of landslides are registered yearly. Because of land degradation during 1986-2010, the humus content of Ukraine's black soils or chernozems, decreased by 0.22 percent and now is only 3.14 percent. During this period the loss of humus in the topsoil amounted to 5,500 kg per hectare.

The root causes of land degradation in Ukraine include intensive chemical-based agriculture, overuse of lands, and unsustainable forestry practices. Degradation of soils leads first to reduced productivity, causing rural incomes to fall and potentially decreasing the quality and availability of foods for rural households. Land degradation and desertification problems aggravate due to rapid climate change, accompanied by the increase of annual average temperatures, recurrence and intensity of extreme weather events including droughts, which occur every two or three years on 10 to 30 percent of country's territory and every 10-12 years on 50 to 70 percent of the total area. Gradually, climatic zones are shifting and rising temperatures are creating conditions for spread of pests and diseases affecting critical crops and tree species.

The consequences of **climate change** were observed in Ukraine in 1998 and in 2008, when it suffered from intensive floods, and again in 2009 and 2010 when the Ukrainian population witnessed abnormally hot summers. Additionally, land degradation and desertification lead to biodiversity loss, deterioration or disappearance of water bodies, exacerbation of the water supply problems for human consumption and industry and, as a consequence, worsening of people's living conditions. "Ukraine has about 63 thousand small rivers and every 10 years Ukraine loses about 5 thousand small rivers" (personal communication, Rector of State Ecological Academy Dr.O.Bondar). According to scientific research, Kyiv and surrounded areas held 126 known rare species of vascular plants. Now 42 species of them have likely disappeared. Under the CITES Convention 31 species have been identified (now 17 species have disappeared); 3 species of 13 species listed in the Bern convention have disappeared as well; 35 known species from the Red Book of Ukraine have not been found.

The poverty level of the rural population, which traditionally depends on management of land and other natural resources, has become 2-11 percent higher than the country's average during the last 10 years. This situation has led to a vicious circle of overexploitation and underinvestment in natural resources, and further land degradation. The **long-term solution** is to ensure effective management of agricultural land and trees in production landscapes so that they can perform expected functions and continue to provide ecosystem services essential for people's livelihoods, local and national development and environmental sustainability. However, there are several barriers that need to be removed to achieve this vision.

1.2.2 Baseline initiatives

Ukraine is signatory to all the major environmental conventions and protocols, and it is an active participant in the "Environment for Europe" process. However, there are few systematic efforts to integrate environment into its agricultural practices. No effective programs to restore soil fertility are in place, nor are there significant efforts to improve nutrient management. Regarding crop protection, the use of biological control techniques has dropped, due to the loss of insectaries and farmers' lack of training in IPM approaches. Organic farming offers potential for the country and has been adopted on nearly one percent of farm land. However, it is not yet receiving adequate support for scaling up to take place. Some international donors have stepped in with pilot projects. Large areas of degraded farmlands could be reforested and used as green investments to sequester carbon and mitigate climate change. The proposed project will build on these commitments as well as on a

number of ongoing projects and baseline investments in integrated management of natural resources. The most relevant initiatives are listed below:

Ecological protection and natural resources: Ukraine's Ecological Policy and Strategy until 2020 recognizes the need to enhance the integration of environmental policy into integrated environmental governance systems. This will be achieved through institutional development and strengthening of the efficiency of state governance in environment protection, development of partnerships to involve all relevant stakeholders in planning and implementation and introducing incentives for the private sector to 'green' agribusinesses and value chains, creating the conditions for adoption of environmentally friendly technologies and organic agriculture. To ensure a balanced utilization of natural resources, payment for ecosystem services is also being promoted. Ukraine's Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources is providing baseline support of around \$8.2 million to support the implementation of the policy and strategy.

In addition, Wetland International, in collaboration with the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, has supported projects on wetland biodiversity conservation to mainstream environmental considerations in agricultural landscapes of Ukraine. These projects have resulted in methods and guidelines useful for implementing INRM at the landscape scale. The UNDP/GEF project on Integrating Rio Conventions Provisions into Ukraine's National Policy Framework has supported the establishment of enabling conditions for INRM in Ukraine.

Sustainable Agriculture: Ukraine has adopted a 'Single Comprehensive Strategy and Action Plan for Agriculture and Rural Development for Ukraine for 2015-2020', which provides an inclusive and equitable strategic vision and policy framework for reform in the agricultural sector and rural development. The overall objective is to increase agricultural competitiveness and food security, and to promote sustainable rural development. Priorities also include wider application of organic farming practices, modern and efficient policies in the areas of forestry, fisheries and bioenergy that will contribute to protection of natural resources, as well as improvement of value-chains and the operations of its actors in production, processing and marketing. Baseline support from the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine to implement the Strategy and Action Plan amounts to \$4.1 million. In addition, the baseline related to SLM and sustainable agriculture also includes the following:

- The Leonid Pogorilyy Ukrainian Scientific Research Institute on Forecasting and Testing of Machinery and Technologies has an annual budget of close to \$500,000 and is, among other things, supporting transfer of innovations, such as Conservation Agriculture (no-till, minimum tillage, biotechnology) to farms in the fertile black soil/chernozem belt in Ukraine. The institute engages in demonstration activities with farmers, training and other awareness and information dissemination activities as well as international collaboration on CA.
- FAO and EBRD are supporting a series of projects in the agricultural sector that have provided capacity building to grain farmers on post-harvest handling, storage, and value chains; facilitated policy dialogues, access to credit and investments; and supported an agribusiness program. The agribusiness program benefits from transfer of skills and international best practices in sustainable agriculture and has a strong demonstration effect. Total baseline funding amounts to \$3.1 million.
- The Swiss-Ukrainian Project "Organic Market Development in Ukraine" (2012 - 2016) is funded by the Swiss Confederation with \$5.15 million through the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) and implemented by the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL, Switzerland) in cooperation with Ukrainian organic sector stakeholders and policy makers. Baseline support is being provided to facilitate the integration of Ukrainian small and medium sized enterprises into international trade through certified organic produce. The

objective is to strengthen the competitiveness of the country's organic sector by: 1) increasing the quality and trade volume of selected organic arable crops from small and medium sized farms for export; 2) increasing the quality and trade volume of organic dairy products from small and medium sized farms for the domestic market; 3) developing a trademark for regional food products from the Carpathians; 4) improving commercial organic services, and 5) fostering a conducive environment for the development of the organic sector.

- The USAID funded Agricultural and Rural Development Support Project (2016-2020) supports broad-based, resilient economic growth through a more inclusive, competitive, and better governed agriculture sector that provides attractive livelihoods to rural Ukrainians. It will create a better enabling environment for agricultural small and medium enterprises (SMEs) by strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture to implement sector reforms, by developing a transparent legal framework for agricultural land markets, and by implementing reforms that attract irrigation system modernization investments. The Agriculture and Rural Development Support Project will improve agriculture sector competitiveness by supporting agricultural SMEs to introduce international quality and safety standards and take advantage of the trade opportunities available through the EU Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement. The project will support rural development by expanding employment and income opportunities and supporting target rural communities to develop viable economic strategies that stimulate economic growth. The funding over the four-year period amounts to USD 20 million.

Shelterbelt Management: The majority of forest land in Ukraine (73%) is state owned and under the management of the State Forest Resources Agency. The State Forest Resource Agency and its territorial departments implement state policy related to forest management, protection and conservation, sustainable forest management, and regeneration of forest resources, to improve the efficiency of forest management. It supports forest management at the local level through state forestry enterprises that are responsible for the full range of activities along the value chain from planting, felling and primary wood processing. State forest enterprises are also involved in afforestation of agricultural lands to improve soil fertility and reduce erosion. During Soviet times, 1.4 million ha of soil protection stands were created, including 440,000 ha of shelterbelts. Over the past three years, the average forest regeneration has been 54,000 ha per year. Tree nurseries have also been created on 3,600 ha of land.

The baseline support to shelterbelt management also includes significant investments from the the Ukraine Railway Company (URC) that manages 84,000 ha of land, including shelterbelts alongside the railways. Over the last 5 years, the URC has spent around USD200 million on environmental projects. In 2015 alone around USD11.5 million were spent on nature protection and environmental management. In addition, AgroGeneration, an agricultural company active in Kharkiv, Lviv, Sumy, Zhytomir and Ternopil oblasts, produces grains and oilseeds adapted to the specific regions of operation. Environmental sustainability is a part of the company's overall management. The company invests in modern agricultural machinery and uses minimum tillage methods to minimize erosion and preserve soil moisture and nutrients. As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), AgroGeneration supports underprivileged members of society by creating jobs for local residents. Improved shelterbelt management that generates both environmental and socio-economic benefits could become part of such a strategy.

The Ukrainian Railways are authorized and manages 88,800 ha of railway shelterbelts in the country. Despite the very large area of shelterbelts the company considers its area as not sufficient. 18,200 km of railway roads critically need protection by shelterbelts; however among them only 13,200 km (72.5%) are protected. Shelterbelts along the railway have protective, meliorative, recreation, landscape and ecological purposes. They perform also nature protection, social and economic

functions. These additional functions resulted in broadening railway shelterbelts in a 5-10 times (100-200m).

Monitoring of lands and soils. The UNCCD COP 12 endorsed SDG 15, target 15.3 and the concept of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) as a strong vehicle for driving the implementation of the Convention, agreed on a definition of LDN and invited country Parties to set LDN national voluntary targets. According to decisions 22/COP11 and 15/COP12 of the UNCCD, the following indicators are recommended for monitoring of progress towards LDN: land cover; land productivity; and carbon stocks (metric: soil organic carbon (SOC) stock).

FAO and the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) Secretariat were approached by the UNCCD Secretariat to share information about the GSP and the possible pathways to contribute to improving soil carbon knowledge and data. During the 5th Session of the GSP's Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS) held during March 2016, collaboration between ITPS and the Science Policy Inter-face of the UNCCD, the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was discussed. **GSP/ITPS were requested to conduct a global SOC assessment based on country-level spatial soil data sets, combined to a new global SOC map.** As an action of the GSP and its members, this task would directly relate to SDG 15.3.1, and would also support the endorsed metrics for the assessment of LDN.

Subsequently, the GSP Secretariat informed all the partners, including the National Scientific Centre «Institute for Soil Science and Agrochemistry Research named after O.N. Sokolovsky» of the National Academy of Agrarian Science of Ukraine (NSC) that Global SOC map will be developed based on **national soil organic carbon (SOC) maps**. These maps will provide a basis for monitoring of carbon stocks in soils and impacts of land degradation. The NSC has technical and intellectual capacity to develop such maps and it is located in the Eastern Project area. The project will initiate steps towards development of a national-wide system of soil carbon monitoring, which can be verified in the Project area. This monitoring system is also to be reflected in amendments to relevant resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, including “On Approval of the Order of Soil Monitoring at Lands of Agricultural Designation” (26.02.2004 #51); “On Approval of the Order of State Land Monitoring” (20.08.1993 #661); and On Approval of Regulations on the State Environmental Monitoring System” (30.03.1998 # 391).

1.2.3 Remaining barriers

Thus, remaining barriers to integrated management of natural resources that need to be overcome to improve the management of Ukraine's agricultural landscapes to safeguard critical ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration and prevention of soil erosion, as well as food production are related to:

- Inadequate policy and institutional structures and legislation for sustainable management of land and forest resources, including insufficient coordination across sectors with responsibility for land and forest management, including environment, agriculture, as well as other departments' and industries' oriented measures related to combating land degradation and desertification; and unclear ownership and tenure rights for certain types of land, such as shelterbelts;
- Inadequate financial resources allocated for solving issues related to conservation and sustainable use of land and forest resource and lack of economic incentives. For example, mobilisation of resources using market-based mechanisms, such as Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) and value-chains, is hampered by lack of clear rules and criteria;
- Unsatisfactory state of land-use planning, particularly the development of documentation for conservation of lands and implementation of the planned measures, as well as insufficient

provision of information for the State Land Cadastre system. Problems include: unjustifiably high levels of economic (mainly agricultural) use of the territory and unbalanced land use; poor location of industrial and residential properties, in particular location of water demanding facilities without taking availability of local water resources into consideration; insufficient area of lands allocated to conservation of the environment, recreation and tourism, and for conservation of cultural heritage;

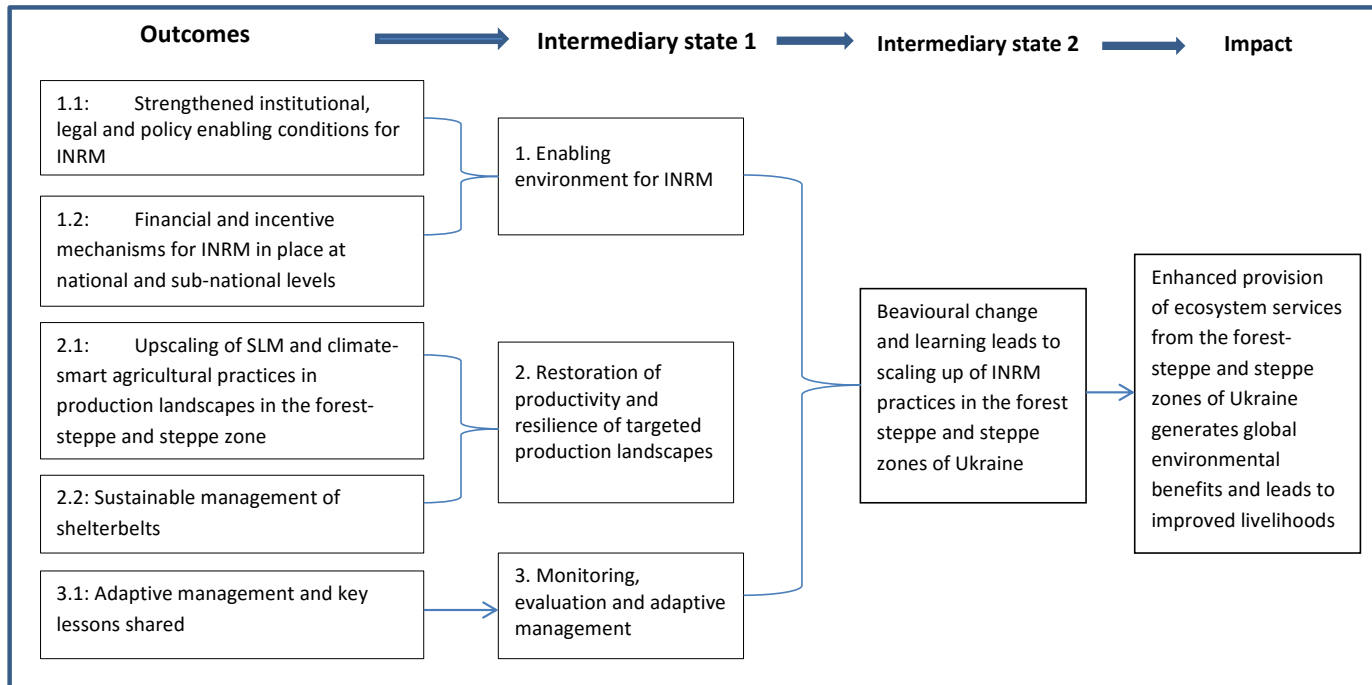
- Failure to operationalize science-based principles of land use and basics of cropping, including failure to follow rotation plans, recommendations to reduce the applied agrochemicals, for the most part fertilizers, including organic fertilizers. This is partly linked to: the insufficient functional maintenance of the state monitoring system of land and environment, of the drought and early warning monitoring system, as well as of the hydrometeorological observation network; insufficient level of government units' access to the material, technical and human resources as related to management of land and other natural resources; inadequate use of modern technologies, including geoinformation technologies and remote sensing as well as innovative scientific findings in the area of making and implementing managerial decisions; and finally, low awareness level among the population, resulting in lack of interest and capacity of the land owners and users in ensuring the sustainable use of land and forests.

1.3 THE GEF ALTERNATIVE

1.3.1 Project strategy

In order to address the challenges related to integrated management of natural resources in Ukraine and to fill the gaps in the baseline, there is a need to strengthen the policy and institutional environment, ensuring inter-sectoral collaboration in order to promote a balanced approach to economic development, land use, and environmental concerns. To support integrated land-use management planning, the state environmental monitoring system needs strengthening for land resources (along with the large-scale soil inspections and creation of agrochemical passports), forests and water resources. Economic incentives for landowners and land users should be identified to encourage ecologically balanced activities, protection of soils and restoration of their fertility. There is also a need to ensure widespread implementation of environmentally balanced land use technologies, such as climate-smart agriculture and agroforestry that protect critical ecosystem services, while also generating more short-term benefits to land users. The project has therefore been designed around three components that will: (i) create an enabling environment for INRM in Ukraine at national and sub-national level; (ii) restore the productivity and resilience of production landscapes through INRM; and (iii) ensure learning and sharing of lessons learned through effective project monitoring and evaluation and adaptive management. The Project theory of change is summarised in Figure 2.

Figure 2. Project Theory of Change



1.3.2 Project objectives, outcomes and outputs

The objective of the project is to promote restoration of degraded landscapes in the forest-steppe and steppe zones of Ukraine through upscaling of integrated natural resources management practices. It will be achieved through three components with related outcomes and outputs:

Component 1: Enabling environment for INRM

Outcome 1.1: Strengthened institutional, legal and policy enabling conditions for INRM

This outcome will be led by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR) and provides the critical first step for integrating environmental concerns into sector policies and legislation related to agriculture, combating land degradation and shelterbelt management. Institutional structures and legislation will be strengthened, especially for shelterbelts that today have an unclear status with respect to ownership and management responsibility. Monitoring systems and spatial planning will also be strengthened with the help of remote sensing and geospatial data, and improved access to information. The outcome will be achieved through four outputs:

1.1.1 Strengthening of the Coordinating Council to combat land degradation and desertification (CC-LDD) to support intersectoral coordination for INRM at national and sub-national level. The Coordinating Council was established based on a decision by the Cabinet of Ministers and is chaired by MENR. Its membership also includes the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food (MAPF), Ministry of Regional Development, Construction and Housing, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Policy, Ukraine State Service for Geodesy, Cartography and Cadaster, State Forestry Resources Agency (SFRA), State Agency for Exclusion Zone Management, State Space Agency, State Services for Emergency Management, State Geological and Mineral Resources Survey, National Academy of Agrarian Sciences, National Academy of Sciences, as well as other stakeholders, institutions and organizations, including NGOs.

The project will strengthen linkages and synergies among sectors and establish favourable conditions for policy integration and mainstreaming of issues, such as drought management, and establishment of joint monitoring systems using remote sensing. It will also ensure that a government budget is assigned for the CC-LDD operations, and that information is shared across sectors on a regular basis.

1.1.2 Improved institutional structures and legislation for sustainable land and shelterbelt management. No INRM principles have been agreed at national level and the existing policy framework is full of loopholes. The output will directly support priority 1 of Ukraine's UNCCD NAP on strengthening the policy in the sphere of protection and sustainable use of lands and other natural resources, protection of soils and rehabilitation of their fertility, including the regulatory support. This involves support to working out draft laws and regulations on: functional land use; economic incentives for sustainable land use, protection and soil fertility improvement; drought management; environmental monitoring systems; soil quality standards; and ownership and management of shelterbelts.

1.1.3 Strengthened national environmental monitoring system for land and shelterbelt resources and land degradation control. Tools and methods for environmental monitoring at national level are not up-to-date nor are they harmonized, which makes it difficult to use the generated information for land-use planning. Achieving this output involves conducting land inventory and improving land and soil monitoring at selected project sites, identifying biophysical and socio-economic criteria for land zoning and spatial planning, and creating a unified land information system. All relevant institutions will be trained in the use of up-to date tools and methods for environmental monitoring and land-use planning. This output will also be used to establishing criteria for a Land Degradation

Neutrality (LDN) system, Ukraine having committed to set a voluntary LDN target. The NSC and Ukrainian Centre of Soil Ecology will support the delivery of this output using new technology for soil monitoring, archived soil samples and remote sensing that will also be translated into advice to land users.

1.1.4 Establishment of a Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) monitoring system. Ukraine has committed to set a voluntary LDN target. A monitoring system will be established for the three global LDN indicators adopted by the UNCCD - land cover, land productivity and carbon stocks, and they will be monitored through remote sensing and NDVI, and soil monitoring. Collect Earth will be used for land cover assessment. It is a free and open source software for land monitoring developed by FAO. Built on Google desktop and cloud computing technologies, Collect Earth facilitates access to multiple freely available archives of satellite imagery, including archives with very high spatial resolution imagery (Google Earth, Bing Maps) and those with very high temporal resolution imagery (e.g., Google Earth Engine, Google Earth Engine Code Editor). In addition, mobile apps developed by the Land-Potential Knowledge System (LandPKS) will be tested and used to assess land potential. The NSC and Ukrainian Centre of Soil Ecology will support the delivery of this output using new technology for soil monitoring, archived soil samples and remote sensing that will also be translated into advice to land users.

1.1.5 Integrated land-use management plans at administrative region level. Integrated land-use planning that is also participatory has so far not been applied in Ukraine. The initial focus will be on Barvinkovskyi rayon located in the steppe zone of Ukraine and Velukoburlutskyi rayon located in the forest-steppe zone. Both rayons are within Kharkivska oblast. Two separate INRM plans will be developed taking into account the specifics of the two zones and they will cover lands used for intensive agriculture, pasture and hay fields, shelter belts and forest management for a total of 250,000 ha of land. The plans will be developed, discussed with various stakeholders and submitted to the Barvinkovskyi and Velukoburlutskyi rayon governments for approval. These plans will serve as model INRM plans for wide use in both zones of Ukraine. The method used will draw on FAO's extensive experience of participatory land-use planning. Synergies and collaboration will be established with the FAO/GEF project on Decision Support for mainstreaming and scaling up SLM (DS-SLM) and the FAO Global Soil Partnership.

Outcome 1.2: Financial and incentive mechanisms for INRM in place at national and sub-national levels

Enhanced access to financial resources is crucial for improving the management of natural resources in Ukraine, both through state-led and market-based mechanisms. This requires clarification of ownership rights, especially of shelterbelts, development of criteria for payment for ecosystem services (PES) schemes, and agreement on criteria for making value chains more inclusive and environmentally friendly for selected crops. This will be achieved through the following outputs:

1.2.1 Ownership rights, procedures of inventory and standards for management and planting of shelterbelts based on types of soils and natural zones defined. This output will assist the Ukrainian government to carry out the Plan of Activities on Realisation of the Concept of Agroforestry Development in Ukraine adopted by the Cabinet of of Ukraine on June 18, 2014 #582-p. The uncertainty of ownership rights for shelterbelts is the main obstacle for their rehabilitation and sustainable use in Ukraine. The Project will assist with identification of ownership rights, use of remote sensing and GIS for inventory of shelterbelts, and involve scientists for the development of the above-mentioned standards.

1.2.2 Clear criteria and indicators developed for establishment of PES schemes for INRM. Ukraine has very limited experience with mechanisms for scaling up of INRM, such as PES, and there is a need to establish clear criteria and indicators. The shelterbelts protect soils from erosion, conserve humidity

of nearby lands, deliver timber, non-timber forest products (NTFPs) and provide other environment services which increase incomes of farmers. The Project will prepare criteria, indicators and proposals for payments to local communities from farmers for use of shelterbelts' environmental services. The WWF's experience in developing PES schemes will be used with a focus on the selected project areas.

1.2.3 Inclusive and green food and feed value-chains strengthened (e.g. cereals, oil seeds, selected non-timber forest products). Value-chains are generally neither sufficiently inclusive nor environmentally friendly. Entry points for making value chains greener and more inclusive for local communities will therefore be identified together with key project partners, such as the USAID project on Agricultural and Rural Development, UNA and AgroGeneration. For agricultural land, the focus will be on cereals, and for shelterbelts on fruits, such as dried plums, nuts and other NTFPs, such as honey. This involves support to identifying opportunities for certification, branding strategies, etc. in collaboration with agricultural cooperatives in order to develop models on sustainable economic development at the local level.

The value chain selection will adopt a participatory approach based on the "Markets for the Poor (M4P)" methodology. The term M4P, now more commonly known as Market Systems Development¹, refers to an approach in aid and development known as 'Making Markets Work for the Poor'. It seeks to change the way that markets work, so that poor people are included in the benefits of growth and economic development. The aim is to tackle market failures and strengthen the private sector in a way that creates large-scale, lasting benefits for the poor. The approach utilises systems analysis as a means of diagnosing and addressing the constraints that face poor and disadvantaged people in improving their position within markets. This selection process will have two steps: (i) definition of the selection criteria and (ii) ranking of the selected commodities/products. The identification process will be based on a number of workshops that would include participants that represent all levels of the value chain – producers, processors, distributors – as well as local government and programme staff. Engaging stakeholders from across the agricultural economic sector (along the entire production to final sale chain) into the selection process ensures by-in both into the pro-poor approach, as well as the selection of commodity value chains most appropriate for sustainable development.

Component 2: Restoration of productivity and resilience of production landscapes

Outcome 2.1: Upscaling of SLM and climate-smart agricultural practices in production landscapes in the forest-steppe and steppe zone (29 400 ha under SLM; sequestration of 277 675tCO₂eq)

SLM and CSA technologies are applied in isolated locations in Ukraine promoted by research institutes and agro-enterprises that are not well connected to higher level planning and decision-making processes. Capacity to scale up conservation agriculture with no-till and minimum tillage, use of green manure and useful micro-flora in the forest-steppe and steppe zones will be developed. This is a sustainable and effective climate-smart agricultural practice, which will reduce soil erosion and enhance carbon stocks in the rich chernozems that cover most of these agro-ecological zones. So far, it is mainly the steppe area that has adopted CA and only on 2% of soils. There is therefore need for demonstrations of CA for the main crops grown in the forest-steppe zone, such as different cereals and oil seeds. Demonstration activities are expected to be upscaled to roughly 140,000 ha of land at the Oblast level with the support of government and private sector co-financing. The following outputs will lead to this outcome:

¹ The Springfield Centre, 2015: The Operational Guide for the Making Markets Work for the Poor (M4P) Approach, 2nd edition funded by SDC & DFID

2.1.1 Capacity to implement Conservation Agriculture in the forest-steppe zone developed and strengthened. Agricultural service providers have limited knowledge and technical skill related to CA. This output therefore involves strengthening the capacity of agricultural service providers from both the public and private sector. The output will be delivered by The Leonid Pogorilyy Ukrainian Scientific Research Institute on Forecasting and Testing of Machinery and Technologies (USRI) and its regional network, including the German-Ukrainian Agricultural Demonstration and Training Centre. It will also involve collaboration with Agrogeneration to learn from its experiences with CA in Kharkiv oblast. Farmer Field Schools (FFS) will be established where appropriate and peer-learning will also be supported through farmer-to-farmer exchange visits. The USRI will select names and characteristics of agriculture machinery and equipment used for no-till and minimum-tillage in order to strengthen statistical information on use of such machinery and no-till and minimum-tillage in the country. It will enhance efforts for implementation of CA at the state level. Collection of such statistical information will also facilitate elaboration of draft regulations on CA.

2.1.2. CA practices demonstrated and upscaled (for cereals – wheat, barley, rye, corn - oil seeds, sunflowers, canola) on 29 400 ha and 140 000 ha of land, respectively. It is mainly the steppe area in Ukraine that has adopted CA to a limited extent. USRI will support transfer of innovations in conservation agriculture (no-till, minimum tillage with use of green manure and useful micro-fauna) to farms in the selected oblasts, where demonstration activities with farmers, training through FFS and other awareness and information dissemination activities will be supported. Agrogeneration will share its expertise on CA and precision farming in Barvinkovskyi and Velykoburlutskyi rayons and contribute to development of recommendations to farmers and agro-enterprises on wider use of conservation agriculture technologies and practices.

2.1.3 Identification and support to the special needs of rural women at project sites to ensure that their important role in agriculture is recognized and that they reap the benefits of investments in climate-smart agriculture. The feminsation of agriculture in Ukraine has led to over-representation of women in rural areas and they often shoulder the main responsibility for agricultural activities. Support will be provided to sensitisation on gender of agricultural advisory/extension services linked to agricultural cooperative development, establishment of networks of rural women and “women to women” visits, and training of young women entrepreneurs in computer skills, business management and basic accounting. The project will also support public advocacy for rural women’s rights in the selected oblasts. The NGO Women's Information Consultative Center (WICC) will take the lead in supporting these activities.

Outcome 2.2: Rehabilitation and sustainable management of shelterbelts (3 600 ha of shelterbelts, sequestration of 87 821 tCO₂e)

To improve the management of shelterbelts in the agricultural lands of the forest-steppe and steppe zones that have been allowed to degrade and deteriorate since independence due to unclear ownership, guidelines will be developed and capacity strengthened to undertake inventories using modern information and communication technology, such as satellite images, digitized geospatial information accessible through smartphones and tablets. This will be coupled with demonstrations of rehabilitation and multipurpose shelterbelt management for erosion control, carbon sequestration and income generation through e.g. NTFPs from *Robinia pseudoacacia* (black locust), fruit trees, linden, bushes, yellow acacia (*Caragana arborescens*), etc.

Demonstration activities are expected to be upscaled to approximately 90,800 ha. Key institutions that will participate in this sub-component are the State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine, Ukrainian Nut Association (UNA), AgroGeneration and the Ukrainian Railway Company (URC). The UNA has confirmed interest of using shelterbelts for planting all types of nuts once the legal status for these areas is determined. The participation of the UNA will also have significant implications in terms of long term sustainability as it brings their experience in value chain development. The URC

will co-finance shelterbelt rehabilitation in the steppe zone to reduce soil erosion and to improve ecological functions. AgroGeneration will rehabilitate shelterbelts and enhance their NTFPs, which will increase income of local populations. Additional benefits include carbon sequestration and improved habitat connectivity. Outputs include:

2.2.1 Guidelines and capacity for inventory and management of shelterbelts developed

The existing government regulations for Land Inventory (23.05.2012, # 513), approved by the Cabinet of Ministry does not take into account specifics of shelterbelts. The procedures for land inventory envisaged by the regulations are very expensive, complicated and time consuming. The regulations will be amended in order to simplify and improve land inventory under shelterbelts. The special recommendations will be developed for sustainable management of shelterbelts taking into account various geographical, soils, climate conditions and ownership of shelterbelts. The government should leave possibility for authorised bodies (to be determined) to supervise the outcomes of the shelterbelts management and improve it (if necessary). This output will therefore be supported not only by government bodies, but also by USRI, Agrogeneration and Ukraine Railways in the respective oblasts where they are active in the project.

2.2.2 Rehabilitation and multipurpose shelterbelt management demonstrated and improved (for erosion control and income generation through e.g. NTFPs) on 3 600 ha and 90 800 ha of land respectively

Shelterbelts are important for mitigation of climate change, keeping soil moisture, increasing crop production, and generation of additional incomes from forest and NTFPs and for protection of biodiversity. The protection of biodiversity by shelterbelts is one of the government priorities. Ukraine develops the National Ecological Network and according to the Law of Ukraine "On Forming National Ecological Network of Ukraine for 2000-2015" (21.09.2000, #1989-III) and the shelterbelts are components of the network. Shelterbelts cover 1.07% of country's area and are key landscapes providing migration routes and refugia for wildlife.

The Project will demonstrate how to rehabilitate shelterbelts and the application of sustainable agroforestry practices. For example, planting *Robinia pseudoacaci* and yellow acacia (*Caragana arborescens*) will generate production of honey and timber. Location of bees in shelterbelts increases sunflower yield and fruits. Fruit and nut trees generate income for local population and landusers, etc.

Component 3: Monitoring, evaluation and adaptive management

Outcome 3.1: Adaptive management and key lessons shared (M&E system ensuring timely delivery of project benefits)

This component will ensure that project's progress is tracked and periodic evaluations are conducted for learning and adaptive management. The STAP Guidelines on Resilience, Adaptation and Transformation Assessment (RAPTA) will be applied during project inception and at mid-term to see whether project implementation strategies and pathways need to be adapted to integrate resilience to climate change and other external stressors into INRM approaches. Project results, innovative approaches and achievements will be disseminated for replication and scaling up. It will be delivered through the following outputs:

3.1.1. Project progress continually monitored, mid-term and final evaluation conducted. A project M&E system will be established to measure project progress and impacts in terms of multiple global environmental benefits (GEBs), social and economic benefits. Baseline and targets for project indicators will be refined and used for monitoring project progress and impacts and reporting through three annual project reports (PIRS) submitted to GEF Secretariat and 6 half-yearly project

progress reports submitted by the PMU to LTU and the FAO/GEF unit. A mid-term evaluation will be carried out with field visits to project sites and consultation with project partners at national and sub-national level. A final evaluation will also be conducted and will include review of project reports, web-based information, and field visits to selected sites, with recommendations for ensuring sustainability of project outcomes.

3.1.2 Assessment of resilience of tested INRM approaches and feeding back of lessons to field level. Resilience is generally not taken into consideration in NRM activities in Ukraine. The project will therefore apply the GEF/STAP RAPTA Guidelines² during project inception and at mid-term to ensure that the project follows the most appropriate implementation pathway. The RAPTA involves development of a multi-stakeholder engagement plan; detailed description of the key socio-ecological systems in project areas; assessment of the systems, including general resilience and specified resilience, and identification of needs for adaptation and/or transformation.

3.1.3 Project achievements, results, and innovative approaches recorded and disseminated. The awareness of INRM, including SLM, CA and CSA is generally low in Ukraine. The output focuses on synthesizing best practices and lessons learnt from the project and dissemination of results. It will support development of a communication and dissemination plan with clearly identified target audiences, and establishment of a project website and social media pages. It will support development of outreach material and publications that will be published and also disseminated through modern ICT, including mobile phones and tablets. The project will produce information materials as well as public awareness publications for the annual celebration of World Day to Combat Desertification (17 June).

Project location. The project area that is located within the forest-steppe and steppe zones will work in parts of the Kyiv, Kharkiv and Mykolayiv oblasts (Table 3):

² O'Connell, D., Abel, N., Grigg, N., Maru, Y., Butler, J., Cowie, A., Stone-Jovicich, S., Walker, B., Wise, R., Ruhweza, A., Pearson, L., Ryan, P., Stafford Smith, M. (2016). "Designing projects in a rapidly changing world: Guidelines for embedding resilience, adaptation and transformation into sustainable development projects. (Version 1.0)". Global Environment Facility, Washington, D.C.

Table 3. Description of project sites.

Oblast	Name of demo site	Size of demo area (ha)/ # of people	Implementation phase (years)	Capitalisation phase (years)	Upscaling area (ha)/ # of people	Implementation phase	Capitalisation phase	Land use	INRM interventions by the project
Kyiv	Doslidnytske	1000/1911	2018-2020	2020-2040	20 000/5 300	2020- 2025	2025-2065	Arable lands and shelterbelts	CA/CSA technologies – developed and disseminated , trainings held, shelterbelts rehabilitated
Kharkiv	Barvinkovskiy	25 000/18 800 (9 937)	2018-2020	2020-2060	122 800/58 000	2020- 2025	2025-2065	Arable lands and shelterbelts	Shelterbelts/ agroforestry & CA, soil monitoring for land degradation developed
	Velykoburlutskiy	4 000/6 359 (1 954)	2018-2020	2020-2050		2020- 2025	2025-2065		
Mykolaiv	Mykolaivskiy	3 000/48 000	2018-2020	2020-2050	88 000/300 000	2020- 2025	2025-2065	Shelterbelts	Shelterbelts/ agroforestry
TOTAL		33 000 ha/75 707 people (51-54% women)			230 800 ha/363 300 people (51-54% women)				

1.3.3 Project Stakeholders

The project will work with a wide array of stakeholders, from the local, national level to international level. The main stakeholders include (Table 4):

Table 4. Project stakeholders.

Stakeholder	Role in Project
International	
FAO	FAO has extensive experience in supporting agriculture and forest sector policy reform in Ukraine, and in SLM and INRM. It will be the GEF agency for the project and provide support to implementation and execution of project activities, and technical backstopping.
National	
Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources	The Ministry is in charge of implementation of the United Nation Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in Ukraine and a leading organization in imlementation of the National Action Plan to Combat Land Degradation and Desertification approved by the Government. The MENR will play a major role in the project and host the Project Steering Committee and coordinate participation of other Ministries, state agencies and other stakeholders in project implementation. It will play a key role in coordination of activities under first and third Project components and contribute to national, regional and local level of the INRM and development planning processes and underlying government staff and infrastructure, including relevant legal expertise.
Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food	It will lead the development of minimum agri-ecological standards, conservation agriculture, and the development of organic farming and other activities under Project component 2, which should contribute to the integration of environmental and climate change concerns into agriculture and rural development, as well as will take part in other relevant project activites.
State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine	The Agency will be responsible for improvement of ownership and strengthened management systems of shelterbelts and agroforestry. It will also be involved in policy related work under component 1.
Leonid Pogorilyy Ukrainian Scientific Research Institute on Forecasting and Testing Machinery and Technologies for Agricultural Production	The Institute will be involved in demonstrating and disseminating agricultural practices related to climate-smart agriculture and relevant training activities.
National Scientific Center "Institute of Soil Scince and Agrochemistry Research named	Centre will prepare a model map on sequestration of carbon in soils of Kharkivska oblast (to be used as a baseline for monitoring of carbon sequestration)

Stakeholder	Role in Project
after O.N.Sokolovsky”	
State Ecological Academy of Post-Graduate Education and Management	The Academy will be involved in GIS-mapping and planning, as well as in implementation of INRM.
Ukrainian Center of Ecology of Soils	UCES is a leading Ukrainian organization which can carry out the monitoring of land fertility and degradation. It will be an important partner in component 1.
State Institution “Soils Protection Institute of Ukraine”	The leading scientific organization on soil protection in Ukraine. With its affiliates in each region of Ukraine it will participate in strengthening national environmental monitoring systems and sustainable land use development
CSO InterEcoCentre	Closely involved in development of the UNCCD NAP and reporting to the UNCCD. Will be an important partner in component 1 of the project and policy development for INRM.
Participating regional/oblast government authorities	Regional/oblast government authorities will carry out different infrastructure and social projects in the project area in order to improve socio-economic conditions of the inhabitants of the area (including green tourism).
Ukrainian Nut Association	Will participate in component 2, supporting the planting of all kinds of nuts in shelterbelts. The UNA brings significant experience in the development of value chains.
Sub-national	
Oblast Governments	Will support and participate in project activities in its oblast.
Rayon Councils	Will support and participate in project activities in its rayon.
Farmers and agricultural producers	Farmers and other relevant local stakeholders will participate in project demonstration activities on SLM and climate smart agriculture, as well as SFM, harvesting of NTFPs, etc.
Farmers organisations	Organisations for heads of villages Organisation of advisory services for smallholders Association of Agricultural Service Cooperatives
Women’s Associations	“Women’s Information Consultative Center” will support gender specific activities to support climate-smart agriculture. The Center started as a non-governmental, non-profit organization in 1995. Its mission is to strengthen the voice, impact and influence of women’s rights advocates, organizations and movements internationally to effectively advance gender equality.
Private sector	
Ukraine Railway Company	Will be an important partner in component 2, particularly in the development and rehabilitation of of shelterbelts in Mykolayev oblast.
AgroGeneration	AgroGeneration is an agricultural company which has c.a. 120,000 hectares of arable land in Ukraine, including in Kharkiv oblast where the company will work with the project to test new CA practices and strengthen the management of shelterbelts

Stakeholder	Role in Project
	together with local communities.

Gender considerations

Women represent more than 53% of Ukraine’s rural population and reportedly own 60% of land. However, the needs of rural women in Ukraine are not fully recognised at national level. Challenges that need to be addressed include income inequality, and inadequate participation in decision-making processes. The average monthly salary of women working in the agricultural sector is only 89% of that of men and over a third of rural women do not participate in decision-making. The age gap between rural women and men are higher than that in the cities – women over 60 years old constitute one third of rural population compared to one quarter in urban areas. Most single-parent households in rural areas are headed by women and face challenges related to weak economic security, underdeveloped infrastructure and poor access to social services.

To take into consideration the above concerns, the proposed project, in compliance with the GEF Policy on Gender Mainstreaming (PL/SD/02. May 1, 2012) and FAO Gender Equality Policy will aim to contributing to the following objectives:

- Promote equal participation of rural women in decision-making by providing support to rural women’s groups and associations, identifying, supporting and strengthening the role of women-leaders in rural communities and rural institutions as village councils, and actively engaging them in the project activities as participants and beneficiaries;
- Promote rural women’s equal access to and control over decent employment and income, land, forestry and other productive resources, by taking into account their status, responsibilities and daily practices which will be assessed with respect to the SLM and SFM practices addressed by the Project;
- Encourage rural women’s equal access to goods and services for agricultural development and to markets by actively engaging women in the value-chains for selected agricultural and forest products;
- Contribute to the reduction of rural women’s work burden, by facilitating their improved access to new technologies, services and infrastructure, as well as knowledge and information.

The project will benefit from FAO REU gender expertise and engage national gender experts. All project implementation staff will be provided gender sensitization training at the inception stage. FAO check-lists for gender mainstreaming will be reviewed, adjusted to the relevant context and applied by the project management throughout the entire project cycle. The project design includes a specific output to address gender disparities in agriculture: ‘Identification and support to the special needs of rural women at project sites to ensure that their important role in agriculture is recognized and that they reap the benefits of investments in climate-smart agriculture’, which will ensure that women’s needs are taken into consideration by the project. Gender considerations and participatory approaches will also be specifically taken into account at monitoring and evaluation, through the specific assessment.

1.3.4 Expected global environmental and adaptation benefits

As a result of implementation of the project, the following global environmental and socio-economic benefits will be generated:

- Improved provision of ecosystem services from 33 000 ha degraded agricultural land and shelterbelts, such as enhancement of productivity (%) and reduction of soil erosion, with scaling up on a total of 230 800 ha;
- Sequestration of carbon in black soils/chernozem soils and shelterbelts amounting to a total of 365 496 tCO₂eq ; and
- Improved living conditions of local communities in the targeted areas, including increase in incomes and creation of new job opportunities along selected value chains benefitting around 75,700 people with upscaling potential to 363 300 people of which around 52% are women.

The carbon benefits of the project were calculated using the FAO EX-ACT GHG appraisal tool, using default IPCC coefficients (HAC soil, cool temperate moist climate, 3 years project with 16 years capitalization), as follows:

Table 5. Carbon benefits of project.

Project Name	Ukraine GEF - CA and she		Climate	Cool Temperate (Moist)			Duration of the Project (Years)		19		
Continent	Eastern Europe		Dominant Regional Soil Type	HAC Soils			Total area (ha)		33000		
Components of the project	Gross fluxes			Share per GHG of the Balance					Result per year		
	Without	With	Balance	All GHG in tCO ₂ eq			N ₂ O	CH ₄	Without	With	Balance
	All GHG in tCO ₂ eq			CO ₂							
	Positive = source / negative = sink			Biomass	Soil	Other					
Land use changes											
Deforestation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Afforestation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other LUC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Agriculture											
Annual	-307,230	-584,905	-277,675	0	-303,555	0	25,880	0	-16,170	-30,784	-14,614
Perennial	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rice	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grassland & Livestocks											
Grassland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Livestocks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Degradation & Management											
Coastal wetlands	0	-87,821	-87,821	-60,390	-27,431	0	0	0	0	-4,622	-4,622
Inputs & Investments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fishery & Aquaculture	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	-307,230	-672,726	-365,496	-60,390	-330,986	0	25,880	0	-16,170	-35,407	-19,237
Per hectare	-9	-20	-11	-1.8	-10.0	0.0	0.8	0.0			
Per hectare per year	-0.5	-1.1	-0.6	-0.1	-0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.5	-1.1	-0.6

1.4 LESSONS LEARNED

Key inputs derived from FAO's experience from similar projects incorporated into project design include the following:

- The project should include a broad and diverse number of stakeholders with representatives of line ministries, the private sector and civil society, and when relevant, regional and international institutions;
- Flexibility should be integrated into project design to allow for changing conditions that may occur between the design phase and actual implementation;
- Projects supporting integrated natural resources management should adopt a holistic ecosystem based approach and address the main barriers and associated economic and regulatory issues at the design stage;

- iv. A phased approach to the testing and upscaling of new technologies is required (e.g. for climate-smart agriculture and shelterbelt management) to inform the formulation of relevant policies and legislation;
- v. Overly ambitious project design should be avoided and assumptions critically verified;
- vi. The use of business models for sustained action beyond the project cycle;
- vii. Given the significant differences between men and women involved in agricultural production and farming in terms of access to resources, knowledge and decision-making, a gender-sensitive approach that aims to mitigate historical inequalities is required in project design, implementation and M&E; and
- viii. Participatory design of an agreement on specific M&E plan elements and indicators is advisable.

1.5 STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

1.5.1 Consistency with national development goals and policies

The project fits in the framework of the:

- “Strategy for Sustainable Development “Ukraine-2020” (*Decree of the President of Ukraine dated 12.01.2015, #5/2015*);
- Goal 15 of the SDGs “Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss” (*implementation of SDGs goals was supported by the President of Ukraine and the Government*);
- The Main Principles (Strategy) of National Ecological Policy of Ukraine until 2020 (Law of Ukraine #2818-VI dated 21.12.2010);
- Ukraine’s Land Protection Law (*Закон України від 19.06.2003 # 962-ІУ “Про охорону земель”*);
- Law on State Control of Land Use and Protection (*Закон України від 19.06.2003 # 963-ІУ “Про державний контроль за використанням та охороною земель”*).

1.5.2 Consistency with national communications and reports to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, Convention on Biological Diversity, Stockholm Convention on POPs, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (as applicable).

Ukraine is a signatory to all three main relevant conventions pertaining to the activities envisaged in this project: CBD (1997), UNCCD (2002) and UNFCCC (1997). The objectives of this project are fully consistent with the country’s obligations under the above conventions. The project will also contribute to meeting Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15 and its target 15.3 on combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world.

The project is aligned with the provisions of the Concept to combat land degradation and desertification (approved by the decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated October 22, 2013 No.1024-p) and Ukraine's National Action Plan to Combat Land Degradation and Desertification (approved in 2016) as well as regional programs of economic and social development, sectoral and branch programs and strategies. The project corresponds to the first priority of the NAP to strengthen the policy environment for SLM, strengthen the institutional capacity of competent authorities and provide conditions for financial resource mobilisation. In addition, following COP12 of the UNCCD, Ukraine has committed to adopt a national Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) goal, LDN being a state whereby the amount and quality of land resources necessary to support ecosystem functions and services and enhance food security remain stable or increase within specified temporal and spatial scales and ecosystems.

The project is also fully aligned with Ukraine's climate change commitments and its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) that includes a target of reducing GHG emissions, including land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) by at least 40% below 1990 levels by 2030. However, Ukraine has not yet defined which LULUCF accounting method it will adopt.

1.5.3 Consistency with GEF focal area

Component 1: GEF support will strengthen the enabling environment for scaling up integrated policies, INRM practices and incentives, for improving ecosystem services flows in production landscapes in the forest-steppe and steppe zones in Ukraine. In line with the GEF LD-3 objective, Program 4. It will improve institutional capacity for INRM by supporting intersectoral coordination and integration of environmental priorities into agriculture and forest policies and support multi-stakeholder landscape planning. Incremental GEF support will also go towards improving access to finance by strengthening of value chains for key crops. In line with CCM-2 it will also improve access to finance through development of clear criteria for PES schemes. It will strengthen national environmental monitoring systems to ensure that they integrate carbon emissions from LULUCF, and support development of integrated land-use management plans for selected landscapes.

Component 2: Climate smart agricultural practices, such as conservation agriculture with minimum tillage will be upscaled under this component, through the landscape approach, which is fully in line with GEF LD-4, Program 4 and CCM-2 priorities. Incremental support to agroforestry for enhanced carbon sequestration and production of NTFPs will be provided under CCM-2. There will be a strong focus on working with smallholders to improve soil health of Ukraine's high potential black/chernozem soils so that approaches and practices can be scaled out and up beyond the project area. Support to improved management of shelterbelts in the production landscape will generate a wide range of ecosystem services related to regulation of water, pests and diseases, while protecting carbon pools in line with CCM-2. The special needs of rural women in Ukraine will be addressed to ensure that their important role in agriculture is recognized and that they reap the benefits of investments in sustainable agriculture both from a socio-economic and environmental perspective.

Component 3 will contribute to GEF cross-cutting objective related to learning, sharing of experiences and scaling up through advocacy and dissemination of information and best practices. It builds on a strong baseline provided by the participating institutions in Ukraine as well as FAO.

1.5.4 Consistency with FAO's Strategic Framework and Objectives

The Project is fully in line with FAO's Strategic Objectives (SOS) that provide the overall direction, goals and targets for the organization until 2018, specifically: SO1: Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition; SO2: Increase and improve provision of

goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner; SO3: Reduce rural poverty; and SO5: Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises. The project is also consistent with FAO's regional priorities as well as FAO's Country Programming Framework for Ukraine (2016-2019) and will contribute to the following objectives/priorities of the organization:

FAO Strategic Objective/Organizational Result:

SO1: Contribute to the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition

SO2: Increase and improve provision of goods and services from agriculture, forestry and fisheries in a sustainable manner

SO3: Reduce rural poverty

SO5: Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises

b. Regional Result/Priority Areas:

- 1 Food security and nutrition
- 2 Natural resources management, including climate change mitigation and adaptation
- 3 Policy and institutional support for entry of Member States into regional and global trade standard-setting and organizations of regional economic cooperation

c. Country Programming Framework Outcome:

Priority area 2: Contribution to land reform, rural development and food security systems

2.4 Capacities and national legislative frameworks in the context of rural development strengthened and support to SME on improving access to information provided

Priority area 3: Agri-food production chain development and access to international markets

3.6 Capacities and public-private dialogue in the grain, dairy and meat sectors promoted

3.7 Review and drafting of legal acts related to producers and cooperatives organizations promoted

Priority area 4: Environment and management of natural resources, including forestry and fisheries

4.1 Raise awareness and capacities of line Ministries and relevant stakeholders to sustainably manage natural resources and of policies in the area of protection and sustainable use of land and other natural resources strengthened and harmonized

4.2 Raise the capacity to develop and implement Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) programmes, including bioenergy initiatives at both national and local scales

SECTION 2 – FEASIBILITY

2.1 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT EVALUATION

The project is rated as a category C project. An environmental and social assessment is presented in Appendix 5.

2.2 RISK MANAGEMENT

2.2.1 Risks and mitigation measures

A full risk analysis following FAO guidance with identification of mitigation actions is found in Appendix 4. A simplified risk analysis is found in Table 6 below.

Risk	Rating	Mitigation Measure
Lack of close and collaborative cooperation between key institutional stakeholders	Moderate	This risk will be mitigated under Component 1 of the project that will strengthen the intersectoral coordination mechanism/Coordinating Council for Land Degradation and Desertification to enhance cooperation.
Unclear responsibilities of institutions at national and local level	Low	This will also be addressed under component 1 of the project that will provide support to improve institutional structures and legislation for INRM, including roles and responsibilities at national and sub-national levels.
Low technical capacity at national and local level halting the project's progress	Low	Capacity development in conservation agriculture and shelterbelt management will be provided under Component 2, which will mitigate this risk.
Lack of political support to integration of environmental considerations into agriculture and shelterbelt management	Low	Political support is high in Ukraine to shift to environmentally sustainable natural resources management practices, which is demonstrated by policy reform processes initiated both in the agriculture and forest sector with support from EU, FAO, etc. This project will provide an opportunity to further integrate global environmental considerations and to demonstrate good practices in the field.
Natural changes in agro-ecological zones due to gradual changes in climate and extreme weather events	Low	INRM practices to be demonstrated and scaled up by the project are proven to enhance resilience to climate change, such as CA, and multi-purpose agroforestry/shelterbelt management.

2.2.2 Analysis of fiduciary risks and mitigation measures (only for OPIM projects)

Not applicable.

SECTION 3 – IMPLEMENTATION AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

3.1 INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Lead government agencies in the Project are:

Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources: The MENR will play a major role in the project and host the Project Steering Committee and coordinate participation of other Ministries, state agencies and other stakeholders in project implementation. It will play a key role in coordination of activities under first and third Project components and contribute to national, regional and local level of the INRM and development planning processes and underlying government staff and infrastructure, including relevant legal expertise.

Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food: The MAP will lead the development of minimum agricultural standards, conservation agriculture, and other activities under Project component 2, which should contribute to the integration of environmental and climate change concerns into agriculture and rural development, as well as will take part in other relevant project activities.

State Forest Resources Agency of Ukraine: The SPIU will be responsible for improvement of ownership and strengthened management systems of shelterbelts and agroforestry. It will also be involved in policy related work under component 1.

3.1.1 Coordination with other relevant GEF-financed and other initiatives

The project will coordinate with or build on the achievements of the following projects:

- UNEP/GEF Project Conserving, Enhancing and Managing Carbon Stocks and Biodiversity while Promoting Sustainable Development in The Chernobyl Exclusion Zone through the Establishment of a Research and Environmental Protection Centre and Protected Area (2011-2015) – lessons will be exchanged on carbon stocks management and biodiversity conservation in the forest-steppe zone of Ukraine;
- EU Project “Integrating Climate Change into Vulnerable Ecosystems Management: natural parks in wetlands and forest areas (Ukraine)” (2011-2013) – experiences will be shared related to integration of climate change considerations into local-level land-use planning;
- UNEP/GEF Project Development and Alignment of National Action Programme to the UNCCD 10 Years Strategy and Preparation of the Fifth Reporting and Review process;
- UNDP/GEF Project Capacity Development: Integrating Rio Convention Provisions into Ukraine’s National Environmental Policy Framework;
- EU Project “Protection of Steppe Biodiversity” (2010-2015).The project aims at restoring exhausted or abandoned steppe lands in an environmentally and economically sustainable manner, maintaining and enhancing steppe biodiversity through careful management of land;
- EU/UNDP Clima East Pilot Project "Conservation & Sustainable Use of Peatlands" (2013 - 2016);
- Swiss-Ukrainian Project “Organic Market Development in Ukraine” (2012 - 2016) is funded by the Swiss Confederation with \$5.15 million;
- USAID “Agriculture and Rural Development Support Project” (2016-2020) is \$20 million project designed to support broad-based, resilient economic growth through a more inclusive, competitive, and better-governed agriculture that provides attractive livelihoods in rural areas of Ukraine.

The proposed project will build on the baselines established by these initiatives and also ensure that it incorporates key lessons learnt. The coordination mechanism that will be strengthened under Component 1 of the project will ensure continuous coordination and sharing of experiences.

3.2 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

3.2.2 FAO’s roles and responsibilities

FAO’s role in the project governance structure

FAO will be the the GEF Agency of the Project as well as the financial and operational executing agency. As financial and operational executing agency, FAO will provide procurement services and financial management services for GEF resources. As the GEF Agency, FAO will supervise and provide technical guidance for the overall implementation of the project. The administration of GEF grants

will be in accordance with FAO rules and procedures and in accordance with the agreement between FAO and the GEF Trustee. As the GEF agency for the project, FAO will:

- Administrate funds from GEF in accordance with the rules and procedures of FAO;
- Oversee project implementation in accordance with the project document, work plans, budgets, agreements with co-financiers and the rules and procedures of FAO;
- Provide technical guidance to ensure that appropriate technical quality is applied to all activities concerned;
- Conduct at least one supervision mission per year; and
- Report to the GEF Secretariat and Evaluation Office, through the annual Project Implementation Review, on project progress and provide financial reports to the GEF Trustee.

At the request of the Government of Ukraine, FAO will also be executing agency of GEF resources, including financial management, procurement of goods and contracting of services, according to FAO rules and procedures. As financial executor, FAO will provide to the Project Steering Committee semi-annual reports including a financial statement of project expenditures.

In accordance with the present Project Document and the AWP/B(s) approved by the PSC, FAO will prepare budget revisions to maintain the budget updated in the financial management system of FAO and will provide this information to the PSC to facilitate the planning and implementation of project activities. In collaboration with the PCU and the PSC, FAO will participate in the planning of contracting and procurement processes. FAO will process due payments for delivery of goods, services and products upon request of the PCU and based on the AWP/B and Procurement Plans that will be annually approved by the PSC.

FAO's roles in internal organization

The roles and responsibilities of FAO staff are regulated by the *FAO Guide to the Project Cycle, Quality for Results, 2015*, Annex 4: Roles and Responsibilities of the Project Task Force Members, and its updates.

The FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (REU) will be the **Budget Holder (BH)** and will be responsible for the management of GEF resources. As a first step in the implementation of the project, the FAO Regional Office will establish an interdisciplinary Project Task Force (PTF) within FAO, to guide the implementation of the project.

The PTF is a management and consultative body that integrate the necessary technical qualifications from the FAO relevant units to support the project. The PTM is composed of a Budget Holder, a Lead Technical Officer (LTO), the Funding Liaison Officer (FLO) and one or more technical officers based on FAO Headquarters (HQ Technical Officer).

In consultation with the LTO, the FAO REU will be responsible for timely operational, administrative and financial management of the GEF project resources, including in particular: (1) the acquisition of goods and contracting of services for the activities of the project, according to FAO's rules and procedures, in accordance with the approved AWP/B; (2) process the payments corresponding to delivery of goods, services and technical products in consultation with the PSC; (3) provide six-monthly financial reports including a statement of project expenditures to the PSC; and (4) at least once a year, or more frequently if required, prepare budget revisions for submission to the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit through the Field Programme Management Information System (FPMIS) of FAO.

The FAO REU, in accordance with the PTF, will give its non-objection to the AWP/Bs submitted by the PCU as well as the Project Progress Reports (PPRs). PPRs may be commented by the PTF and should be approved by the LTO before being uploaded by the BH in FPMIS.

The **Lead Technical Officer (LTO)** for the project will be the FAO REU Agricultural Officer. The role of the LTO is central to FAO's comparative advantage for projects. The LTO will oversee and carry out technical backstopping to the project implementation. The LTO will support the BH in the implementation and monitoring of the AWP/Bs, including work plan and budget revisions. The LTO is responsible and accountable for providing or obtaining technical clearance of technical inputs and services procured by the Organization.

In addition, the LTO will provide technical backstopping to the PT to ensure the delivery of quality technical outputs. The LTO will coordinate the provision of appropriate technical support from PTF to respond to requests from the PSC. The LTO will be responsible for:

- Review and give no-objection to TORs for consultancies and contracts to be performed under the project, and to CVs and technical proposals short-listed by the PCU for key project positions, goods, minor works, and services to be financed by GEF resources;
- Supported by the FAO REU, review and clear final technical products delivered by consultants and contract holders financed by GEF resources before the final payment can be processed;
- Assist with review and provision of technical comments to draft technical products/reports during project execution;
- Review and approve project progress reports submitted by the NPC, in cooperation with the BH;
- Support the FAO Representative in examining, reviewing and giving no-objection to AWP/B submitted by the NPC, for their approval by the Project Steering Committee;
- Ensure the technical quality of the six-monthly Project Progress Reports (PPRs). The PPRs will be prepared by the NPC, with inputs from the PT. The BH will submit the PPR to the FAO/GEF Coordination Unit for comments, and the LTO for technical clearance. The PPRs will be submitted to the PSC for approval twice a year. The BH will upload the approved PPR to FPMIS.
- Supervise the preparation and ensure the technical quality of the annual PIR. The PIR will be drafted by the NPC, with inputs from the PT. The PIR will be submitted to the BH and the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit for approval and finalization. The FAO/GEF Coordination Unit will submit the PIRs to the GEF Secretariat and the GEF Evaluation Office, as part of the Annual Monitoring Review report of the FAO-GEF portfolio. The LTO must ensure that the NPC and the PT have provided information on the co-financing provided during the year for inclusion in the PIR;
- Conduct annual (or as needed) supervision missions;
- Review the TORs for the mid-term review, participate in the mid-term workshop with all key project stakeholders, development of an eventual agreed adjustment plan in project execution approach, and supervise its implementation; and
- Review the TORs for the final evaluation; participate in the mission including the final workshop with all key project stakeholders, development and follow-up to recommendations on how to insure sustainability of project outputs and results after the end of the project.

The **HQ Officer** is a member of the PTF, as a mandatory requirement of the FAO Guide to the Project Cycle. The HQ Officer has most relevant technical expertise - within FAO technical departments - related to the thematic of the project. The HQ Technical Officer will provide effective functional advice to the LTO to ensure adherence to FAO corporate technical standards during project implementation, in particular:

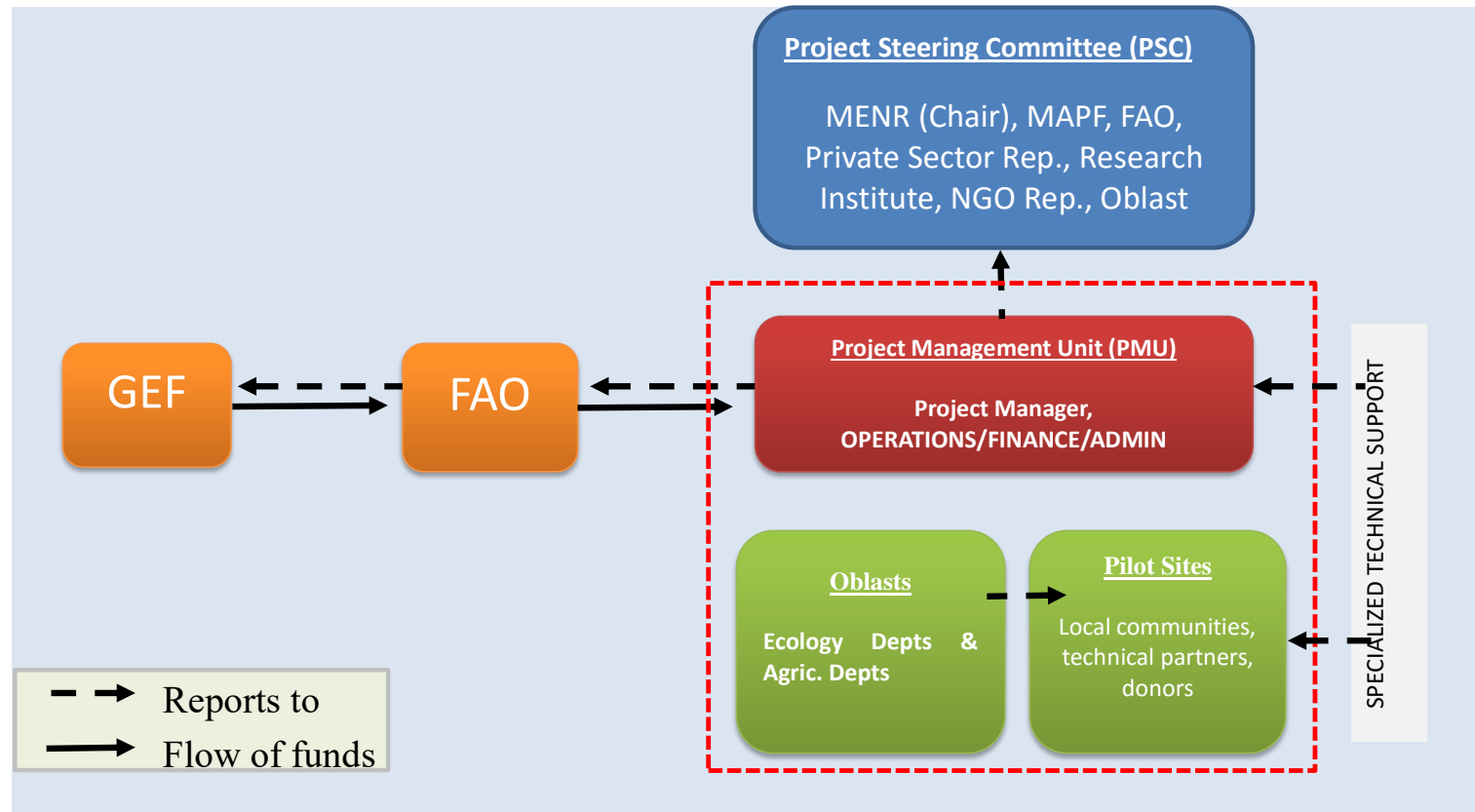
- Supports the LTO in monitoring and reporting on implementation of environmental and social commitment plans for moderate projects. In this PROTIERRAS project, the HQ officer will support the LTO in monitoring and reporting the identified risks and mitigation measures (Appendix 4) in close coordination with the project partners.
- Provides technical backstopping for the project work plan.
- Clears technical reports, contributes to and oversees the quality of Project Progress Report(s) (PPRs – see Section 3.5).
- May be requested to support the LTO and PTF for implementation and monitoring.
- Supports the LTO and BH in producing the first draft TOR of the Evaluation team in for the Final Evaluation, review the composition of the evaluation team and support the evaluation function.

The FAO-GEF Coordination Unit will act as **Funding Liaison Officer (FLO)**. The FAO/GEF Coordination Unit will review the PPRs and financial reports, and will review and approve budget revisions based on the approved Project Budget and AWP/Bs. This FAO/GEF Coordination Unit will review and provide a rating in the annual PIR(s) and will undertake supervision missions as necessary. The PIRs will be included in the FAO GEF Annual Monitoring Review submitted to GEF by the FAO GEF Coordination Unit. The FAO GEF Coordination Unit may also participate in the mid-term review and final evaluation, and in the development of corrective actions in the project implementation strategy if needed to mitigate eventual risks affecting the timely and effective implementation of the project. The FAO GEF Coordination Unit will in collaboration with the FAO Finance Division request transfer of project funds from the GEF Trustee based on six-monthly projections of funds needed.

The FAO Financial Division will provide annual Financial Reports to the GEF Trustee and, in collaboration with the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit, request project funds on a six-monthly basis to the GEF Trustee.

3.2.3 Decision-making mechanisms of the project

Figure 3. Decision-making mechanisms of the project.



3.3 PLANNING AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

3.3.1 Financial plan (by components, outcome and co-financiers)

Table 6. Financial plan (by components, outcome and co-financier).

Commented [A1]: To be completed with co-financing numbers – see Excel file.

Component/Output	MENR	MAPF - Leonid P Institute	Agro-Generation	SEA of PG Educationa and Mgmnt	State forest resources Agency of Ukraine	Ukraine Centre of Soil Ecology	FAO	Total Co-financing	% Co-financing	GEF	% GEF	Total
Component 1: Enabling environment for Integrated Natural Resource Management (INRM)												
Outcome 1.1:	3,480,000	-	120,915	-	-	-	365,000	3,965,915	95%	227,500	5%	4,193,415
Outcome 1.2:	1,291,429	-	-	-	-	-	100,000	1,391,429	95%	78,000	5%	1,469,429
Subtotal Comp. 1	4,771,429	-	120,915	-	-	-	465,000	5,357,344	95%	305,500	5%	5,662,844
Component 2: Restoration of productivity and resilience of production landscapes												
Outcome 2.1:	-	590,000	649,117	-	-	160,000	250,000	1,649,117	75%	545,308	25%	2,194,425
Outcome 2.2:	302,857	-	1,298,235	-	-	240,000	200,000	2,041,092	78%	560,824	22%	2,601,916
Subtotal Comp. 2	302,857	590,000	1,947,352	-	-	400,000	450,000	3,690,209	77%	1,106,132	23%	4,796,341
Component 3: Monitoring, evaluation and adaptive management												
Subtotal Comp. 3	645,714	-	-	-	-	-	50,000	695,714	77%	202,647	23%	898,361
Project Management Cost (PMC)	280,000	-	120,000	80,000	-	-	100,000	580,000	78%	162,205	22%	742,205
Total Project	6,000,000	590,000	2,188,267	80,000	-	400,000	1,065,000	10,323,267	85%	1,776,484	15%	12,099,751

Table 7. Confirmed sources of co-financing

	In-Kind	Grant/Cash	Total
MENR	6,000,000		6,000,000
MAPF - Leonid P Institute	590,000		590,000
Agro-Generation	2,188,267		2,188,267
SEA of PG Educationa and Mgmnt	80,000		80,000
State forest resources Agency of Ukraine			-
Ukraine Centre of Soil Ecology	400,000		400,000
FAO	600,000	465,000	1,065,000
Total	9,858,267	465,000	10,323,267

3.3.2 GEF Contribution

The GEF funds will finance inputs needed to generate the outputs and outcomes under the Project. These include: (i) local and international consultants for support to capacity building in conservation agriculture and shelterbelt management, as well as strengthening of local livelihoods and mainstreaming of gender in project activities, and project M&E; (ii) technical support to upscaling of climate-smart agriculture (iii) support to information and knowledge management; (vi) LoA/contracts with technical institutions and service providers supporting the delivery of specific project activities on the ground; (v) international flights and local transport and minor office equipment; and (vi) training and awareness raising material. Total GEF funding to the Project amounts to US\$1,776,484.

3.3.3 Government Contribution

Government Contribution will be provided by several state agencies. The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine will provide USD 6 million in in-kind contribution from the budget programmes “Implementation of environmental Measures” and “Implementation of measures to address the priorities of the development of environmental protection. These programmes will provide support to all project outcomes. The State Scientific Organization ‘Leonid Pogorilyy Ukrainien Scientific Research Institute of Forecasting and Testing of Machinery and Technologies for Agriculture Production’ under MAPF provides USD 590 000 in co-financing to the following sub-components:

2.1.1: Capacity to implement CA in the forest-steppe zone – the Institute will support training of agricultural service providers and farmers, as well as farmer-to-farmer exchange visits;

2.1.2: CA practices demonstrated and upscaled – the institute will support demonstration and transfer of innovations in CA to farms, demonstration of precision farming, and development of recommendations on wider use of CA technologies and practices.

Finally, the State Ecological Academy of Post Graduate Education and Management (under the Ministry of Natural Resources of Ukraine) will provide USD 80,000 in in-kind support in the form of office space and organization and methodological support.

3.3.4 FAO Contribution

FAO, through its regional office for Europe and Central Asia (REU), will provide a total of USD 1,065,000 in co-financing (465 000 in kind and 600 000 in cash). FAO will provide support from several projects and activities funded by FAO’s Technical Cooperation Program and by donor Trust Funds. In particular, FAO will provide USD 315,000 from its Technical

Cooperation Program funds for assisting the country in developing Ukraine's National Strategy on adaptation and mitigation to climate change which is currently improving agricultural statistics systems, including forests. In addition, FAO will support the proposed GEF project via FAO's regular programme on forestry, climate change and sustainable use of natural resources (USD 600,000). Finally, the forestry component of an FAO project funded by Norway (\$150,000) that provides technical and policy support to the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and food will also be used to strengthen project activities.

3.3.5 Inputs from other co-financiers

Two key stakeholders will provide co-financing to the project: Agrogenation and the Ukrainian Center for Soil Ecology (UCSE). Both of these stakeholders are described in section 1.3.3 (pgs. 28-30) and throughout project activities.

Agrogenation will provide an estimated USD 2.1 million in co-financing for activities to be implemented in the Kharkiv Oblast. Agrogenation will support participatory planning activities on INRM (Output 1.1.4), the demonstration of conservation agriculture practices outlined in Outcome 2.1 such as minimum tillage and precision farming (including monitoring systems for precision farming), as well as demonstration activities related to shelterbelt management (Outcome 2.2). This includes support for the rehabilitation and creation of shelterbelts in areas where Agrogenation operates.

The Ukrainian Soil Ecology Center will provide USD 400,000 in in-kind resources to support the implementation of component 2. In particular, it will support the development of modern approaches and algorithms for Conservation Agriculture and will evaluate the soil conditions and level of degradation of pilot sites (Outcome 2.1). In addition, UCSE will develop methods for inventory control for pilot shelterbelt territories using remote sensing and GIS technologies, as well as promoting the recommendations on implementing Conservation Agriculture practices in shelterbelts (Outcome 2.2).

3.3.6 Financial management and reporting on GEF resources

Financial management and reporting in relation to the GEF resources will be carried out in accordance with FAO's rules and procedures, and in accordance with the agreement between FAO and the GEF Trustee. On the basis of the activities foreseen in the budget and the project, FAO will undertake all operations for disbursements, procurement and contracting for the total amount of GEF resources.

Financial records. FAO shall maintain a separate account in United States dollars for the Project's GEF resources showing all income and expenditures. Expenditures incurred in a currency other than United States dollars shall be converted into United States dollars at the United Nations operational rate of exchange on the date of the transaction. FAO shall administer the Project in accordance with its regulations, rules and directives.

Financial reports. The BH shall prepare six-monthly project expenditure accounts and final accounts for the project, showing amount budgeted for the year, amount expended since the beginning of the year, and separately, the un-liquidated obligations as follows:

1. Details of project expenditures on outcome-by-outcome basis, reported in line with Project Budget (Appendix 3 of this Project document), as at 30 June and 31 December each year.
2. Final accounts on completion of the Project on a component-by-component and outcome-by-outcome basis, reported in line with the Project Budget (Appendix 3 of this Project Document).

3. A final statement of account in line with FAO Oracle Project budget codes, reflecting actual final expenditures under the Project, when all obligations have been liquidated.

Financial statements: Within 30 working days of the end of each semester, the FAO REU shall submit six-monthly statements of expenditure of GEF resources, to present to the Liaison Committees and the Project Steering Committee. The purpose of the financial statement is to list the expenditures incurred on the project on a six monthly basis compared to the budget, so as to monitor project progress and to reconcile outstanding advances during the six-month period. The financial statement shall contain information that will serve as the basis for a periodic revision of the budget.

The BH will submit the above financial reports for review and monitoring by the LTO and the FAO GEF Coordination Unit. Financial reports for submission to the donor (GEF) will be prepared in accordance with the provisions in the GEF Financial Procedures Agreement and submitted by the FAO Finance Division.

Responsibility for cost overruns: The BH shall utilize the GEF project funds in strict compliance with the Project Budget (Appendix 3) and the approved AWP/Bs. The BH can make variations provided that the total allocated for each budgeted project component is not exceeded and the reallocation of funds does not impact the achievement of any project output as per the project Results Framework (Appendix 1). At least once a year, the BH will submit a budget revision for approval of the LTO and the FAO/GEF Coordination Unit through FPMIS. Cost overruns shall be the sole responsibility of the BH.

Audit

The Project shall be subject to the internal and external auditing procedures provided for in FAO financial regulations, rules and directives and in keeping with the Financial Procedures Agreement between the GEF Trustee and FAO.

The audit regime at FAO consists of an external audit provided by the Auditor-General (or persons exercising an equivalent function) of a member nation appointed by the Governing Bodies of the Organization and reporting directly to them, and an internal audit function headed by the FAO Inspector-General who reports directly to the Director-General. This function operates as an integral part of the Organization under policies established by senior management, and furthermore has a reporting line to the governing bodies. Both functions are required under the Basic Texts of FAO which establish a framework for the terms of reference of each. Internal audits of imprest accounts, records, bank reconciliation and asset verification take place at FAO field and liaison offices on a cyclical basis.

3.4 PROCUREMENT

At the request of the Government of Ukraine, FAO will procure the equipment and services foreseen in the budget (Appendix 3) and the AWP/Bs, in accordance with FAO rules and procedures.

Careful procurement planning is necessary for securing goods, services and works in a timely manner, on a “Best Value for Money” basis, and in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of FAO. It requires analysis of needs and constraints, including forecast of the reasonable timeframe required to execute the procurement process. Procurement and delivery of inputs in technical cooperation projects follow FAO’s rules and regulations for the procurement of supplies, equipment and services (i.e. Manual Sections 502 and 507). Manual Section 502: “Procurement of Goods, Works and Services” establishes the principles and procedures that apply to procurement of all goods, works and services on behalf of the Organization, in all offices and in all locations, with the exception of the procurement actions described in Appendix A – Procurement Not Governed by Manual Section 502. Manual Section 507 establishes the principles and rules that govern the use of Letters of

Agreement (LoA) by FAO for the timely acquisition of services from eligible entities in a transparent and impartial manner, taking into consideration economy and efficiency to achieve an optimum combination of expected whole life costs and benefits (“Best Value for Money”).

The FAO REU will prepare an annual procurement plan for major items which will be the basis of requests for procurement actions during implementation. The plan will include a description of the goods, works, or services to be procured, estimated budget and source of funding, schedule of procurement activities and proposed method of procurement. In situations where exact information is not yet available, the procurement plan should at least contain reasonable projections that will be corrected as information becomes available.

Before commencing procurement, the NPC will develop the project’s Procurement Plan using the FAO standard template for approval by the Project Steering Committee. This plan will be reviewed during the inception workshop and will be approved by the FAO REU. The PC will update the Plan every six months and submit the plan to the FAO REU for approval.

3.5 MONITORING AND REPORTING

The monitoring and evaluation of progress in achieving the results and objectives of the project will be based on targets and indicators in the Project Results Framework (Appendix 1 and descriptions in sub-section 1.3.2). Project monitoring and the evaluation activities are budgeted at USD 81,500 (see Table 8). Monitoring and evaluation activities will follow FAO and GEF policies and guidelines for monitoring and evaluation. The monitoring and evaluation system will also facilitate learning and replication of the project’s results and lessons in relation to the integrated management of natural resources.

3.5.1 Oversight and monitoring responsibilities

The monitoring and evaluation roles and responsibilities specifically described in the Monitoring and Evaluation table (see Table 3.4 below) will be undertaken through: (i) day-to-day monitoring and project progress supervision missions (PCU); (ii) technical monitoring of indicators to measure a reduction in land degradation (PCU and LTU in coordination with partners); (iii) mid-term review and final evaluation (independent consultants and FAO Evaluation Office); and (v) monitoring and supervision missions (FAO).

At the beginning of the implementation of the GEF project, the PCU will establish a system to monitor the project’s progress. Participatory mechanisms and methodologies to support the monitoring and evaluation of performance indicators and outputs will be developed. During the project inception workshop (see section 3.5.3 below), the tasks of monitoring and evaluation will include: (i) presentation and explanation (if needed) of the project’s Results Framework with all project stakeholders; (ii) review of monitoring and evaluation indicators and their baselines; (iii) preparation of draft clauses that will be required for inclusion in consultant contracts, to ensure compliance with the monitoring and evaluation reporting functions (if applicable); and (iv) clarification of the division of monitoring and evaluation tasks among the different stakeholders in the project. The M&E Expert (see TORs in Appendix 6) will prepare a draft monitoring and evaluation matrix that will be discussed and agreed upon by all stakeholders during the inception workshop. The **M&E matrix** will be a management tool for the NPC, the Regional Project coordinators, and the Project Partners to: i) six-monthly monitor the achievement of output indicators; ii) annually monitor the achievement of outcome indicators; iii) clearly define responsibilities and verification means; iv) select a method to process the indicators and data.

The **M&E Plan** will be prepared by the M&E Expert in the three first months of the PY1 and validated with the PSC. The M&E Plan will be based on the M&E Table 8 and the M&E Matrix and will include: i) the updated results framework, with clear indicators per year; ii) updated baseline, if needed, and

selected tools for data collection (including sample definition); iii) narrative of the monitoring strategy, including roles and responsibilities for data collection and processing, reporting flows, monitoring matrix, and brief analysis of who, when and how will each indicator be measured. Responsibility of project activities may or may not coincide with data collection responsibility; iv) updated implementation arrangements, if needed; v) inclusion of the tracking tool indicators, data collection and monitoring strategy to be included in the mid-term review and final evaluation; vi) calendar of evaluation workshops, including self-evaluation techniques.

The day-to-day monitoring of the project's implementation will be the responsibility of the NPC and will be driven by the preparation and implementation of an AWP/B followed up through six-monthly PPRs. The preparation of the AWP/B and six-monthly PPRs will represent the product of a unified planning process between main project stakeholders. As tools for results-based-management (RBM), the AWP/B will identify the actions proposed for the coming project year and provide the necessary details on output and outcome targets to be achieved, and the PPRs will report on the monitoring of the implementation of actions and the achievement of output and outcome targets. Specific inputs to the AWP/B and the PPRs will be prepared based on participatory planning and progress review with all stakeholders and coordinated and facilitated through project planning and progress review workshops. These contributions will be consolidated by the NPC in the draft AWP/B and the PPRs.

An annual project progress review and planning meeting should be held with the participation of the project partners to finalize the AWP/B and the PPRs. Once finalized, the AWP/B and the PPRs will be submitted to the FAO LTO for technical clearance, and to the Project Steering Committee for revision and approval. The AWP/B will be developed in a manner consistent with the Project Results Framework to ensure adequate fulfillment and monitoring of project outputs and outcomes.

Following the approval of the Project, the PY1 AWP/B will be adjusted (either reduced or expanded in time) to synchronize it with the annual reporting calendar. In subsequent years, the AWP/Bs will follow an annual preparation and reporting cycle as specified in section 3.5.3 below.

3.5.2 Indicators and sources of information

Please refer to appendix 1 (Log-frame)

3.5.3 Reporting schedule

Specific reports that will be prepared under the monitoring and evaluation program are: (i) Project inception report; (ii) Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP/B); (iii) Project Progress Reports (PPRs); (iv) Annual Project Implementation Review (PIR); (v) Technical reports; (vi) Co-financing reports; and (vii) Terminal Report. In addition, the GEF³ tracking tool for land degradation will be completed and will be used to compare progress with the baseline established during the preparation of the project.

Project Inception Report. After FAO internal approval of the project an inception workshop will be held. Immediately after the workshop, the NPC will prepare a project inception report in consultation with the FAO REU and other project partners. The report will include a narrative on the institutional roles and responsibilities and coordinating action of project partners, progress to date on project establishment and start-up activities and an update of any changed external conditions that may affect project implementation. It will also include a detailed first year AWP/B and the M&E Matrix (see above). The draft inception report will be circulated to FAO, the PSC, the Liaison Committee and the federal entities for review and comments before its finalization, no later than three months after project start-up. The report will be cleared by the FAO BH, LTO and the FAO/GEF Coordination Unit. The BH will upload it in FPMIS.

³ GEF LD and CC-M Tracking Tools.

Annual Work Plan and Budget(s) (AWP/Bs). The NPC will present a draft AWP/B to the PSC no later than 10 December of each year. The AWP/B should include detailed activities to be implemented by project outcomes and outputs and divided into monthly timeframes and targets and milestone dates for output and outcome indicators to be achieved during the year. A detailed project budget for the activities to be implemented during the year should also be included together with all monitoring and supervision activities required during the year. The FAO REU will circulate the draft AWP/B to the FAO Project Task Force and will consolidate and submit FAO comments. The AWP/B will be reviewed by the PSC and the PCU will incorporate any comments. The final AWP/B will be sent to the PSC for approval and to FAO for final no-objection. The BH will upload the AWP/Bs in FPMIS.

Project Progress Reports (PPR). The PPRs are used to identify constraints, problems or bottlenecks that impede timely implementation and take appropriate remedial action. PPRs will be prepared based on the systematic monitoring of output and outcome indicators identified in the Project Results Framework (Appendix 1), AWP/B and M&E Plan. Each semester the National Project Coordinator (NPC) will prepare a draft PPR, and will collect and consolidate any comments from the FAO PTF. The NPC will submit the final PPRs to the FAO REU every six months, prior to 10 June (covering the period between January and June) and before 10 December (covering the period between July and December). The July-December report should be accompanied by the updated AWP/B for the following Project Year (PY) for review and no-objection by the FAO PTF. The Budget Holder has the responsibility to coordinate the preparation and finalization of the PPR, in consultation with the PMU, LTO and the FLO. After LTO, BH and FLO clearance, the FLO will ensure that project progress reports are uploaded in FPMIS in a timely manner.

Annual Project Implementation Review (PIR). The NPC, under the supervision of the LTO and BH and in coordination with the national project partners, will prepare a draft annual PIR report⁴ covering the period July (the previous year) through June (current year) no later than July 1st every year. The LTO will finalize the PIR and will submit it to the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit for review by July 10th. The FAO-GEF Coordination Unit, the LTO, and the BH will discuss the PIR and the ratings⁵. The LTO is responsible for conducting the final review and providing the technical clearance to the PIR(s). The LTO will submit the final version of the PIR to the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit for final approval. The FAO-GEF Coordination Unit will then submit the PIR(s) to the GEF Secretariat and the GEF Independent Evaluation Office as part of the Annual Monitoring Review of the FAO-GEF portfolio. The PIR will be uploaded to FPMIS by the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit.

Technical reports. The technical reports will be prepared as part of the project outputs and will document and disseminate lessons learned. Drafts of all technical reports must be submitted by the Project Coordinator to the PSC and FAOREU, which in turn will be shared with the LTO for review and approval and to the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit for information and comments before finalization and publication. Copies of the technical reports will be distributed to the Liaison Committee and the PSC and other project stakeholders, as appropriate. These reports will be uploaded in FAO FPMIS by the BH.

Co-financing reports. The NPC will be responsible for collecting the required information and reporting on in-kind and cash co-financing provided by all the project cofinanciers and eventual other new partners not foreseen in the Project Document. Every year, the NPC will submit the report to the FAO REU before July 10th covering the period July (the previous year) through June (current year). This information will be used in the PIRs.

⁴ Prior to the preparation of the PIR report, the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit will provide the updated format as every year some new requirements may come from the GEF.

⁵ The NPC, the BH, the LTO and the FAO/GEF Coordination Unit should assign ratings to the PIR every year. The ratings can or cannot coincide among the project managers.

GEF Land Degradation and Climate Change Tracking Tools. In compliance with GEF policies and procedures, tracking tools on the Land Degradation and Climate Change focal areas should be sent to the GEF Secretariat in three stages: (i) with the project approval document by the GEF Executive Director; (ii) with the mid-term review of the project; and (iii) with the final evaluation of the project.

Final Report. Within two months prior to the project’s completion date, the Project Coordinator will submit to the PSC and FAO REU a draft final report. The main purpose of the final report is to give guidance to authorities (ministerial or senior government level) on the policy decisions required for the follow-up of the Project, and to provide the donor with information on how the funds were utilized. Therefore, the terminal report is a concise account of the main **products, results, conclusions and recommendations** of the Project, without unnecessary background, narrative or technical details. The target readership consists of persons who are not necessarily technical specialists but who need to understand the policy implications of technical findings and needs for ensuring sustainability of project results. Work is assessed, lessons learned are summarized, and recommendations are expressed in terms of their application to the integrated landscape management in the three microregions in the context of the development priorities at national and departmental levels, as well as in practical execution terms. This report will specifically include the findings of the final evaluation as described in section 3.6 below. A project evaluation meeting will be held to discuss the draft final report with the PSC and the Project Liaison Committee before completion by the Coordinator and approval by the BH, LTO, and FAO-GEF Coordination Unit.

3.5.4 Monitoring and Evaluation summary

Table 8 summarizes the main monitoring and evaluation reports, parties responsible for their publication and time frames.

Table 8. Summary of main monitoring and evaluation activities (example)

M&E Activity	Responsible parties	Time frame/ Periodicity	Budget
Inception workshop	NPC; FAO REU (with support from the LTO, and FAO-GEF Coordination Unit)	Within two months of project start up	USD 3,000
Project Inception report	NPC, Expert M&E and FAO REU with clearance by the LTO, BH and FAO-GEF Coordination Unit	Immediately after the workshop	-
Field-based impact monitoring	NPC; project partners, local organizations	Continuous	USD 10,000
Supervision visits and rating of progress in PPRs and PIRs	PC; FAO (FAO REU, LTO). FAO-GEF Coordination Unit may participate in the visits if needed.	Annual, or as needed	FAO visits will be borne by GEF agency fees Project Coordination visits shall be borne by the project’s travel budget
Project Progress	PC, with stakeholder	Six-monthly	USD 3,000

M&E Activity	Responsible parties	Time frame/ Periodicity	Budget
Reports (PPRs)	contributions and other participating institutions		
Project Implementation Review (PIR)	Drafted by the NPC, with the supervision of the LTO and BH. Approved and submitted to GEF by the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit	Annual	FAO staff time financed through GEF agency fees. PCU time covered by the project budget.
Co-financing reports	PC with input from other co-financiers	Annual	USD 500
Technical reports	PC, FAO (LTO, FAO REU)	As needed	TBD
Mid-term review	FAO-Ukraine, NPC, FAO-GEF Coordination Unit and others	Midway through the project implementation period	USD 15,000
Final evaluation	FAO Independent Evaluation Unit in consultation with the project team, including the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit and others	At the end of the project	USD 35,000 Organized by FAO's OED. FAO staff time and travel costs will be financed by GEF agency fees.
Terminal Report	PC; FAO (FAO REU, LTO, FAO-GEF Coordination Unit, TCS Reporting Unit)	Two months prior to the end of the project.	USD 5000
Total budget			USD 71,500

3.6 EVALUATION PROVISIONS

At the end of the first 18 months of the project, the BH will arrange a **Mid-Term Review (MTR) / Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE)** in consultation with the PSC, the PCU, the LTO and the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit. The MTR will be conducted to review progress and effectiveness of implementation in terms of achieving project objective, outcomes and outputs. The MTR will allow mid-course corrective actions, if needed. The MTR will provide a systematic analysis of the information provided under the M&E Plan (see above) with emphasis on the progress in the achievement of expected outcome and output targets against budget expenditures. The MTR will refer to the Project Budget (see Appendix 3) and the approved AWP/Bs for PY1 and PY2. The MTR will contribute to highlight replicable good practices and main problems faced during project implementation and will suggest mitigation actions to be discussed by the PSC, the LTO and FAO-GEF Coordination Unit.

An independent Final Evaluation (FE) will be carried out three months prior to the terminal report meeting. The FE will aim to identify the project impacts, sustainability of project outcomes and the degree of achievement of long-term results. The FE will also have the purpose of indicating future

actions needed to expand on the existing Project in subsequent phases, mainstream and up-scale its products and practices, and disseminate information to management authorities and institutions with responsibilities in food security, conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, small-scale farmer agricultural production and ecosystem conservation to assure continuity of the processes initiated by the Project. Both the MTR and FE will pay special attention to outcome indicators and will be aligned with the GEF Tracking tool (LD & CC focal areas).

3.7 COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

The project will enhance communication and visibility of INRM at the national level through support to dissemination of best practices and lessons learnt under Component 3 and field level through support under Component 2 to demonstrations of INRM related to CA, CSA and shelterbelt rehabilitation and management. This component will support community exchange visits through e.g. Farmer Field Schools, and access to improved market information on value-chains, etc.

Proposed tools for enhancing visibility include:

- **General aspects** – the PCU will ensure that general aspects of project visibility are fulfilled, such as: (i) visual identity of project and partners; (ii) highlighting the project' partners in media interviews, press releases, etc.); (iii) supporting documents such as photos of logos in the field, photos of activities, copies of press released will be included in the progress and final reports.
- **Basic visibility at field level** – At this level visibility strategy will consider: (i) signboards, display panels and banners; (ii) operational publications and materials such as training manuals and posters; (iii) supplies and equipment.
- **Printed publications** – Brochures, leaflets, flyers, newsletters and other publications to project activities and results.
- **Website, webpage and social network pages** – This will include: (i) partnerships and links; (ii) project information (objectives, activities, expected results, etc.).
- **Audio-visuals** – (i) Films for distribution by the media (mainly for television, campaigns and Internet); (ii) operational films (films to provide technical information and practices to local population, project partners and authorities).
- **Public events** – Many types of events are possible and attracting media interest will always be a key consideration in making the events cost-effective. Press release will be an integral part of the events.

FAO and GEF logos will be used, along with government logo, in all knowledge products and in any communication materials developed (such as posters, pamphlets etc.)

SECTION 4 – SUSTAINABILITY OF RESULTS

4.1 SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

This Project will contribute to socio-economic sustainability at demonstration sites for CA, CSA and shelterbelt management in Ukraine's forest-steppe and steppe zone through new income-generation activities for local communities. The project will pay special attention to identifying and supporting the special needs of rural women at pilot sites to ensure that their important role in agriculture is recognized and that they reap the benefits of investments in climate-smart agriculture. A long-term impact of the project also includes improved food security and nutrition in demonstration areas, with a particular focus on provision of ecosystem services supporting agricultural production.

4.2 ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The project will support demonstration and scaling up of best practices on conservation agriculture and management of shelterbelts in the production landscape essential for controlling soil erosion and improve agricultural productivity. Strengthened institutional, legal and policy enabling conditions for INRM and climate-smart agriculture and shelterbelt management will also enhance environmental sustainability and contribute to strengthen the capacity of Ukraine to plan and manage these resources successfully.

4.3 FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

Financial and incentive mechanisms for INRM at national and sub-national levels will contribute significantly to financial and economic sustainability of the project, including clarification of ownership rights shelterbelts, clear criteria for establishment of Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) schemes, and support to establishment of inclusive and green food and feed value-chains for e.g. cereals, oil seeds, and selected non-timber forest products (NTFPs)

4.4 SUSTAINABILITY OF CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Capacity development is at the core of the upscaling strategy of climate smart-agricultural practices and will ensure its sustainability. The project management arrangements strengthen existing institutional capacities within Ukraine. It will support the already established Coordinating Council to combat land degradation and desertification to support intersectoral coordination for INRM at national and sub-national level. At the local level, the Project is designed to enhance the capacity of communities and agro-enterprises to access new knowledge and implement best management practices in CA, CSA and shelterbelt management. These capacities will be sustained through the national coordination platform and continued outreach and dissemination of good practices and management advice.

4.5 APPROPRIATENESS OF TECHNOLOGIES INTRODUCED and COST/EFFECTIVENESS

Technologies

The selection of the INRM best practices for demonstration and upscaling on e.g., CA, CSA, and agroforestry/shelterbelt management will be based on management practices already pilot tested by USRI, Agrogenation, etc. for their environmental impact and economic feasibility. The project will also undertake assessment of resilience of tested INRM approaches and feed back lessons to the field level. The final fine-tuning of INRM interventions will be undertaken in close consultation with local communities and agro-enterprises participating in the project.

4.6 INNOVATIVENESS, REPLICATION and SCALE-UP

Innovativeness: The integrated approach proposed by the project building on a partnership between different sectors of the government, the private sector and local stakeholders will provide an innovative model in Ukraine that is expected to (a) generate important lessons for other regions/oblasts in the country, and (b) build new national expertise in new fields, e.g. landscape planning and integration of land resources into the wider landscape and economic development.

Innovative approaches to conservation agriculture with no-till and minimum till, and bioengineering, will be tested and evaluated, and scaled up. New models for shelterbelt management will be developed together with new income generating activities from e.g. NTFPs.

Potential for scaling up: National legislation in support of INRM that is developed by the project is expected to be adopted throughout country and the integrated monitoring of natural resources once optimized can also be scaled up at the national level. In addition, the project will demonstrate effective management of production landscapes integrating economic and environmental benefits from INRM. Successful practices can be scaled up to other areas within the vast forest-steppe and steppe zones, which are in urgent need of improved practices to protect valuable soil and other natural resources. Work on strengthening and greening of value-chains also has significant potential for upscaling and can gradually be extended to new crops.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: RESULTS FRAMEWORK

APPENDIX 2: WORK PLAN

APPENDIX 3: PROJECT BUDGET

APPENDIX 4: RISK MATRIX

APPENDIX 5: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT

APPENDIX 6: TERMS OF REFERENCE

APPENDIX 7: MAPS OF THE PROJECT INTERVENTION AREAS

APPENDIX 1: RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Objective: To promote restoration of degraded landscapes in the forest-steppe and steppe zones of Ukraine through upscaling of integrated natural resources management practices							
Component 1: Enabling environment for Integrated Natural Resource Management (INRM)							
Outcome 1.1 Strengthened institutional, legal and policy enabling conditions for INRM	INRM principles integrated into environment, agriculture and forest sector frameworks, policies and programs	Weak policy and legal framework for INRM and lack of management plans at local level to implement INRM Lack of systematic and long-term monitoring of land resources	INRM principles integrated into key national policy frameworks and productive sectors	Strong enabling environment and monitoring system facilitates integration of INRM into land-use planning covering 230 800 ha of land	Minutes from the Coordinating Council to combat land degradation and desertification Documented policy revisions in 3 sectors PIRs, PPRs	Line ministries and productive sectors committed to policy reform and INRM	MENR, MAPF and FAO
Output 1.1.1: Strengthening of the Coordinating Council to combat land degradation and desertification (CC-LDD) to support intersectoral coordination for INRM at national and sub-national level	The CC-LDD provides a platform for coordination and information sharing on INRM Number of ministries and agencies that become members of the CC-LDD	The NAP recommends the establishment of the CC-LDD for enhanced coordination and information sharing, but the recommendations have not been operationalised.	The CC-LDD strengthened with participation from all relevant sectors	Enhanced coordination and information sharing on INRM across sectors	CC-LDD meeting minutes, budget assigned for CC-LDD operations, annual implementation progress reports; minutes of meetings; PPR PIRs, PPRs	Policy-makers and planners use the information shared to integrate INRM priorities into strategies, plans, and programmes targeting management of environmental risk	MENR in collaboration with line ministries
Output 1.1.2: Improved institutional structures and legislation for	Number of draft laws and regulations in	No INRM principles have been agreed at national level and	Review of existing laws, regulations and policies related	Draft laws and regulations in agreed areas	Documents with draft laws and regulations, minutes from CC-LDD	High-level political support is maintained	MENR, MAPF

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
sustainable land and shelterbelt management	support of INRM principles approved (i.e. on functional land use, economic incentives, monitoring systems, soil quality standards, and ownership of shelterbelts)	the policy framework is full of loopholes, e.g. unclear ownership rights of shelterbelts	to INRM	approved	meetings PIRs, PPRs	throughout the project, and the CC-LDD provides a platform for coordination and information sharing	
Output 1.1.3: Strengthened national environmental monitoring systems and spatial planning on land and shelterbelt resources and land degradation control	System in place for environmental monitoring and spatial planning Number of persons in key institutions at national and sub-national level using the system	Tools and methods for environmental monitoring at national level are not up-to-date nor are they harmonized, which makes it difficult to use the generated information for land-use planning	All relevant institutions trained in the use of up-to date tools and methods for environmental monitoring and land-use planning	System in place for environmental monitoring and spatial planning	Reports from training events and participants lists Environmental monitoring and land-use planning system available on line PIRs, PPRs	Key stakeholders have the interest and capacity to internalise new knowledge on environmental monitoring and land-use planning Policy makers committed to operationalise the system	NSC, Ukrainian Centre of Soil Ecology
1.1.4 Establishment of a Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) monitoring system.	System in place for monitoring of LDN indicators at demonstration sites (land cover, land productivity, soil organic carbon)	Tools and methods for LDN monitoring are not up-to-date and a new monitoring system needs to be established	LDN baseline, including SOC, established at demonstration sites	The LDN monitoring system documented and shared for replication in other locations	Baseline report on LDN indicators at demonstration sites Reports from training events and participants lists	Key stakeholders have the interest and capacity to internalise new knowledge on environmental monitoring and	NSC and Ukrainian Centre of Soil Ecology

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
					PIRs, PPRs	land-use planning Policy makers committed to operationalise the system	
Output 1.1.5: Integrated land-use management plans at administrative region level	Number of integrated land-use plans	0	1 land-use plan covering at least 50 000 ha of land	At least 3 integrated land-use plans covering 230 800 ha of land	Land-use plans National monitoring reports PIRs, PPRs	Participating oblasts and rayons, and local land users are interested in supporting land-use planning processes	Participating oblasts and rayons
Outcome 1.2 Financial and incentive mechanisms for INRM in place at national and sub-national levels	Number and types of state-led and market-led incentive mechanisms supporting INRM	Incentives mechanisms for INRM are generally weak in Ukraine due to unclear ownership of resources, and lack of knowledge	Ownership rights of shelterbelts clarified and suitable incentive mechanisms, such as PES and opportunities for certification of value-chains, identified in the three participating oblasts	At least two incentive mechanisms in place	Project reports PIRs, PPRs	The public sector, NGOs, private sector and research institutions are capable and willing to participate in establishment of INRM incentive mechanisms	MENR, MAPF, Agrogenation, Ukraine Railways
Output 1.2.1: Ownership rights, procedures of inventory and standards for management and planting of shelterbelts based on types of soils	Ownership rights, procedures of inventory and standards for planting	Unclear ownership rights of shelterbelts is the main obstacle to their rehabilitation and sustainable use	Standards for shelterbelt ownership and use established	Standards for shelterbelt ownership and use operationalised	Project reports PIRs, PPRs	Relevant government sectors cooperate to agree on ownership and standards for	MENR, MAPF

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
and natural zones defined.	shelterbelts defined					shelterbelts	
Output 1.2.2: Clear criteria and indicators developed for establishment of Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) schemes for INRM	Criteria and indicators developed for establishment of PES schemes	Ukraine has very limited experience with mechanisms for scaling up of INRM, such as PES, and there is a need to establish clear criteria and indicators	Review of criteria and indicators for establishment of PES schemes with recommendations for Ukraine	Criteria and indicators for establishment of PES schemes in Ukraine developed	Project reports PIRs, PPRs	The public sector, NGOs, private sector and research institutions are capable and willing to agree on PES criteria	MENR, MAPF, Ukraine Railway, USRI
Output 1.2.3: Inclusive and green food and feed value-chains strengthened (e.g. cereals, oil seeds, selected non-timber forest products (NTFPs))	Number of inclusive and green food and feed value-chains strengthened	Value-chains are generally neither sufficiently inclusive or environmentally friendly	At least 4 food and feed value-chains analysed using the Markets for the Poor (M4P) methodology	At least 2 food and feed value-chains made more inclusive and environmentally friendly	Project reports PIRs, PPRs	NGOs, private sector and research institutes have the capacity to support agricultural cooperatives and agro-enterprises with greening of value chains	MENR, MAPF, UNA
Component 2: Restoration of productivity and resilience of production landscapes							
<u>Outcome 2.1</u> Upscaling of SLM and climate-smart agricultural practices in production landscapes in the forest-steppe zone	SLM and CSA technologies/best practices applied on X ha of land sequestering Y mton CO2	SLM and CSA technologies are applied in isolated locations in Ukraine promoted by research institutes and agro-enterprises that are not connected to higher	10 000 ha	29 400 ha 277 675 mton CO2eq.	Land use management plans PIRs/PPRs Mid-term and final evaluations	Land users with support of rural advisory services have capacity and incentives to adopt improved SLM and CSA practices	MAPF, FAO, Agrogenation, USRI, Ukraine Railways, UNA

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
		level planning and decision-making processes					
Output 2.1.1: Capacity to implement Conservation Agriculture (CA) in the forest-steppe zone developed	Number of CA training events and workshops support by the project FFS established Number of farmer-to-farmer exchange visits	Agricultural service providers have limited knowledge and technical skill related to CA	At least two training events each in Kharkiv and Kiev oblasts with around 20 agricultural service providers in total	30 agricultural service providers trained in CA, 3 FFS established and 3 exchange visits organised	Training manuals and material and training participation lists	Agricultural advisory service providers are interested in strengthening their knowledge and skills on CA and in reaching out to land users	USRI, Agrogeneration MAPF
Output 2.1.2: CA practices (e.g. minimum tillage), demonstrated and upscaled (for cereals—wheat, barley, rye, corn—oil seeds, sunflowers, canola)	Number of CA practices implemented in selected production landscapes	It is mainly the steppe area in Ukraine that has adopted CA and only on 2% of soils.	Number of CA best practices implemented on 10 000 ha of land	Number of CA best practices implemented on 29 400 ha of land leading to sequestration of 277 675 mton CO ₂ eq.	National monitoring reports PIRs, PPRs	Agricultural service providers have the capacity to support farmers in CA to upscale best practices	USRI, Agrogeneration MAPF
2.1.3: Identification and support to the special needs of rural women at project sites to ensure that their important role in agriculture is recognized and that they reap the benefits of investments in climate-	Number of training events and workshops organized for women's groups, young women entrepreneurs, etc. Number of women-	The feminsation of agriculture in Ukraine has led to over-representation of women in rural areas and they often shoulder the main responsibility for	At least one training events each in Kharkiv and Kiev oblasts with around 20 agricultural service providers in total	30 agricultural service providers trained in gender issues and the special needs of rural women; 2 exchange visits	National monitoring reports PIRs, PPRs	Agricultural service providers have the interest to support women in CA	Women's Information Consultative Centre

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
smart agriculture	to-women exchange visits	agricultural activities		organised			
<u>Outcome 2.2</u> Rehabilitation and sustainable management of shelterbelts	Best practices for shelterbelt management applied on X ha of land sequestering Y mton CO2	Shelterbelts have been allowed to degrade since independence due to unclear ownership	1 000 ha	3 600 ha 87 821 mton CO ₂ eq.	PIRs/PPRs Mid-term and final evaluations	Local communities with support of rural advisory services have the capacity and incentives to adopt improved shelterbelt management practices	MAPF, FAO, Agrogenation, USRI, URC
Output 2.2.1: Guidelines and capacity for inventory and management of shelterbelts developed	Number of guidelines for inventory and management of shelterbelts	No guidelines exists	Guidelines developed and published	Guidelines applied at project demonstration sites	Published guidelines PIRs, PPRs	Project partners have the skills, knowledge and resources to support the development of guidelines for shelterbelt management	MAPF, FAO, USRI, Agrogenation, URC
Output 2.2.2: Rehabilitation and multipurpose shelterbelt management demonstrated and improved	Number of shelterbelt best management practices implemented	No best management practices have been documented and demonstrated in Ukraine since independence	Number of shelterbelt best management practices implemented on 1000 ha of land	Number of shelterbelt best management practices implemented on 3 600 ha of land leading to sequestration of 87 821 mton CO ₂ eq.	National monitoring reports PIRs, PPRs	Agricultural service providers have the capacity to support rural communities to upscale best practices	USRI, URC, Agrogenation MAPF

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Component 3: Monitoring, evaluation and adaptive management							
<u>Outcome 3.1</u> Adaptive management ensured and key lessons shared	M&E system is in place to support adaptive results-based management and monitoring of upscaling resulting from the project.	No system in place	Implemented project based on adaptive results based-management	Project delivers expected results and shares best practices	GEF LD and CC Tracking Tools, PIRs, PPRs Midterm Review and Final Evaluation	National lead agencies and other stakeholders support M&E processes, and are committed to continuous learning and exchange of knowledge on INRM	FAO
Output 3.1.1: Project progress continually monitored, mid-term and final evaluation conducted	Mid-term and final evaluation reports	0	Mid-project review recommendations implemented		Evaluation reports (FAO evaluation office)	Adequate funding allocated to evaluations	FAO
Output 3.1.2 Assessment of resilience of tested INRM approaches and feeding back of lessons to field level	Resilience assessment	Resilience is generally not taken into consideration in NRM activities	Resilience assessment using the RAPTA approach of tested INRM approaches to identify the most appropriate implementation pathways for further upscaling	Upscaled INRM approaches are resilient to climate change and other external stressors	Resilience assessment MTR PIRs, PPRs	Project partners committed to integration of resilience into INRM activities	MENR, FAO
Output 3.1.3 Project achievements, results and innovative approaches recorded and	Project website and social media pages X number of project	Low awareness of INRM, including SLM, CA and CSA	Project website and social media pages established	6 project newsletters 4 outreach	Awareness/outreach events & materials Statistics of website	The PMU is functioning and has adequate capacity in KM and	MENR, FAO

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
disseminated	newsletters X number of awareness/ outreach events organized		Outreach event organised in connection with project launch	events	visitors, Facebook likes, number of Tweets	communication	

APPENDIX 2: WORK PLAN

Output	Activities	Responsible Entity	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Component 1: Enabling environment for INRM														
Output 1.1.1: Strengthening of the CC-LDD	Strengthening of the Regulations on the CC-LDD with respect to INRM, collection, use and dissemination of information on desertification and land degradation	MENR, InterEcoCentre												
	Regular meeting schedule agreed and implemented	MENR												
	Development of joint monitoring system of INRM	MENR, InterEcoCentre												
	Development of information sharing platform	MENR												
Output 1.1.2: Improved institutional structures and legislation for SLM and shelterbelt management	Development of draft laws and regulations on functional land use, incentives, soil fertility, drought management and environmental monitoring systems	MENR, MAPF, InterEcoCentre												
	Development of draft laws and regulations on ownership, inventory, rehabilitatoion, management, maintenance and use of shelterbelts	MENR, MAPF												
Output 1.1.3: Strengthened national environmental	Amendments to the Regulation on State Environmental Monitoring System and	MENR												

Output	Activities	Responsible Entity	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
monitoring systems	improved monitoring at selected project sites													
	Identification of biophysical and socio-economic criteria for land zoning and spatial planning	NSC												
	Creation of a unified land information system	NSC, NES, SPIU, MENR, MAPF, UCES												
	Training of relevant institutions in methods for environmental monitoring and land-use planning	NSC, SPIU												
Output 1.1.4: Establishment of a Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) monitoring system	Design LDN monitoring system (i.e. define indicators) in coordination with 1.1.3	NSC, SPIU												
	Training and data collect for indicators													
Output 1.1.5: Integrated land-use management plans at administrative region level	Development of two integrated land-use plans in Kharkiv oblast	MAPF, Agrogenation												
	Development of shelterbelt management plan in Mykolayiv oblast	URC												
	Development of Integrated land-use plan in Kiev oblast	MAPF, USRI												
Output 1.2.1: Ownership rights, procedures of	Identification of ownership rights	MAPF, MENR												

Output	Activities	Responsible Entity	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
inventory and standards for management and planting of shelterbelts	Development of procedures and regulations for inventory of shelterbelts using remote sensing and GIS	NSC, URC												
	Development of standards for shelterbelt management and planting	MAPF, MENR												
Output 1.2.2: Clear criteria and indicators developed for establishment of Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) schemes for INRM	Development of criteria and indicators for PES schemes	MENR, WWF												
	Development of proposals for PES schemes	MENR, WWF												
Output 1.2.3: Inclusive and green food and feed value-chains strengthened	Definition of value-chain selection criteria	MAPF, UNA, Agrogeneration												
	Ranking of selected commodities/products	MAPF, UNA, Agrogeneration												
	Identification of opportunities for certification	MAPF, UNA, Agrogeneration												
Component 2: Restoration of productivity and resilience of production landscapes														
Output 2.1.1: Capacity to implement CA in the forest-steppe zone developed and strengthened	Training of 30 agricultural service providers	USRI, MAPF												
	One FFS established each in Kharkiv, Kiev and Mykolayie oblasts	USRI, MAPF, Agrogeneration												

Output	Activities	Responsible Entity	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	3 farmer-to-farmer exchange visits organised	USRI, MAPF, Agrogeneration												
Output 2.1.2: CA practices demonstrated and upscaled	Demonstration and transfer of innovations in CA to farms	USRI, NSC												
	Demonstration of precision farming	Agrogeneration												
	Development of recommendations on wider use of conservation agriculture technologies and practices, including precision farming	USRI, NCS, Agrogeneration												
Output 2.1.3: Identification and support to the special needs of rural women at project sites	Sensitisation on gender of agricultural advisory/ extension service providers	WICC, MAPF												
	Establishment of networks of rural women in project areas and women-to women visits	WICC, MAPF												
	Training of young women entrepreneurs	WICC												
Output 2.2.1: Guidelines and capacity for inventory and management of shelterbelts developed	Review of relevant international guidelines on shelterbelt management, agroforestry development, etc. and improvement of regulations	MAPF, MENR												
	Inventory and development of recommendations for the management of shelterbelts taking into account biophysical factors and ownership issues	MAPF, MENR												

Output	Activities	Responsible Entity	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Output 2.2.2: Rehabilitation and multipurpose shelterbelt management demonstrated and improved	Demonstration of sustainable agroforestry practices in shelterbelts	URC, MAPF, USRI, Agrogenation												
	Demonstration of use of NTFPs, such as nuts, honey, fruits, etc.	UNA, Agrogenation												
Component 3: Monitoring, evaluation and adaptive management														
Output 3.1.1: Project progress continually monitored, mid-term and final evaluations conducted	Establishment of M&E system	FAO												
	Mid-term review	FAO												
	Final evaluation	FAO												
Output 3.1.2: Assessment of resilience of tested INRM approaches and feeding back of lessons to field level	Development of multi-stakeholder engagement plan	FAO												
	Assessment of general resilience and specified resilience in target socio-ecological systems	FAO												
	Identification of appropriate implementation pathway and adjustments needed at mid-term	FAO												
Output 3.1.3: Project achievements, results and innovative approaches recorded and disseminated	Development of a communication and dissemination plans	FAO												
	Development of project website, social media pages	FAO												

Output	Activities	Responsible Entity	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3			
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	Development of public awareness material	FAO, MENR												

APPENDIX 3: PROJECT BUDGET

Oracle code and description	Unit	No. of units	Unit cost	Component 1:			Component 2:			Component 3:	PM	GEF	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
				Outcome 1.1	Outcome 1.2	Total	Outcome 2.1	Outcome 2.2	Total	Total					
5300 Salaries professionals															
Operations officer		36	1,500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	54,000	54,000	18,000	18,000	18,000
Financial management		36	847	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,500	30,500	10,167	10,167	10,167
5300 Sub-total salaries professionals				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	84,500	84,500	28,167	28,167	28,167
5570 Consultants															
5542 International Consultants															
Environmental monitoring systems expert	days	15	500	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,500		7,500	7,500		
Integrated land-use planning expert	days	15	500	7,500	-	7,500	-	-	-	0		7,500	7,500		
Financial and incentive mechanisms expert (including value chains)	days	20	500	-	10,000	10,000	-	-	-	0		10,000		10,000	
Conservation agriculture and CSA expert	days	30	500	-	-	-	15,000	-	15,000	0		15,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Gender and livelihood expert	days	20	500	-	-	-	10,000	-	10,000	0		10,000	5,000	5,000	
Resilience assessment expert	days	20	500	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,000		10,000	5,000	5,000	
Sub-total international Consultants				7,500	10,000	17,500	25,000	0	25,000	17,500	0	60,000	30,000	25,000	5,000
5543 National consultants															
Project Coordinator	month	36	2,500	30,000	-	30,000	30,000	-	30,000	15,000	15,000	90,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Administrative support	month	36	1,500							15,000	39,000	54,000	18,000	18,000	18,000
M&E and Communication expert	month	36	2,000	24,000	-	24,000	24,000	-	24,000	24,000		72,000	24,000	24,000	24,000
Field Officer Kiev Oblast	month	24	1,000	-	-	-	24,000	-	24,000	0		24,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
Field Officer Kharkiv Oblast	month	24	1,000	-	-	-	24,000	-	24,000	0		24,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
Field Officer Mykolayiv Oblast	month	24	1,000	-	-	-	-	24,000	24,000	0		24,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
National Policy and Institutional Expert	month	16	2,000	32,000	-	32,000	-	-	-	0		32,000	16,000	16,000	

Oracle code and description	Unit	No. of units	Unit cost	Component 1:			Component 2:			Component 3:	PM	GEF	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
				Outcome 1.1	Outcome 1.2	Total	Outcome 2.1	Outcome 2.2	Total	Total					
Gender & livelihood expert	month	12	2,000	-	-	-	24,000	-	24,000	0		24,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
Rural Advisory Services expert	days	60	200	-	-	-	12,000	-	12,000	0		12,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
CSA expert	days	60	200	-	-	-	12,000	-	12,000	0		12,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
Agroforestry and shelterbelt expert	days	60	200	-	-	-	-	12,000	12,000	0		12,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
Value chain expert	days	55	200	-	11,000	11,000	-	-	-	0		11,000	5,500	5,500	
PES scheme expert	days	30	200	-	6,000	6,000	-	-	-	0		6,000		6,000	
Legal expert on land tenure	days	30	200	-	6,000	6,000	-	-	-	0		6,000	6,000		
Sub-total national Consultants				86,000	23,000	109,000	150,000	36,000	186,000	54,000	54,000	403,000	143,500	143,500	116,000
5570 Sub-total consultants				93,500	33,000	126,500	175,000	36,000	211,000	71,500	54,000	463,000	173,500	168,500	121,000
5650 Contracts (LoAs)															
Development of integrated land use plans (NGOs) in each oblast	Lump sum	3	20,000	60,000	-	60,000	-	-	-	0		60,000	30,000	30,000	
Technical Support and capacity building for implementation of conservation agriculture (Leonid P Inst.)	Lump sum	1	100,000	-	-	-	100,000	-	100,000	0		100,000	50,000	50,000	
Technical support and capacity building for improved shelterbelt management	Lump sum	4	35,000	-	-	-	-	140,000	140,000	0		140,000	70,000	70,000	
Capacity building of agricultural service providers in each oblast	Lump sum	3	15,000	-	-	-	45,000	-	45,000	0		45,000	22,500	22,500	
Development of outreach material on INRM practices (print, audio-visuals, etc.)	Lump sum	1	30,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,000		30,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Mid-term review and Final Evaluation	Lump sum	1	50,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	50,000		50,000		15,000	35,000
National soil organic carbon map and baseline maps for soil monitoring	Lump sum	2	20,000	40,000	-	40,000	-	-	-	0		40,000	20,000	20,000	
Inventory of shelterbelts	Lump sum	3	30,000	-	-	-	-	90,000	90,000	0		90,000	90,000		

Oracle code and description	Unit	No. of units	Unit cost	Component 1:			Component 2:			Component 3:	PM	GEF	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
				Outcome 1.1	Outcome 1.2	Total	Outcome 2.1	Outcome 2.2	Total	Total					
Development of forestry layouts for rehabilitation of shelterbelts	Lump sum	3	30,000	-	-	-	-	90,000	90,000	0		90,000	45,000	45,000	
5650 Sub-total Contracts				100,000	0	100,000	145,000	320,000	465,000	80,000	0	645,000	337,500	262,500	45,000
5900 Travel															
PMU (incl DSA)	Lump sum year	3	1,500	4,500	-	4,500	-	-	-	0		4,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Local travel (field Offices, DSA)	Lump sum year	3	4,500	-	-	-	9,000	4,500	13,500	0		13,500	4,500	4,500	4,500
National policy coordination meetings	Lump sum	6	500	3,000	-	3,000	-	-	-	0		3,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Exchange visits by land users to demonstration sites	Lump sum	5	2,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,000		10,000	5,000	5,000	
Postgrad students for field work	lump sum	3	5,000	-	-	-	10,000	5,000	15,000	0		15,000	7,500	7,500	
International consultants' travel	Trips	10	3,000	-	-	-	15,000	15,000	30,000	0		30,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
5900 Sub-total travel				7,500	0	7,500	34,000	24,500	58,500	10,000	0	76,000	29,500	29,500	17,000
5020 Training and workshops															
Annual work planning meetings and steering committee meetings	Meetings	3	8,000	12,000	-	12,000	-	-	-	0	12,000	24,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
Meetings of the Coordinating Council on Combating Land Degradation and Desertification	WS.	3	1,500	4,500	-	4,500	-	-	-	0		4,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Training on climate-smart agriculture	WS.	2	15,000	-	-	-	30,000	-	30,000	0		30,000	15,000	15,000	
Training on shelterbelt management	WS.	2	15,000	-	-	-	-	30,000	30,000	0		30,000	15,000	15,000	
Training in opportunities for women in CSA and agroforestry	WS.	3	15,000	-	-	-	45,000	-	45,000	0		45,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Training of land users in value chain management	WS.	3	15,000	-	45,000	45,000	-	-	-	0		45,000	15,000	15,000	15,000

Oracle code and description	Unit	No. of units	Unit cost	Component 1:			Component 2:			Component 3:	PM	GEF	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
				Outcome 1.1	Outcome 1.2	Total	Outcome 2.1	Outcome 2.2	Total	Total					
5020 Sub-total training				16,500	45,000	61,500	75,000	30,000	105,000	0	12,000	178,500	69,500	69,500	39,500
6000 Expendable procurement															
Brochures design and printing	Copy	3	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,000		3,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Six-monthly project news letter	Issue	5	500	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,500		2,500	833	833	833
Best practices and lessons learned publications	Publication	1	2,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,000		2,000	667	667	667
Bi-annual status reports	Report	2	500	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,000	0	1,000	333	333	333
Posters	Poster	3	2,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,000		6,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Material for CA (e.g. seeds, etc.)	Lump sum	3	22,000	-	-	-	66,000	-	66,000	0		66,000	33,000	33,000	
Materials for shelterbelts (saplings, etc.)	Lump sum	3	43,000	-	-	-	-	129,000	129,000	0		129,000	64,500	64,500	
Field-offices expendables (3)	Lump sum	3	10,000	-	-	-	20,000	10,000	30,000	0		30,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
PMU expendables	Lump sum	1	26,647	-	-	-	-	-	-	26,647	0	26,647	8,882	8,882	8,882
Software & licenses	Lump sum	1	2,705	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	2,705	2,705	2,705		
Billboard signs -info and demarcation	Signs	3	2,000	-	-	-	4,000	2,000	6,000	0		6,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
6000 Sub-total expendable procurement				0	0	0	90,000	141,000	231,000	41,147	2,705	274,852	125,921	123,216	25,716
6100 Non-expendable procurement															
Smartphone/tablet/data recorder	handset	3	1,500	-	-	-	4,500	-	4,500	0		4,500	4,500		
Small field implements	Lump sum	1	12,484	-	-	-	12,484	-	12,484	0		12,484	12,484		
Router, etc.		1	3,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	3,000	3,000	3,000		
Computer server		1	3,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	3,000	3,000	3,000		
LDC projector	Projector	1	2,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	2,000	2,000	2,000		
Laptops	Laptop	3	2,000	6,000	-	6,000	-	-	-	0		6,000	6,000		
Color printer/photocopier/scan	C Printer	1	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	1,000	1,000	1,000		

Oracle code and description	Unit	No. of units	Unit cost	Component 1:			Component 2:			Component 3:	PM	GEF	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
				Outcome 1.1	Outcome 1.2	Total	Outcome 2.1	Outcome 2.2	Total	Total					
Desktop computer	Desktop	1	4,000	4,000	-	4,000	-	-	-	0		4,000	4,000		
6100 Sub-total non-expendable procurement				10,000	0	10,000	16,984	0	16,984	0	9,000	35,984	35,984	0	0
6300 GOE budget															
Mobility and other expenses	Lumpsum		18,648	-	-	-	9,324	9,324	18,648	0		18,648	6,216	6,216	6,216
6300 Sub-total GOE budget				0	0	0	9,324	9,324	18,648	0	0	18,648	6,216	6,216	6,216
TOTAL				227,500	78,000	305,500	545,308	560,824	1,106,132	202,647	162,205	1,776,484	806,287	687,598	282,598

SUBTOTAL Comp 1	305,500	17.2%
SUBTOTAL Comp 2	1,106,132	62.3%
SUBTOTAL Comp 3	202,647	11.4%
Subtotal Comp 1 to 3	1,614,279	
SUBTOTAL Project Management	162,205	9.1%
TOTAL GEF	1,776,484	100.0%

APPENDIX 4: RISK MATRIX¹

	Description of risk	Impact ²	Probability of occurrence ¹	Degree of incidence	Mitigation actions	Responsible party
1	Lack of close and collaborative cooperation between key institutional stakeholders	H			This risk will be mitigated under Component 1 of the project that will strengthen the existing intersectoral coordination mechanism, the Coordinating Council for Land Degradation and Desertification, to enhance cooperation.	MENR
2	Unclear responsibilities of institutions at national and local level	H			This will also be addressed under component 1 of the project that will provide support to improve institutional structures and legislation for sustainable land and shelterbelt management, including roles and responsibilities at national and sub-national levels.	MENR
3	Low technical capacity at national and local level halting the project's progress	ML			Capacity development in conservation agriculture and shelterbelt management will be provided under Component 2, which will mitigate this risk.	FAO
4	Lack of political support to integration of environmental	MH			Political support is high in Ukraine to shift to environmentally sustainable natural	MENR

¹ Please consult available corporate guidelines and training for information on how to complete the risk log on the ERM website.

² H: High; MH: Moderately High; ML: Moderately Low; L: Low

	Description of risk	Impact ²	Probability of occurrence ¹	Degree of incidence	Mitigation actions	Responsible party
	considerations into agriculture and shelterbelt management				resources management practices, which is demonstrated by policy reform processes initiated both in the agriculture and forest sector with support from EU, FAO, etc. This project will provide an opportunity to further integrate global environmental considerations and to demonstrate good practices in the field.	
5	Natural changes in agro-ecological zones due to gradual changes in climate and extreme weather events	ML			Climate-smart practices to be demonstrated and scaled up by the project are proven to enhance resilience to climate change, such as CA, and multi-purpose agroforestry.	FAO

APPENDIX 5: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT

Would the project, if implemented?	N/A	No	Yes	Un-known
I. FAO VISION/STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES				
Be in line with FAO's vision?			X	
Be supportive of FAO's strategic objectives?			X	
II. FAO KEY PRINCIPLES FOR SUSTAINABILITY IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE				
Improve efficiency in the use of resources?			X	
Conserve, protect and enhance natural resources?			X	
Protect and improve rural livelihoods and social well-being?			X	
Enhance resilience of people, communities and ecosystems?			X	
Include responsible and effective governance mechanisms?			X	
ESS 1 NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT				
❖ Management of water resources and small dams				
Include an irrigation scheme that is more than 20 hectares or withdraws more than 1000 m ³ /day of water?		X		
Include an irrigation scheme that is more than 100 hectares or withdraws more than 5000 m ³ /day of water?		X		
Include an existing irrigation scheme?			X	
Include an area known or expected to have water quality problems?			X	
Include usage of non-conventional sources of water (i.e. wastewater)?				X
Include a dam that is more than 5 m. in height?		X		

Include a dam that is more than 15 m. in height?		X		
Include measures that build resilience to climate change?			X	
❖ Tenure				
Negatively affect the legitimate tenure rights of individuals, communities or others ⁸ ?		X		
ESS 2 BIODIVERSITY, ECOSYSTEMS AND NATURAL HABITATS				
Make reasonable and feasible effort to avoid practices that could have a negative impact on biodiversity, including agricultural biodiversity and genetic resources?			X	
Have biosafety provisions in place?	X			
Respect access and benefit-sharing measures in force?			X	
Safeguard the relationships between biological and cultural diversity?			X	
❖ Protected areas, buffer zones and natural habitats				
Located such that it poses no risk or impact to protected areas, critical habitats and ecosystem functions?			X	
ESS 3 PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE				
❖ Planted forests				
Have a credible forest certification scheme, national forest programmes or equivalent or use the Voluntary Guidelines on Planted Forests (or an equivalent for indigenous forests)?	X			
ESS 4 ANIMAL - LIVESTOCK AND AQUATIC- GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE				
❖ Aquatic genetic resources				

⁸ In accordance with Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) <http://www.fao.org/docrep/016/i2801e/i2801e.pdf>

Adhere (Aligned) to the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) and its related negotiated instruments?	X			
Aligned, where applicable, with FAO's strategic policies established in the FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries (including aquaculture)?	X			
❖ Livestock genetic resources				
Aligned with the Livestock Sector Strategy including the animal disease, public health and land degradation provisions?			X	
ESS 5 PEST AND PESTICIDES MANAGEMENT				
Involve the procurement or provision of pesticides?		X		
Result in increased use of pesticides through expansion or intensification of production systems?		X		
Require the disposal of pesticides or pesticide contaminated materials?		X		
ESS 6 INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT AND DISPLACEMENT				
Avoid the physical and economic displacement of people?			X	
ESS 7 DECENT WORK				
Adhere to FAO's guidance on decent rural employment, promoting more and better employment opportunities and working conditions in rural areas and avoiding practices that could increase workers' vulnerability?			X	
Respect the fundamental principles and rights at work and support the effective implementation of other international labour standards, in particular those that are relevant to the agri-food sector?			X	
ESS 8 GENDER EQUALITY				
Have the needs, priorities and constraints of both women and men been taken into consideration?			X	
Does the intervention promote women's and men's equitable access to and control over productive resources and services?			X	

Does the intervention foster their equal participation in institutions and decision-making processes?			X	
ESS 9 INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND CULTURAL HERITAGE				
Are there any indigenous communities in the project area?		X		
Are project activities likely to have adverse effects on indigenous peoples' rights, lands, natural resources, territories, livelihoods, knowledge, social fabric, traditions, governance systems, and culture or heritage (tangible and intangible)?		X		
Are indigenous communities outside the project area likely to be affected by the project?		X		
Designed to be sensitive to cultural heritage issues?			X	

APPENDIX 6: RISK CLASSIFICATION CERTIFICATION FORM

ANNEX 7

Risk Classification Certification Form

After completing the Environmental and Social (E&S) Screening Checklist, the Lead Technical Officer (LTO) completes and certifies this Certification Form and attached the E&S Screening Checklist to this form.

Project symbol: _GCP/UKR/002

Project title: *Integrated Natural Resources Management in Degraded Landscapes in the Forest-Steppe Zone of Ukraine*

A. RISK CLASSIFICATION

Low Moderate High

1. Record key risk impacts from the E&S Screening Checklist

A. None but tenure will be biggest issue C. _____

B. _____ D. _____

2. Has the project site and surrounding area been visited by the compiler of this form?

Yes No but has been seen by collaborators and partners

B. STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION/ENGAGEMENT

Identification of Stakeholder(s)	Date	Participants	Location
Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources	01/2026	5	Kiev
Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food	01/2026	2	Kiev
State Forest Resource Agency of Ukraine	01/2026	3	Kiev

1. Summarize key risks and impacts identified from the stakeholder engagement

A. Ensure ownership at all stakeholder levels C. _____

B. Ensure updated policy legislation on tenure rights D. _____

2. Have any of the stakeholders raised concerns about the project?

No _____

The LTO confirms the information above

Date 25/07/2016 R.A. SESCO

Signature [Signature]

APPENDIX 7: TERMS OF REFERENCE

Draft⁹

Operations Officer (FAO-REU)

Timing/Duration Full time for project duration

Background: Under the overall supervision of the FAO Regional Representative for Europa and Central Asia and in close cooperation with other FAO staff, the incumbent will provide operational support to the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the project for timely delivery of its outcomes and outputs. In particular he/she will perform the following tasks:

- Ensure smooth and timely implementation of project activities in support of the results-based work plan, through operational and administrative procedures according to FAO rules and standards;
- Coordinate the project operational arrangements through contractual agreements with key project partners;
- Arrange the operations needed for signing and executing Letters of Agreement (LoA) and Government Cooperation Programme (GCP) agreements with relevant project partners;
- Maintain inter-departmental linkages with FAO units for donor liaison, Finance, Human Resources, and other units as required;
- Undertake day-to-day management of the project budget, including the monitoring of cash availability, budget preparation and budget revisions to be reviewed by the Project Coordinator;
- Ensure the accurate recording of all data relevant for operational, financial and results-based monitoring;
- Ensure that relevant reports on expenditures, forecasts, progress against work plans, project closure, are prepared and submitted in accordance with FAO and GEF defined procedures and reporting formats, schedules and communications channels, as required;
- Execute accurate and timely actions on all operational requirements for personnel-related matters, equipment and material procurement, and field disbursements;
- Participate and represent the project in collaborative meetings with project partners and the Project Steering Committee, as required;
- Be responsible for results achieved within her/his area of work and ensure issues affecting project delivery and success are brought to the attention of higher level authorities through the BH in a timely manner,
- In consultation with the FAO Evaluation Office, the and the FAO-GEF Coordination Unit, support the organization of the mid-term review and final evaluations, and provide inputs regarding project budgetary matters;

Minimal requirements:

1. University Degree in Economics, Business Administration, or related fields.
2. Five years of experience in project experience in planning, project implementation and management/administration of development programmes including the preparation, monitoring and evaluation of development projects and operations procedures
3. Knowledge of FAO's project management systems.

Location: Budapest, Hungary

⁹ Consultants' Terms of Reference will be revised and validated during the project's inception.

Language: English/ Russian

Project Finance and Administration Assistant (FAO-REU)

Timing/Duration Full time for project duration

Under the overall supervision of the FAO Regional Representative for Europe and Central Asia and in close cooperation with other FAO REU staff, the incumbent will assist the admin and operations officer and the National Project Coordinator (NPC) in managing the administrative and financial issues of the project for timely delivery of its outcomes and outputs. In particular he/she will perform the following tasks:

- Ensure that all the financial information is accurate, relevant books are kept; reports are prepared and payments are done according to the FAO/GEF standards;
- Ensure that all procurement activities are in line with FAO's procurement rules;
- Assist in the preparation of periodic accounting records, finance and budget documents; record receipts and disbursements (ledgers, cash books, vouchers, etc.);
- Support the NPC and Procurement Officer in the preparation and implementation of the project's annual procurement plans;
- Support the monitoring of budgets and financial expenditures and support/inform all project counterparts on applicable administrative procedures;
- Support the preparation of procurement and recruitment processes;
- Process claims or invoices and other payments requests in line with relevant regulations and instructions;
- Ensure that all supporting documents and information required to justify payment, including receipts, banking details, etc. are complete before releasing payments;
- Settle invoices and claims after verification of supporting documents;
- Reconcile data for recurring or special reports; maintain contacts with local banks, verify account status and currency exchange rates and obtain approval for cheque clearance; assist the project team in terms of logistic issues as well as preparations for meetings, training and workshops;
- Perform other duties as required.

Minimum Requirements:

Secondary School Education Experience: Three years of relevant experience in finance / budget-related support work

Languages: Working knowledge (Level C) of English

IT Skills: Good knowledge of the MS Office applications, Internet and office technology equipment.

Location: Tbd

Language: English/ Russian

National Project Director

Timing/Duration Full time for project duration

Background The NPD will be a senior officer seconded to the Project by the national lead agency.

- Main tasks**
- Assume overall responsibility for the successful execution and implementation of the project, accountability to the Government and FAO for the proper and effective use of project resources;
 - Serve as a focal point for the coordination of projects with other Government agencies, FAO and outside implementing agencies;
 - Ensure that all Government inputs committed to the project are made available;
 - Supervise the work of the Project Coordinator and ensure that the Project Coordinator is empowered to effectively manage the project and other project staff to perform their duties effectively;
 - Select and arrange, in close collaboration with FAO, for the appointment of the Field Officers, as appropriate;
 - Supervise the preparation of project work plans, updating, clearance and approval, in consultation with FAO and other stakeholders and ensure the timely request of inputs according to the project work plans;
 - Represent the Government institution (national counterpart) at the tripartite review project meetings, and other stakeholder meetings;
 - Build and strengthen synergies and collaboration with other countries and contribute to the regional collaboration component to ensure knowledge exchange and benefits at national level.

PCU Staff

Title	Project Coordinator (PC)
Timing/Duration	Full time for project duration
Background	The PC is a GEF funded position reporting to the FAOR and the FAO LTO.
Main tasks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Manage Project Coordination Unit (PCU)• Prepare annual and quarterly workplans and prepare ToR for all inputs;• Ensure all PCU staff and all consultants fully understand their role and their tasks, and support them in their work;• Oversee day-to-day implementation of the project in line with the workplans;• Assure quality of project activities and project outputs;• Organise regular planning and communication events, starting with inception mission and inception workshop;• Oversee preparation and implementation of M&E framework;

- Oversee preparation and implementation of Project communication and knowledge management frameworks;
- Prepare progress reports and all monitoring reports.
- Lead interactions with stakeholders
- Liaise with government agencies and regularly advocate on behalf of the Project;
- Coordinate project interventions with other ongoing activities, especially those of co-financers and other GEF projects;
- Facilitate and strengthen collaboration between national project's stakeholders and regional/international partners to ensure smooth implementation and delivery of project's activities;
- Support the establishment of the project as an umbrella for SLM/INRM in Ukraine and encourage regional/international partners to support this initiative;
- Regularly promote the project and its outputs and findings on a national, and where appropriate, regional stage.

Key competencies/qualifications

- Advanced degree in natural resources management or related fields
- At least ten years of experience in the natural resources management sector in Ukraine;
- Demonstrated ability to adopt new ideas;
- Demonstrated commitment to participatory and bottom-up approaches;
- Demonstrated ability to communicate, including advocating to government agencies;
- Demonstrated ability to manage, including project management, office management ;
- English and Russian language skills

Title **Administrative Assistant**

Timing/Duration Full time for project duration

Background The Administrative Assistant will be working under the direct supervision of the Project Coordinator and in close cooperation with the national staff of the project, the FAOR and the FAO LTO

Main tasks

- Support financial and administrative actions to ensure smooth project operations
- Assist in the preparation of annual and quarterly workplans and preparation of ToR for all inputs;
- Oversee day-to-day implementation of the project in line with the workplans;
- Contribute in the assurance of quality of project activities and

- project outputs;
- Assist in the organisation of regular planning and communication events, starting with inception mission and inception workshop;
- Provide assistance in the preparation and implementation of M&E framework;
- Provide assistance in the preparation and implementation of Project communication and knowledge management frameworks;
- Assist in the preparation of progress reports and all monitoring reports.
- Assist in the coordination project interventions with other ongoing activities, especially those of co-financers and other GEF projects;
- Degree in business administration, public administration, finance, economics or related field;
- familiarity with FAO or other donors' administrative procedures, strong familiarity with computers and Microsoft Word, Excel;
- Full competency and fluency in English. Fluency in the Albanian language;
- strong ability to work under pressure and against tight deadlines;
- Strong drafting and interpersonal skills, honesty, orientation on achievements.

Title	Field Officers (3)
Timing/Duration	Three x Full time for project duration
Background	These GEF funded positions will report to the PC.
Main tasks	<p>The Field Officers provide and channel guidance to local governments and to local communities at demonstration sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide capacity development to district/oblast natural resources/agricultural units • Provide training and awareness raising on INRM • Oversee the preparation of participatory land-use plans, and their implementation at Project demonstration sites • Lead field-based M&E, together with local communities, of project environmental and socio-economic impacts • Liaise regularly with provincial government and with PCU and national government; • Provide regular feedback and advance warning on conflicts, and assist with conflict resolution.
Key competencies/qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrated experience in participatory natural resources management at the local level • Excellent communication skills, with district/oblast government, national and international experts and local communities

- Demonstrated ability to open up to new approaches and new practices

Title **M&E and Communications Expert**

Timing/Duration Full time for project duration

Background This GEF funded position reports to the PC.

Main tasks This assignment will support FAO and the PCU on M&E, and communicating and disseminating messages from the project. The assignment will cover written, verbal, electronic and other forms of media.

The aim is to ensure that INRM is raised on the agenda of decision-makers and politicians and that the issues are fully understood and appreciated.

This assignment contributes to all Outcomes of the project. The consultant will work with the RC. Specific tasks include:

- Support the PC in monitoring and evaluation of key project results and impacts;
- Design a system for monitoring the effectiveness of the project's communications;
- Determine the principal messages to be disseminated by the Project;
- Determine the key audiences for each message;
- Determine the optimal media for conveying the messages to the targeted audience;
- Draft a communication strategy;
- Train PCU and national staff on communication techniques;
- Work with the PCU to design, develop and support use of communication tools as the project evolves, conveying the project findings and outputs: websites, posters, leaflets, TV interviews, radio interviews, Facebook, twitter, etc.

Key competencies/qualifications

- Higher degree in impact monitoring and communications
- Ten years of experience in communications or media relations with a national government agency or international private sector organization
- Demonstrated ability to (i) train (ii) develop communication tools – written, verbal, electronic, etc.
- Perfect English and Russian language skills
- Previous work in Central Asia is highly preferential.

Title	Gender and Livelihood Expert
Timing/Duration	TBD
Background	This GEF funded position reports to the PC.
Main tasks	<p>The aim of this assignment is to ensure that gender and livelihood considerations are integrated into all project approaches, strategies, activities, inputs and outputs. The assignment will also be responsible for advising FAO and the PCU on gender issues. Specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess and analyze the project from a gender and socio-economic perspective; • Identify key gender issues in the project and key gender entry points; • Identify awareness and training needs regarding gender and livelihoods in the PCU and at national level; • Prepare a practical strategy for integrating gender and socio-economic consideration into the project, including a training programme and a gender and livelihood monitoring framework; • Train the PCU and national staff on gender and livelihood issues; • Work with the PCU to (i) integrate gender into all project workplans (ii) integrate gender into all project ToR (iii) review all outputs from a gender perspective; • On a regular basis, monitor the effectiveness of the project with regards to addressing gender ad livelihood issues; • Prepare regular lessons learnt and best practices material.
Key competencies/qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher degree related to social issues or gender; • At least ten years of experience working on gender and livelihoods in rural Ukraine; • Demonstrated experience successfully working with international partners on natural resource management issues; • Demonstrated ability to interact effectively with a range of stakeholders – national government, local government and local land users; • English and Russian language communications skills are preferential.

Terms of reference for the project steering committee

Role of the PSC

The PSC will be the policy setting body for the project; as and when required, the PSC will be the ultimate decision making body with regard to policy and other issues affecting the achievement of the project's objectives. The PSC will be responsible for providing general oversight of the execution of the Project and will ensure that all activities agreed upon under the GEF project document are adequately prepared and carried out. In particular, it will:

- Provide overall guidance to the Project Management Unit in the execution of the project.
- Ensure all project outputs are in accordance with the Project document.
- Review, amend if appropriate, and approve the draft Annual Work Plan and Budget of the project for submission to FAO.
- Provide inputs to the mid-term review and final evaluations, review findings and provide comments for the Management Response
- Ensure dissemination of project information and best practices

Meetings of the PSC

1. The Project Steering Committee meetings will normally be held annually (on rotational bases), but the Chairperson will have the discretion to call additional meetings, if this is considered necessary. Meetings of the PSC would not necessarily require a physical meeting and could be undertaken electronically. No more than 13 months may elapse between PSC meetings.
2. Invitations to a regular PSC meeting shall be issued not less than 90 days in advance of the date fixed for the meeting. Invitations to special meetings shall be issued not less than forty days in advance of the meeting date.

Agenda

1. A provisional agenda will be drawn up by the Project Coordinator and sent to members and observers following the approval of the Chairperson. The provisional agenda will be sent not less than 30 days before the date of the meeting.
2. A revised agenda including comments received from members will be circulated 5 working days before the meeting date.
3. The Agenda of each regular meeting shall include:
 - a) The election of the Vice-Chairperson
 - b) Adoption of the agenda
 - c) A report of the Project Coordinator on Project activities during the inter-sessional period
 - d) A report and recommendations from the Project Coordinator on the proposed Annual Work Plan and the proposed budget for the ensuing period
 - e) Reports that need PSC intervention
 - f) Consideration of the time and place (if appropriate) of the next meeting;
 - g) Any other matters as approved by the Chairperson

4. The agenda of a special meeting shall consist only of items relating to the purpose for which the meeting was called.

The PCU

The PCU will act as Secretariat to the PSC and be responsible for providing PSC members with all required documents in advance of PSC meetings, including the draft Annual Work plan and Budget and independent scientific reviews of significant technical proposals or analyses. The PCU will prepare written report of all PSC meetings and be responsible for logistical arrangements relative to the holding of such meetings.

Functions of the Chairperson

1. The Chairperson shall exercise the functions conferred on him elsewhere in these Rules, and in particular shall:

- a) Declare the opening and closing of each PSC meeting
- b) Direct the discussions at such meetings and ensure observance of these Rules, accord the right to speak, put questions and announce decisions
- c) Rule on points of order
- d) Subject to these Rules, have complete control over the proceedings of meetings
- e) Appoint such ad hoc committees of the meeting as the PSC may direct
- f) Ensure circulation by the Secretariat to PSC members of all relevant documents
- g) Sign approved Annual Work Plans and Budgets and any subsequent proposed amendments submitted to FAO
- h) In liaison with the PSC Secretariat, the Chairperson shall be responsible for determining the date, site (if appropriate) and agenda of the PSC meeting(s) during his/her period of tenure, as well as the chairing of such meetings

Participation

The PSC will be chaired by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources. Other PSC members with the right to vote include..... FAO BH, LTO and the Project Coordinator will also be represented on the PSC, in ex-officio capacity. The Project Coordinator will be the Secretary to the PSC. Other active institutions, including representatives of implementing partners, may be invited or requested to participate as observers.

Decision-making

1. All decisions of the PSC shall be taken by consensus.

Reports and recommendations

1. At each meeting, the PSC shall approve report text that embodies its views, recommendations, and decisions, including, when requested, a statement of minority views.

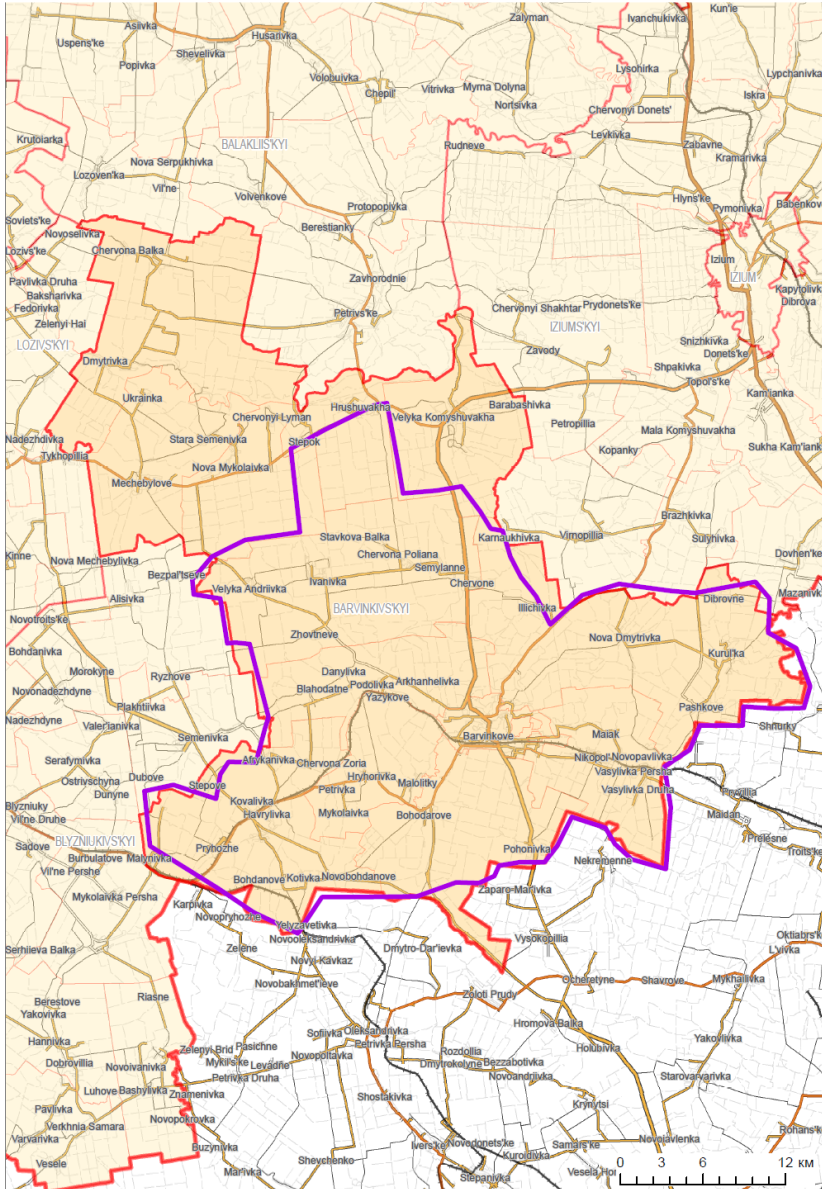
2. A draft Report shall be circulated to the Members as soon as possible after the meeting for comments. Comments shall be accepted over a period of 20 days. Following its approval by the Chairperson, the Final Report will be distributed and posted on the Workspace as soon as possible after this.

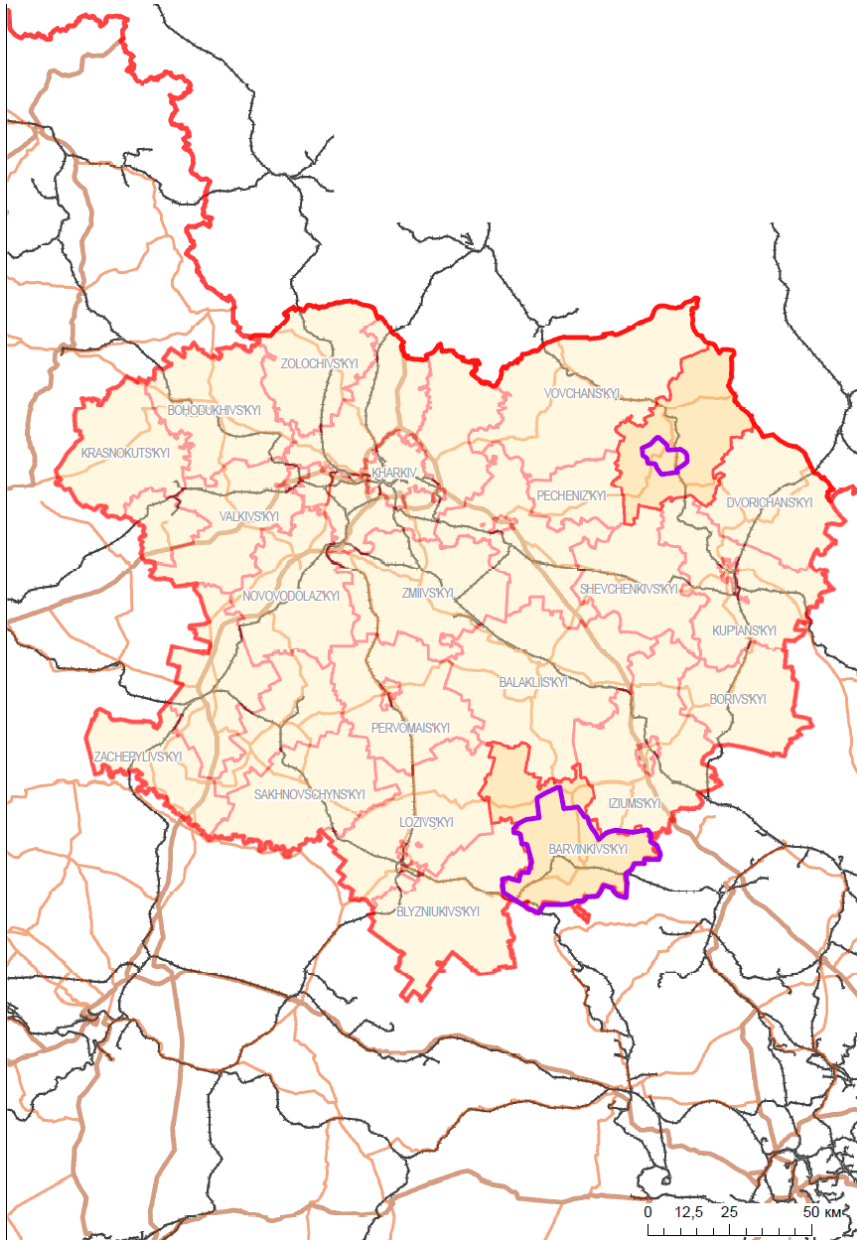
Official language

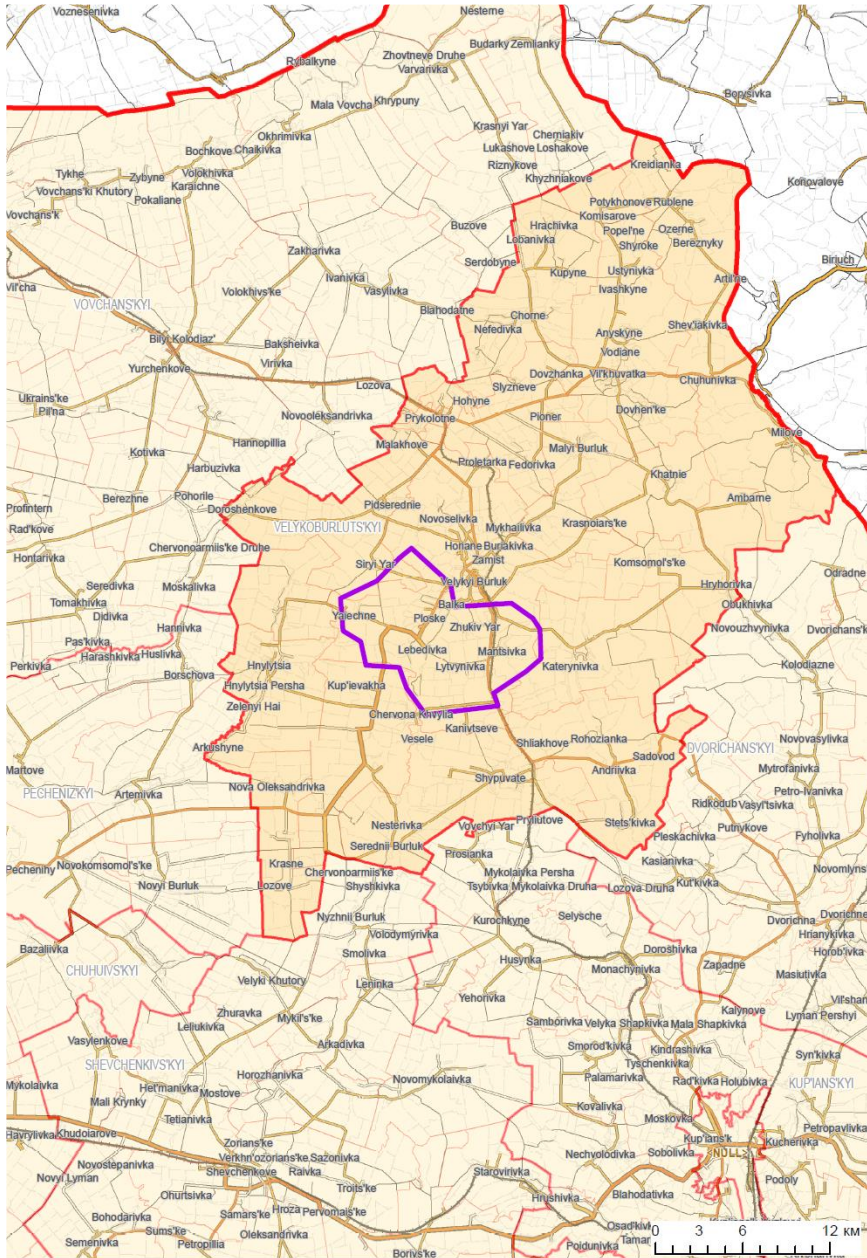
The official language of the PSC shall be Ukrainian/Russian/English

APPENDIX 8. MAPS OF THE PROJECT INTERVENTION AREAS

Demonstration areas in Kharkiv Oblast:







Demonstration area in Kiev Oblast:



Demonstration areas in Mykolaiv Oblast:

