



Investing in Land Stewardship

REPORT OF THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY TO THE TWELFTH
SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UNITED
NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

July 2015

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AF	Adaptation Fund
AfDB	African Development Bank
AMR	Annual Monitoring Report
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CCCD	Cross-cutting Capacity Development (GEF Program)
COP	Conference of the Parties
CRIC	Committee for Review of Implementation of the Convention
CSP	Country Support Program
DLDD	Desertification, Land Degradation, and Drought
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FY	Fiscal Year
GEBs	Global Environmental Benefits
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
IAP	Integrated Approach Pilot
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
LDC	Least Developed Country
LDCF	Least Developed Countries Fund
LDFA	Land Degradation Focal Area
LULUCF	Land Use, Land Use Change, and Forestry
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSP	Medium-Sized Project
NAP	National Action Program
NAPA	National Adaptation Program of Action
PES	Payment for Ecosystem Services
PIF	Project Identification Form
PIR	Project Implementation Report
PPG	Project Preparation Grant
PRAIS	Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System
RBM	Results Based Management
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
SCCF	Special Climate Change Fund
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
SGP	Small Grants Program
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
SLEM-CPP	Sustainable Land and Ecosystems Management Country Partnership Program (India)
STAR	System for Transparent Allocation of Resources
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report has been prepared by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Secretariat for submission to the twelfth session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP12) in Ankara, Turkey, from October 12 to 23, 2015. This is the fifth report prepared by the GEF to the COP in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the UNCCD Secretariat and the GEF Secretariat. This is also the third time the GEF is reporting since the GEF Instrument was amended to list the UNCCD among the Conventions for which the GEF serves as a financial mechanism.
2. The report provides information on GEF activities in sustainable land management (SLM) as they relate to GEF Land Degradation Focal Area (LDFA), specifically desertification and deforestation, for the period of July 2013 to June 2015. In accordance with the MOU, activities in other GEF Focal Areas and funding windows related to SLM are also presented. The reporting period coincides with the fourth full (or final) year of the Fifth GEF Replenishment Phase (GEF-5) and the first full year of the Sixth GEF Replenishment Phase (GEF-6). Because of the transition from the Fifth (GEF-5) to the Sixth (GEF-6) replenishment phase during this period, the report also includes additional information on policy and programming reforms related to GEF's role as financial mechanism for the Convention.
3. The report complements information provided through the Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System (PRAIS), which was included in the global synthesis submitted to the Committee for Review of Implementation of the Convention at its thirteenth Session (CRIC-13). The data submitted through the PRAIS was based on the GEF report to COP11, which covered the period 2011 to 2013. Therefore the details presented in the present report to COP12 are not reflected in the PRAIS data.

GEF's response to COP Guidance

4. During the period covered by this report, progress was made in addressing decisions taken at the COP11 on Collaboration with the GEF. Details of the decisions and progress with responses and actions taken by the GEF Secretariat are presented in this report in paragraph 38 and summarized as Table 2.

LDFA Programming Directions in GEF-6

5. GEF's mandate to invest in global environmental benefits (GEBs) from production landscapes relates directly to its role as a financial mechanism of the UNCCD. The LDFA provides the framework for eligible countries to utilize GEF resources for implementing the Convention and its 10-Year Strategy (2008-2018). The GEF-6 LDFA strategy directly supports three of the four UNCCD strategic objectives (SOs), namely those on achieving long-term benefits for affected populations (SO 1), affected areas (SO 2), and for the global environment (SO 3). The LDFA strategy is aligned with the GEF medium-term strategy called GEF 2020 and its drivers-based approach to address global environmental concerns.

6. The indicative total focal area resources for programming in GEF-6 are \$431 million. An amount of \$346 million is allocated to individual countries through STAR, and will be programmed to address the LDFA objectives as stated in the Results Based Management (RBM) framework (see Annex 1b). In addition, \$85 million has been allocated as set-aside funds to support convention obligations, regional and global projects, the Integrated Approach Pilot (IAP) on “*Fostering Sustainability and Resilience of Production Systems in Africa,*” and the contribution to the SFM program.

7. Building on the focal area mandate and the opportunities for transformational impact, the GEF-6 focal area corporate target is an aggregate area of 120 million hectares (ha) under SLM coverage. This estimate includes potential coverage across crop, rangeland and forest landscapes in affected regions. In order to meet this target, the GEF-6 investments are guided by four objectives listed in paragraph 11 below to deliver agreed GEBs and expected national socio-economic benefits, as per the LDFA RBM framework (see Annex 1b).

LDFA Portfolio Trends Highlights (July 2013 to June 2015)

Total GEF Programming

8. During the period under reporting, a total of 74 projects were approved with funding from the LDFA, of which 53 projects were approved in the final year of GEF-5 and 21 projects in the first year of GEF-6, as shown in Table 1. The total GEF grants for the projects amounted to US\$527.7 million, with an additional \$2.45 billion co-financing. These resources were utilized by countries through 27 stand-alone LDFA projects using \$68.6 million (30%) and 47 multi-focal area projects using \$459.1 million of GEF resources.

Table 1: GEF Programming in the Reporting Period (July 2013 to June 2015)

Time Period	Project type	Number of projects	GEF Resources (in \$ million)	Co-finance (in \$ million)
July 2013 – June 2014 (Final Year of GEF-5)	LDFA Stand- alone	25	51.2	171.9
	Multi-Focal Area	28	135.9	504.9
July 2014 – June 2015 (First Year of GEF-6)	LDFA Stand- alone	2	17.4	73.8
	Multi-Focal Area	19	323.1	1,702.2
	Total	74	527.7	2,452.7

9. The total \$527.7 million of GEF resources programmed includes \$227.4 million of LDFA resources, with stand-alone LDFA projects using \$68.6 million (30%) and multi-focal projects using \$158.8 million. The \$158.8 million of the LDFA resources invested through multi-focal area projects was linked to \$300.3 million of GEF resources mobilized from other focal areas, including Biodiversity (\$164.6 million), Climate Change (\$57.5 million), International Waters

(\$11.7 million), and the Sustainable Forest Management/Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (SFM/REDD-plus)¹ incentive program (\$63.5 million).

Focal Area Objectives

10. The LDFA strategy for GEF-5 (2010–2014) included the following four objectives:
 - a) **LD-1: Agriculture and Rangeland Systems:** Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem services sustaining the livelihoods of local communities;
 - b) **LD-2: Forest Landscapes:** Generate sustainable flows of forest ecosystem services in drylands, including sustaining livelihoods of forest dependent people;
 - c) **LD-3: Integrated Landscapes:** Reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses in the wider landscape; and
 - d) **LD-4: Adaptive Management and Learning:** Increase capacity to apply adaptive management tools in sustainable land and forest management by GEF and UNCCD Parties.
11. The new LDFA strategy for GEF-6 (2014–2018) includes the following four objectives:
 - a) **LD-1: Agriculture and Rangeland Systems:** Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem services to sustain food production and livelihoods;
 - b) **LD-2: Forest Landscapes:** Generate sustainable flows of forest ecosystem services, including sustaining livelihoods of forest dependent people;
 - c) **LD-3: Integrated Landscapes:** Reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses in the wider landscape; and
 - d) **LD-4: Maximizing Transformational Impact:** Maintain land resources and agro-ecosystem services through mainstreaming at scale.
12. All focal area resources utilized during the reporting period, except for project preparation grants, were directed towards the GEF-5 and GEF-6 focal area objectives. As the focal area objectives in GEF-5 and GEF-6 are slightly different, this document reports below on each replenishment phase separately:
 - a) In the final year of GEF-5 (July 2013–June 2014), LD-1 accounted for \$19.5 million, LD-2 accounted for \$13.4 million, LD-3 accounted for the highest utilization, with \$39.1 million, and LD-4 for \$13.3 million.

¹ REDD-plus: Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries.

- b) In the first year of GEF-6 (July 2014–June 2015), LD-1 accounted for \$48.9 million, LD-2 accounted for \$7.8 million, LD-3 accounted for \$51.4 million, and LD-4 accounted for \$22.1 million.

13. The total LDFA resource utilization during the first year of GEF-6 amounts to \$130.2 million plus an additional LDFA share in the project preparation grants of \$0.7 million. The level of LDFA programming represents 30% of the total focal area resource allocation of GEF-6 (\$431 million), which is a satisfactory start into the replenishment phase.

Geographical Highlights

14. Fifty (50) countries in Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe (ECA), and Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) utilized \$90.7 million of LDFA resources for 58 projects. The Africa (\$31.2 million) and Asia (\$29.6 million) regions accounted for the highest amount of LDFA resources programmed, followed by ECA (\$20.2 million) and LAC (\$9.7 million).

15. The additional \$136.7 million of LDFA resources was programmed through nine global and seven regional projects designed to invest in coordinated actions by multiple countries or address specific thematic issues for SLM. One single regional program, “*Fostering Sustainability and Resilience for Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa—An Integrated Approach (IAP-PROGRAM)*” stands out in utilizing more \$75 million of LDFA resources. The IAP-Program works with small-scale farmers to sustainably increase yields thereby increasing food security for millions of poor people, while preventing desertification, improving land health, and sequestering carbon. The program is coordinated by IFAD and implemented in partnership with UNEP, FAO, UNDP, WB, CI and UNIDO. It works to create and strengthen institutional frameworks and scale-up sustainable land management in 12 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, including: Burkina Faso, Burundi, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Swaziland, Tanzania, and Uganda.

SLM Synergies through Other GEF Windows

16. Of the 47 multi-focal area projects in the LDFA portfolio for this reporting period, 26 leveraged funding from the SFM/REDD-plus incentive program, amounting to \$63.5 million.

17. Seventeen capacity development projects under GEF’s Cross-cutting Capacity Development (CCCD) Program were financed during the period under reporting, for a total GEF grant of \$18.6 million and an additional \$28.5 million in co-financing. The portfolio consists of 17 individual country projects all financed during the final year of the GEF-5 replenishment period (FY2014).

18. Affected countries can also build on synergies with climate change adaptation, and advance climate-resilient SLM with resources from three adaptation funds being managed by the GEF: the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the Adaptation Fund (AF) under the UNFCCC’s Kyoto Protocol.

19. During the reporting period, 24 projects were financed under the LDCF with links to production systems. The projects address urgent and immediate adaptation needs in 18 countries in Africa and six in Asia utilizing a total of \$171.6 million and leveraging in \$547.5 million in co-financing, with the demand for this type of projects being considerably higher².

20. Four projects linked directly to natural resource management were financed under the SCCF for a total of \$25.0 million, leveraging \$114.8 million in co-financing. The projects take place in Morocco, Egypt, Costa Rica, and Turkmenistan.

21. Thirteen projects were financed by the AF with direct links to SLM. The projects take place in Guatemala, Rwanda, Uzbekistan, Seychelles, Myanmar, South Africa, Kenya, Costa Rica, India, Ghana, Mali, Jordan, and Morocco for a total grant of \$101.1 million.

Progress with Implementing GEF-5 Reforms

Overall Programming of LDFA Allocation

22. Of the total \$385 million allocated to the LDFA during GEF-5, \$350.9 million (91.1%) has been programmed in the four-year period from July 2010 to June 2014. This amount covers all grants utilized by countries through stand-alone LDFA projects, LDFA resources allocated to multi-focal area projects, enabling activities, and the SGP. It also includes investments through global and regional projects designed to support country-level actions on SLM. The final figure for GEF-5 includes project management costs, agencies fees and the LDFA share that was utilized for project preparation grants. The LDFA utilization percentage of 91.1% is in line with the overall utilization percentage of 91.8% of the GEF-5 replenishment.

Utilization of Country Allocations and Set Asides

23. From the total \$324 million allocated to countries under the System for a Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR) for the LDFA, \$312.3 million (96.4%) has been utilized. For 63 countries eligible under the STAR flexibility rule, 60 have utilized some or all of their allocations either for a stand-alone focal area or a multi-focal area project. Out of the \$61 million of LDFA set asides, \$38.8 million (63.3%) were programmed in GEF-5.

Enabling Activity Financing:

24. In total, 133 of 144 eligible countries have requested GEF resources for Enabling Activities through one of three modalities: Direct Access (11 countries), GEF Agency (34 countries), and Umbrella Projects (88 countries). The total LDFA resources requested by all countries through the three modalities is \$11.8 million, with about 70% of resources targeted for

² Due to resource constraints of the LDCF, funding opportunities for SLM through this funding window could not be fully realized. For example, at the end of the reporting period, on June 30, 2015, the GEF Secretariat had technically cleared 32 LDCF proposals for a total funding demand of \$235.68 million. These projects were awaiting additional funds to become available in the LDCF. While the technically cleared projects remained at concept stage and had yet to articulate specific, quantitative targets, at least 13 of them, with requested LDCF resources amounting to \$91.88 million, would incorporate SLM approaches.

alignment of National Action Programs with the UNCCD 10-Year Strategy and Action Plan, and 30% for Reporting and Review Process. In addition, the *Global Support Programme: Increasing the Quantity and Improving the Quality of Information for the Review of Implementation of the UNCCD Implementation* was supported with an amount of \$2.2 million. The project was instrumental in facilitating reporting in the fifth reporting and review cycle of the UNCCD.

Small Grants Program

25. The Small Grants Program (SGP) plays an important role in helping countries to mobilize civil society in the implementation of the conventions for which the GEF serves as financial mechanism. In this regard, it is worth highlighting the extent to which the LDFA resources have been programmed by countries during GEF-5. The Global SGP programmed a total of \$255.2 million of GEF resources in GEF-5 from both STAR funds and non-STAR funds outside focal area allocations. The total amount of STAR funds endorsed for SGP in GEF-5 was \$125.4 million, with \$29.9 million contributed by 66 countries from their LDFA allocations under the STAR. The countries thus showed support for the SGP and for addressing UNCCD concerns through the SGP modality.

Portfolio Monitoring and Assessment

Portfolio monitoring and assessment is an important activity at the focal area level, and is based on projects under implementation. For the period covered by this report, monitoring and assessments on the LDFA projects were carried out for the two Annual Monitoring Reports (FY2013 and FY2014) and also based on a Monitoring and Learning Review mission to India.

Annual Monitoring Report FY2013

26. The FY2013 Annual Monitoring Report featured an analysis of a cohort of 23 projects from this focal area at mid-term and completion. The GEF investments in the analyzed cohort of projects covered just over 1.3 million ha of production landscapes (agriculture, rangeland, and forest landscapes). An aggregated total area of 536,288 ha of this area is under SLM, with 190,793 ha under GEF-3 projects and 345,495 ha under GEF-4 projects. The overall SLM coverage includes land under agriculture production (255,519 ha), rangeland (171,677 ha), and forest landscape restoration/rehabilitation (45,461 ha). An estimated 815,800 persons were reported as direct beneficiaries from implementation of projects included in the FY2013 cohort.

Annual Monitoring Report FY2014

27. For FY2014, the annual monitoring report assessed data from 21 projects reported at mid-term and completion. The GEF investments contributed to sustainable management of about 1.2 million ha of production landscapes (agriculture, rangeland, and forest landscapes): 367,966 ha under GEF-3 and 780,998 ha under GEF-4. The achievement was driven largely by fostering an enabling environment for SLM through sectoral policies and plans, new institutional and policy framework for integrated ecosystem management and biodiversity conservation, and incentive mechanisms such as payment of ecosystem services (PES) in watersheds. From a development

perspective, the FY2014 cohort also reported an estimated number of 904,220 people as beneficiaries, with 735,000 in Africa and 169,220 in Asia. In both Africa and Asia, projects engaged local communities, smallholder farmers, and local governments as major stakeholders for advancing a diversity of SLM interventions.

Portfolio Monitoring and Learning Review Mission

28. GEF undertook a learning mission in November 2013 to India. *The Sustainable Land and Ecosystem Management—Country Partnership Program (SLEM-CPP)* was selected by the GEF Secretariat as a means to further enrich portfolio reporting on the focal area mandate and GEF catalytic role in the broader context of natural resource management.

29. The learning mission generated considerable knowledge of integrated ecosystem management principles and practices within the SLEM-CPP, which have been synthesized with the findings of previous GEF LDFA learning missions and presented at the fourth special session of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST S-4) in Cancun, 2015 and published in a GEF publication: “Combating Land Degradation in Production Landscapes—Learning from GEF Projects Applying Integrated Approaches”.

30. The overall SLEM-CPP embodies a diversity of approaches to address drivers of land and ecosystem degradation that is consistent with overall GEF mandate for environmental sustainability. In this regard, the GEF and Government of India through the SLEM-CPP have established an important platform for future opportunities to increase sustainability and resilience of dryland production system, with potential for transformational change at scale. Plans for a new project in the Uttarakhand watersheds and the need to expand application of mobile technology through public-private partnership are evidence of the importance of GEF in catalyzing investments for the global environment.

Conclusion

31. The reporting period has seen further progress and achievements with respect to GEF’s role as financial mechanism of the UNCCD, and more specifically in relation to GEF activities in the LDFA. The LDFA portfolio continues to have a significant number of projects covering all geographies and a wide range of agro-ecologies and thematic issues, the potential for achieving transformational impact through SLM is high for all affected regions. The total of 132 projects funded across all GEF windows during the reporting period (74 LDFA, 17 CCCD, 24 LDCF, 4 SCCF, and 13 AF) amounted to \$844 million in grant support, leveraging an additional \$3.14 billion as co-finance. The new focus in GEF-6 on maximizing transformational impact, in particular through the *Integrated Approach Pilot “Fostering Sustainability and Resilience for Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa”* presents a timely opportunity for GEF and UNCCD to strengthen collaboration for actions to scale-up the implementation of SLM beyond project sites, in line with GEF’s medium-term strategy.

1. INTRODUCTION

32. The Land Degradation Focal Area (LDFA) is the Global Environment Facility (GEF) window for investing in projects and programs to combat land degradation, which directly supports the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). The LDFA fosters synergetic benefits with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and relevant international agreements on the sustainable use of international waters. It also contributes indirectly to the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on all types of forests of the United Nations Forum on Forests.

33. The goal of the GEF LDFA is to contribute to arresting and reversing current global trends in land degradation, specifically desertification and deforestation. This is accomplished by investing in projects that promote and support good practices conducive to sustainable land management (SLM), and that are able to generate global environmental benefits (GEBs) while supporting social and economic development at the local and national level. In addition, the focal area also supports the application of effective policies, legal and regulatory frameworks, capable institutions, knowledge sharing and monitoring mechanisms for advancing SLM.

34. The portfolio of GEF projects and programs implemented under the LDFA strategy is based on results-based management (RBM) framework that includes objectives, outcomes, outputs and indicators. The frameworks for GEF-5 and GEF-6 include four objectives each, with target outcomes and outputs (see Annexes 1a and 1b). The GEF-6 strategy builds on the GEF-5 replenishment phase, and emphasizes maximizing transformational impact through scaling-up and mainstreaming of SLM in national development pathways. The LDFA strategy also supports GEF's medium-term strategy called GEF 2020, which emphasizes the need to address root causes of global environmental degradation through drivers-based approach and seeking synergy. All projects and programs are designed to contribute to the agreed GEBs and expected socio-economic benefits as follows:

- a) Agreed GEBs:
 - i. Improved provision of agro-ecosystems and forest ecosystem goods and services.
 - ii. Reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from agriculture, deforestation and forest degradation and increased carbon sequestration.
 - iii. Reduced vulnerability of agro-ecosystem and forest ecosystems to climate change and other human-induced impacts.
- b) Expected national socio-economic benefits:
 - i. Sustained livelihoods for people dependent on the use and management of natural resources (land, water and biodiversity).

- ii. Reduced vulnerability to impacts of climate change of people dependent on the use and management of natural resources in agricultural and forest ecosystems.

35. This report presents the status of the GEF project and program portfolio for the LDFA, covering the period July 2013 to June 2015. This period coincides with the final year of GEF-5 and the first full year of GEF-6. Hence, the report highlights the summary achievements of GEF-5 as well as informs on programming and policy reforms in GEF-6 specifically for the LDFA.

36. The present report has a focus on programming of the GEF-5 and GEF-6 resources under the LDFA and through other funding windows supporting SLM. It also highlights activities related to SLM financing from other GEF funding windows, including multi-focal area projects with Biodiversity, Climate Change, and International Waters; core funding for the Small Grants Programme (SGP); the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF); and the Adaptation Fund (AF). Details of programming trends are presented for focal area objectives, multi-focal area projects, and geographical regions.

37. In addition to the synthesis on programming trends, the report also presents details of the COP decisions and progress with responses and actions taken by the GEF Secretariat, and provides an update on the implementation of GEF-5 reforms, including utilization of the System for a Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR) and financing for enabling activities under the UNCCD. A focal area synthesis of the GEF Annual Monitoring Report for FY2013 and FY2014 is also presented, including achievements and emerging lessons from GEF projects implementation by eligible countries and partners around the world.

2. GEF'S RESPONSE TO COP DECISIONS

38. During the period covered by this report, progress was made in responding to decisions taken at UNCCD COP11 in Namibia on Collaboration with the GEF. Details of the decisions and progress with responses and actions taken by the GEF Secretariat are presented in Table 2.

Table 2: GEF's Response to Guidance Contained in Decisions Adopted by the UNCCD COP11

COP Decision	GEF's Response
Invites the donors to the sixth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility to strive for a robust replenishment of resources, including for the Land Degradation Focal Area;	Donors responded with an overall robust replenishment for GEF-6, including the allocation of \$431 million to the LDFA.
Calls on Parties to align their programming of Global Environment Facility resources at the national level, taking into account the priorities of sub-regional and regional action programmes to justify additional support for collaborative actions at the regional level;	The strategic directions for GEF-6 include several indicative programs for collaborative and transboundary programming by countries, including options for integration across focal areas.

COP Decision	GEF's Response
Invites the donors to the sixth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility to strive for a robust replenishment of resources, including for the Land Degradation Focal Area;	Donors responded with an overall robust replenishment for GEF-6, including the allocation of \$431 million to the LDFA.
Invites Parties to utilize Global Environment Facility financial resources in their implementation of activities geared towards the objectives of the Convention, taking into account the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) relating to desertification, land degradation and drought, including the potential for harnessing synergies through the use of relevant Global Environment Facility incentive mechanisms across the various focal areas;	The GEF and UNCCD Secretariat have produced a Joint Brochure “Transforming Land Management Globally - Q&A About Land In The 6 th GEF Replenishment Phase (GEF-6)” that aims to help countries to better assess options for programming GEF resources under the LDFA, and in relation to other focal areas. The Guide Book includes details on the GEF project cycle and operational policies. http://www.unccd.int/Lists/SiteDocumentLibrary/Publications/2015_GEF_ENG.pdf
Also invites the Global Environment Facility, during its sixth replenishment period, to support national-level capacity development for affected country Parties, as appropriate, to take coordinated action at the national, regional and international level to monitor globally land degradation and restore degraded lands in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, if requested and among other activities;	The GEF-6 allocation includes provision for Enabling Activity financing to eligible countries. The GEF and UNCCD Secretariats are consulting on the plan and procedures for enabling activity financing during GEF-6. The priorities will take into account COP decisions and will be aligned with deadlines for county Parties to meet their obligations.
Encourages eligible country Parties to make use of the Global Environment Facility programme on capacity development to support the capacity needs in relation to the Rio conventions;	The strategic direction for GEF-6 includes a program on capacity development, which enables countries to address this need.
Invites the Global Environment Facility to consider promoting the involvement of the private sector to generate multiple global environmental benefits and improve livelihoods, through country-driven sustainable land management initiatives and programmes;	The GEF-6 replenishment process and the strategic directions give due consideration to the important role of private sector, inter alia through the non-grant instrument (NGI). Promotion of the engagement of the private sector is also aligned with the GEF 2020 medium-term strategy.
Also invites eligible Parties that have yet to request Global Environment Facility resources for UNCCD enabling activities to do so, bearing in mind that GEF-5 phase ends in June 2014, after which these resources will no longer be available;	133 of 144 eligible countries successfully secured GEF resources for enabling activities prior to end of GEF-5. This has significantly enhanced the response by countries for obligations on reporting and alignment of National Action Programmes with the UNCCD 10-year Strategy.
Further invites the Global Environment Facility to continue to simplify and clarify the procedures for accessing the funding for the implementation of the Convention, including for the alignment of national action programmes with the 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018) and for timely reporting;	The GEF Secretariat has published a Guide Book and “Primer” on Sustainable Land Management Financing for the Sixth GEF Replenishment Phase (GEF-6). This is now being widely distributed as electronic and print copies, and also used for presentations and briefings at various events of the Convention. https://www.thegef.org/gef/node/11071

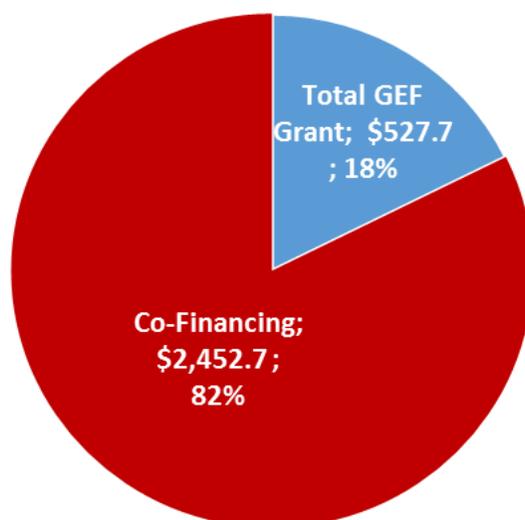
COP Decision	GEF's Response
Invites the donors to the sixth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility to strive for a robust replenishment of resources, including for the Land Degradation Focal Area;	Donors responded with an overall robust replenishment for GEF-6, including the allocation of \$431 million to the LDFA.
Invites the Global Environment Facility to continue its efforts to inform and build the capacity of eligible country Parties on the procedures mentioned in paragraph 8 above;	The GEF is also continuing to organize its Extended Constituency Workshops (ECWs) as a means of strengthening capacity and increasing knowledge on policies and procedures. The ECWs for GEF-6 are ongoing, and efforts are made by the GEF Secretariat to mobilize representation by all UNCCD National Focal Points.
Requests the secretariats of the Global Environment Facility and the UNCCD to engage in consultations on harmonizing the disbursement of funding for enabling activities with the deadlines for the alignment and the reporting and review process;	With official communication dated March 18, 2015, the GEF Secretariat has proposed to the UNCCD Secretariat GEF-6 arrangements for support to eligible Country Parties on Enabling Activities during GEF-6. GEF Secretariat also suggested to start immediately with financing of Enabling Activities in order to harmonize the disbursement with UNCCD deadlines. Based on this proposal consultations are expected to continue, also including COP12 guidance.
Invites the Global Environment Facility to continue raising awareness of UNCCD issues, including through its communication strategy;	<p>The GEF Secretariat continued to regularly share on its website and through publications stories, best practices and lessons from projects addressing land degradation. In addition, a special issue of the GEF Secretariat's flagship newsletter "Greenline" was dedicated to SLM.</p> <p><i>Update: The GEF produced a series of news items on its programs to raise awareness about SLM, including a focus on soils to celebrate 2014 as the International Year of Soil.</i></p>
Requests the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Chief Executive Officer of the Global Environment Facility, to prepare draft amendments to the existing Memorandum of Understanding between the UNCCD and the Global Environment Facility and to report on the proposed draft amendments to the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth session on this matter.	The MOU has been revised and updated as a draft to take into account decisions of the COP. The draft MOU has been reviewed and cleared by both the GEF and UNCCD Secretariats for presentation to the COP.

3. STATUS OF GEF LAND DEGRADATION FOCAL AREA PORTFOLIO

39. The overall LDFA portfolio consists of projects utilizing GEF resources solely under the focal area (i.e. stand-alone projects) or in combination with resources from other focal areas (i.e. multi-focal area projects). During the reporting period, a total 74 projects were approved with funding from the LDFA. The total GEF grant for the projects amounted to US\$527.7 million, with an additional \$2.45 billion in co-financing, offering a ratio of 1:4.6 (Figure 1).

40. Of the total GEF grant, \$227.4 million were LDFA resources utilized either as stand-alone focal area projects or through multi-focal area projects involving Biodiversity, Climate Change, International Waters, the Incentive Program on Sustainable Forest Management (SFM/REDD-plus), and the Small Grants Programme (SGP). The portfolio includes 27 stand-alone projects utilizing \$68.6 million (30%) and 47 multi-focal area projects using \$459.1 million from GEF resources, including \$158.8 million (70%) of the LDFA resources programmed during the period. While the average amount for a LDFA stand-alone project is \$2.5 million, it is \$9.8 million for multifocal area projects. It is worth noting that every dollar of LDFA resources planned for multifocal projects was able to leverage \$1.9 from other GEF focal areas to address multiple objectives including LDFA ones.

Figure 1: Total GEF grant and Co-Financing (in \$ million) for all projects utilizing LDFA Resources (July 2013 to June 2015)



Programming Trends

41. The LDFA portfolio of 74 projects for the reporting period includes 47 full-sized projects, 27 medium-sized projects of which two are Enabling Activity projects. While 21 out of 27 medium-sized projects are stand-alone projects utilizing \$28.9 million of the focal area resources, only 6 of the 47 full-sized projects were stand-alone projects amounting to \$25.6 million of the LDFA resources. Enabling Activity projects accounted for \$3.3 million of the LDFA resources. These trends are further elaborated in the following paragraphs, including programming by LDFA objectives, regions, and in relation to other GEF focal areas and the SFM/REDD-plus incentive mechanism.

42. As shown in Table 2, during the period under reporting, a total of 74 projects were approved with funding from the LDFA, of which 53 projects were approved in the final year of GEF-5 and 21 projects in the first year of GEF-6. The total GEF grant for the projects amounted to \$527.7 million, with an additional \$2.45 billion co-financing. These resources were utilized by

countries through 27 stand-alone LDFA projects using \$68.6 million (30%) and 47 are multi-focal area projects using \$459.1 million of GEF resources.

Table 3: GEF Programming in the Reporting Period (July 2013 to June 2015)

Time Period	Project type	Number of projects	GEF Resources (\$ million)	Co-finance (\$ million)
July 2013 – June 2014 (Final Year of GEF-5)	LDFA Stand- alone	25	51.2	171.9
	Multi-Focal Area	28	135.9	504.9
July 2014 – June 2015 (First Year of GEF-6)	LDFA Stand- alone	2	17.4	73.8
	Multi-Focal Area	19	323.1	1,702.2
	Total	74	527.7	2,452.7

Focal Area Objectives

43. The LDFA strategy for GEF-5 (2010 – 2014) includes four objectives. Detailed Results Based Management (RBM) framework including outcomes and indicators, see Annex 1a.

- a) **LD-1: Agriculture and Rangeland Systems:** Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem services sustaining the livelihoods of local communities;
- b) **LD-2: Forest Landscapes:** Generate sustainable flows of forest ecosystem services in drylands, including sustaining livelihoods of forest dependent people;
- c) **LD-3: Integrated Landscapes:** Reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses in the wider landscape; and
- d) **LD-4: Adaptive Management and Learning:** Increase capacity to apply adaptive management tools in sustainable land and forest management by GEF and UNCCD Parties.

44. The new LDFA strategy for GEF-6 (2014 - 2018) includes four objectives. Detailed RBM framework including outcomes and indicators is presented as Annex 1b.

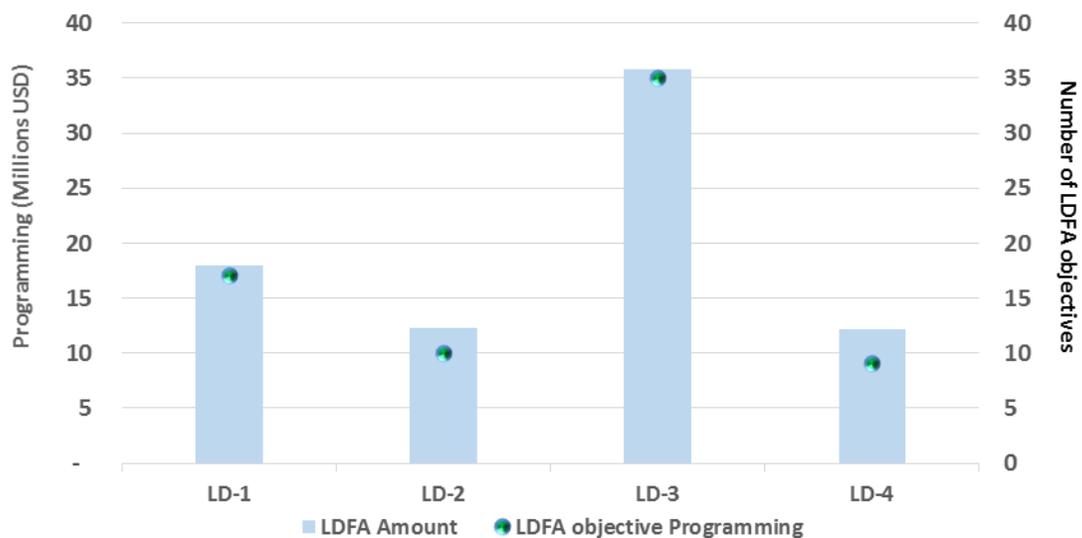
- a) **LD-1: Agriculture and Rangeland Systems:** Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem services to sustain food production and livelihoods;
- c) **LD-2: Forest Landscapes:** Generate sustainable flows of forest ecosystem services, including sustaining livelihoods of forest dependent people;
- d) **LD-3: Integrated Landscapes:** Reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses in the wider landscape; and
- e) **LD-4: Maximizing Transformational Impact:** Maintain land resources and agro-ecosystem services through mainstreaming at scale.

45. As the Focal area objectives in GEF-5 and GEF-6 are slightly different, the programming by focal area objectives is presented separately for GEF-5 (FY2014) and GEF-6 (FY2015).

46. The objectives of the LDFA strategy for GEF-5 serve as guidance for programming of the focal area resources in accordance with the focal area mandate. A total of \$78.2 million (89.1%) of the focal area resources utilized during the last year of GEF-5 (FY2014) was directed to these four objectives, with the remainder going toward project management costs and project preparation grants. Figure 2 shows the amount of resources utilized for each objective and number of projects.

47. Objective three (LD-3), which focuses on achieving SLM through integrated landscapes approaches, accounted for the highest allocation with more than \$35 million programmed through 35 projects for the final year of GEF-5. Objective one (LD-1), which focuses on SLM in agriculture and rangelands, also showed strong programming with \$18 million of the LDFA resources allocated through 17 projects. The low programming for objective two (LD-2) is likely due to the fact that while dryland forest landscapes are crucial for livelihoods and ecosystem resilience, their management is more directly linked to crop and livestock production (LD-1) of integrated management of wider landscapes (LD-3). Objective four (LD-4) on adaptive management also showed relatively low programming because it was intended for enabling activities and cross-cutting activities to enhance focal area learning.

Figure 2: Trends in programming of LDFA grants by GEF-5 focal area objectives (FY2014)

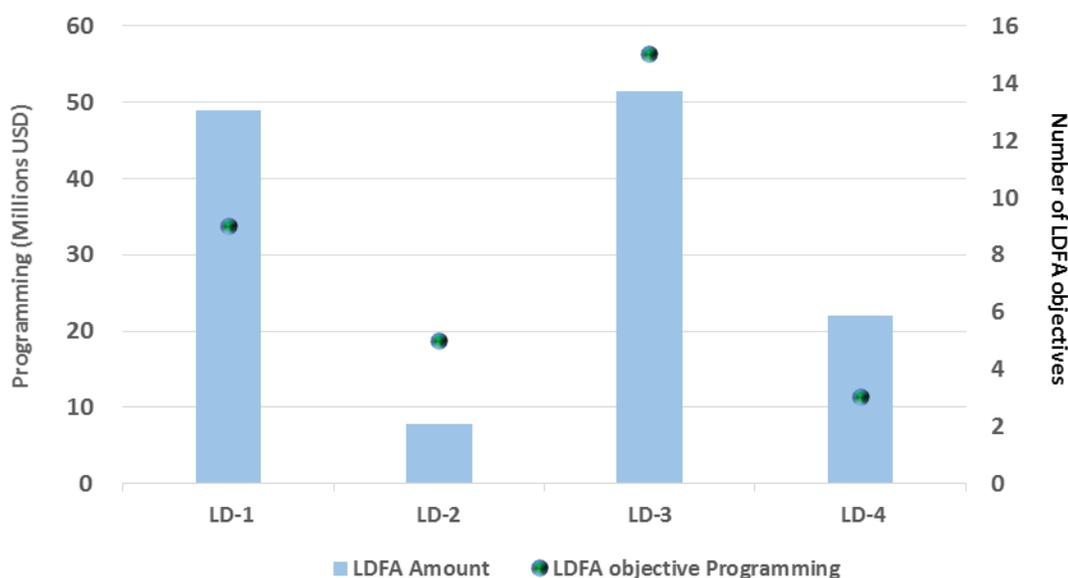


48. The LDFA strategy for GEF-6 also includes four objectives, which serve as guidance for programming of the focal area resources in accordance with the focal area mandate (see Annex

1b). Objectives LD-1 (Agriculture and Rangeland Systems) and LD-3(Integrated Landscapes) remain consistent with GEF-5; however, objective LD-2 (Forest Landscapes) now focuses on forest landscapes including all types of forests and objective LD-4 (Maximizing Transformational Impact) focuses on Mainstreaming SLM in development.

49. A total of \$130.2 million were directed towards these four objectives, with an additional \$0.7 million going towards the LDFA share for project preparation grants not attributable towards the objectives. Objectives LD-3 and LD-1 show a strong programming with 15 and 9 projects investing \$51.4 million and \$48.9 million respectively. Objective LD-4 includes 3 projects investing \$22.1 million and objective LD-2 is addressed by 5 projects with \$7.8 million investment. Since this is only the first year of GEF-6 programming the trends should not be further interpreted at this point in time. Figure 3 shows the amount of resources utilized for each objective and number of projects.

Figure 3: Trends in programming of LDFA grants by GEF-6 focal area objectives (FY2015)



Multifocal Area Programming

50. As previously indicated, the LDFA portfolio includes 47 multi-focal area projects and programs approved during the reporting period. The \$158.8 million of the focal area resources invested through multi-focal area projects was linked to \$300.3 million of GEF resources mobilized from other focal areas, including Biodiversity (\$164.6 million), Climate Change (\$57.5 million), International Waters (\$11.7 million), and the SFM/REDD-plus incentive

program (\$63.5 million)³. The links with other focal areas are primarily based on potential for achieving synergies through integrated landscape management. This is consistent with the high programming of focal area resources in LD-3, which serves as a framework for cross-focal area linkages to enhance multiple GEBs, including increased landscape connectivity (Biodiversity focal area), carbon sequestration and reduction of land-based emissions of GHGs (Climate Change Mitigation focal area), and reduced siltation and degradation of freshwater bodies and coastal areas (International Waters focal area).

Geographical Trends

51. The LDFA portfolio is represented by 50 countries distributed relatively evenly across all affected regions of the UNCCD – Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), and Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) (Table 4). For these four regions, a total GEF grant of \$242 million, including \$90.7 million (40%) of LDFA resources was programmed by individual countries for 58 projects during the reporting period (see table 1). The remaining \$285.7 million (including \$136.7 million of LDFA resources) were programmed through nine global and seven regional projects designed to invest in coordinated actions by multiple countries or address specific thematic issues for SLM. One single GEF-6 regional program, *Fostering Sustainability and Resilience for Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa - An Integrated Approach (IAP-PROGRAM)* stands out in utilizing more \$75 million of LDFA resources, and the multi-country project in Central Asia *Integrated Natural Resources Management in Drought-prone and Salt-affected Agricultural Production Systems in Central Asia and Turkey (CACILM2)* utilizes \$7.5 million including GEF-6 LDFA set-asides.

Table 4: Number of projects and LDFA resources by GEF geographical regions
(Note: include full-sized projects (FSPs), Programs, medium-sized projects (MSPs), and Enabling Activities)

Region	No. of Projects	LDFA Grant (\$ million)	Total GEF Grant (\$ million)
Africa	17	31.2	57.8
Asia	19	29.6	88.5
ECA	12	20.2	47.7
LAC	10	9.7	48.0
Global	9	33.0	122.4
Regional	7	103.7	163.3
Total	74	227.4	527.7

³ An additional \$3 million went to general project management costs in multifocal area projects that cannot be assigned to any specific focal area.

52. The average co-financing ratio of GEF grant to other sources is 1:4.6, ranging from a ratio of 1:2.5 in Asia to a ratio of 1:4.0 in ECA. Financing through global and regional initiatives generates above average co-financing with ratios of 1:4.6 and 1:6.2, respectively. These higher levels of co-financing for global and regional projects point to the catalytic role of the LDFA in mobilizing resources for integrated SLM in the different regions.

Africa Region

53. For the period covered by this report, the Africa region has programmed a total GEF grant of \$57.8 million, including \$31.2 million for 17 national projects, leveraging \$200.4 million in co-financing. This amount covers six stand-alone LDFA projects and 11 multi-focal area projects further reinforcing commitment to implementing SLM as a priority. The majority of the projects address Objectives 1 and 3 of the LDFA strategies for GEF-5 and GEF-6.

54. In addition, the Africa region benefits significantly from four regional projects and programs, with a total GEF investment of \$139.9 million. More than \$75 million is programmed through the GEF-6 Integrated Approach Pilot (IAP) Program *Fostering Sustainability and Resilience for Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa* (#9070). The IAP-Program works with small-scale farmers to sustainably increase yields thereby increasing food security for millions of poor people, while preventing desertification, improving land health, and sequestering carbon. The program is coordinated by IFAD and implemented in partnership with UNEP, FAO, UNDP, WB, CI and UNIDO. It works to strengthen institutional frameworks and scale-up sustainable land management in 12 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, including: Burkina Faso, Burundi, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Swaziland, Tanzania, and Uganda.

55. Another regional project, the *Moringa Agro-forestry Fund for Africa* (#9051) is supported with \$13 million under the Non-Grant Pilot Program in GEF-6. Furthermore, \$13 million is invested in the regional project titled *Integrated Development for Increased Rural Climate Resilience in the Niger Basin* (#5487) and \$1.9 million into the project *Closing the Gaps in Great Green Wall Linking Sectors and Stakeholders for Increased Synergy and Scaling-up* (#5811). More details about these project can be found in Annex 5.

Asia Region

56. With 19 projects and programs and a total GEF investment of \$88.5 million, including \$29.6 million from the LDFA, and leveraging \$224 million in co-finance, Asia continues to show a strong portfolio for the reporting period. The cohort of projects in this region comprises five LDFA stand-alone projects, and 14 multi-focal area projects, of which eight are SFM/REDD-plus projects. Seven projects are child projects of the Ridge to Reef program in the Pacific (*R2R - Integrated Sustainable Land and Coastal Management*) covering Palau, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Micronesia, Tuvalu, Kiribati, and Tonga.

57. The projects and programs in Asia mainly address Objective 3 of the LDFA strategies for GEF-5 and GEF-6, which invests in reducing pressures on natural resources from competing

land uses in the wider landscape. Twelve of the multi-focal area projects combine biodiversity conservation in an integrated landscape management approach to project implementation, which facilitates the scaling-up of SLM innovations, in particular in buffer zones of protected areas and in corridors between them. An example for this approach is the project in Myanmar titled *Integrated Protected Area Land and Seascape Management in Tanintharyi* (#6992).

Latin America and Caribbean Region

58. The LAC region is represented with ten projects in this reporting period, accounting for a total GEF grant of \$48.0 million, including \$9.7 million of LDFA resources, and leveraging \$159.7 million in co-finance. The project cohort consists of only one LDFA stand-alone project (Mexico #5785 Sustainable Land Management Promotion) compared to nine multi-focal area projects. In the first year of GEF-6, two projects that include LDFA resources have been submitted and approved: Ecuador #9055: Sustainable Development of the Ecuadorian Amazon: Integrated Management of Multiple Use Landscapes and High Value Conservation Forests and Costa Rica #9088: Sixth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Costa Rica.

59. As mentioned above, multi-focal areas projects account for most of the LDFA resources programmed by countries in the LAC region. These projects largely addressed Objective three (LD-3) of the GEF-5 and GEF-6 focal area strategies, and mainly leverage resources from the Biodiversity focal area and the SFM incentive program to enhance integrated management of forest landscapes at scale. A particularly notable project is the FAO project in Brazil #5324: *Reversing Desertification Process in Susceptible Areas of Brazil: Sustainable Agroforestry Practices and Biodiversity Conservation*. This project will promote integrated natural resources management (INRM) systems in production landscapes in the Caatinga and where enhanced management will be supported and 81,300 ha of forest corridors between protected areas restored. With improved SFM and INRM practices, pressure on forests and forest resources will be drastically reduced and degradation processes reversed in 20,300 ha of forests, resulting in enhanced carbon storage and avoided emissions of approximately 11.5 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalents (tCO₂e).

Europe and Central Asia Region

60. Countries in the Europe and Central Asia Region (ECA)⁴ region programmed a total GEF grant of \$47.7 million, including \$20.2 million from the LDFA, leveraging \$178.8 million in co-finance. The cohort of projects comprises 12 projects, four stand alone and eight multi-focal area projects. Like in the Asia region, several projects play a strong role in promoting SLM in concert with biodiversity conservation objectives, for example, three projects approved in GEF-6 (#6949 Tajikistan, #6958 Kyrgyz Republic, and #8031 Uzbekistan) all employ landscape approaches

⁴ GEF data include Albania and Turkey (Northern Mediterranean) in the ECA region. The GEF ECA region includes Central Asian Countries: Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan.

towards the protection of the snow leopard by involving local communities and smallholders in a more SLM, including pastures.

61. The regional FAO project in Central Asia #9094 *Integrated Natural Resources Management in Drought-prone and Salt-affected Agricultural Production Systems in Central Asia and Turkey (CACILM2)* blends national STAR allocations with LDFA set asides towards revitalizing the “Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management (CACILM)” and focuses on scaling-up of successful demonstrations on the first phase of this initiative. With this initiative, the GEF continues to support these countries in their efforts to implement the UNCCD National Action Plans in this region.

Regional and Global Programming

62. During the reporting period, in total \$163.3 million of GEF grants, including \$103.7 million of LDFA resources, were programmed through seven regional projects. As mentioned above, four of these regional projects are implemented in the Africa region, one in Latin America and the Caribbean, one in Central Asia, and one in Northern Africa and the Middle East. While GEF resources are largely utilized by countries through discrete projects to support their country-driven priorities, these regional projects and programs are crucial for implementing coordinated efforts involving specific regions or multiple countries. They also enable the GEF to address specific thematic or cross-cutting issues that are crucial for advancing focal area agendas beyond national boundaries.

63. During the reporting period, in total \$122.4 million of GEF grants, including \$33.0 million of LDFA resources, were invested in global projects and programs. The figure includes two enabling activity projects, one umbrella project to support a group of countries and the *Global Support Programme: Increasing the Quantity and Improving the Quality of Information for the Review of Implementation of the UNCCD Implementation*. Global programming is also used to facilitate efficient use of GEF resources for the Small Grants Program, which is now widely embraced by GEF eligible countries (see section below).

Small Grants Program

64. The GEF SGP plays an important role in helping countries to mobilize civil society in the implementation of the conventions for which the GEF serves as financial mechanism. In this regard, it is worth highlighting the extent to which the LDFA resources have been programmed by countries during the reporting period. In addition to SGP’s core allocation, one global projects (#5736) was developed in the reporting period to program \$7.25 million, including \$1.3 million of LDFA resources endorsed from STAR allocations of the following countries: Armenia, Burundi, Cameroon, Ghana, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Maldives, Thailand, Ukraine, Vietnam, and Congo DR.

65. In addition to the global project, Egypt, Indonesia, Costa Rica and Sri Lanka used \$12.3 million, including \$2.7 million LDFA resources, to design SGP projects in their countries.

4. SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT AS A CROSS-CUTTING AND SYNERGISTIC ELEMENT IN OTHER GEF FUNDING WINDOWS

66. In addition to LDFA stand-alone and multifocal activities, investments in SLM also benefited from other funds during the reporting period. Because of their emphasis on production systems and vulnerability of human livelihoods, three major funds managed by the GEF that are focused on climate change adaptation are particularly invaluable in the context of UNCCD. These funds are LDCF and SCCF under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the AF under the UNFCCC's Kyoto Protocol. The GEF recognizes that adaptation programs should not operate in a vacuum. For example, the need to address impacts from drought and floods can be pursued through integrated land and water resources management with multiple benefits. Such integrated approaches will have significant beneficial impacts on community livelihoods, food security, and a high potential to sequester carbon. Therefore, GEF eligible countries focusing on activities to combat land degradation (desertification and deforestation) can build on synergies with climate change adaptation, and advance climate-resilient SLM with resources from these funds that support adaptation.

SLM opportunities in the LDCF/SCCF for Climate Change Adaptation

67. The GEF adaptation strategy has three overarching objectives: (i) reduce vulnerability; (ii) improve adaptive capacity to address the impacts of climate change, including variability; and (iii) promote the transfer and adoption of adaptation technology. The GEF is managing the LDCF and SCCF, established under the UNFCCC with a priority on adaptation. The LDCF is aimed at addressing the special needs of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) under the UNFCCC. Adaptation has been identified as the most relevant issue, and the fund is specifically designed to support projects addressing the urgent and immediate adaptation needs of LDCs. This includes reducing the vulnerability of those sectors and resources that are central to human and national development, such as water, agriculture and food security, health, disaster risk management and prevention, and infrastructure, as identified and prioritized in their National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs).

68. The SCCF is designed to finance activities, programs and measures related to climate change that are complementary to those funded by GEF under the climate change focal area, in the areas of: (a) adaptation to climate change; (b) technology transfer; (c) selected sectors including Energy, Transport, Industry, Agriculture, Forestry and Waste Management; and (d) economic diversification. Among these four financing windows, adaptation has the top priority. All developing country parties to the UNFCCC are eligible to receive financial support for adaptation interventions to be integrated into development activities. Projects proposed under this fund target adaptation activities under priority areas of intervention as identified by the UNFCCC, such as water resources management, land management, and agriculture. The SCCF also supports capacity building, including institutional capacity, for preventive measures, planning, preparedness and management of disasters relating to climate change, including

contingency planning particularly for droughts and floods in areas prone to extreme weather events.

69. During the reporting period, 24 projects were financed under the LDCF with links to production systems. These projects utilized a total of \$171.6 million and leveraged an additional \$547.5 million in co-financing. Regionally, 18 of the projects are in Africa (Zambia, Senegal, Mozambique, Chad, Angola, Mauretania, Somalia, Uganda, Madagascar, Sudan, Tanzania, and Eritrea) with Zambia and Senegal having two projects each. Six of the projects (Afghanistan, Myanmar, Kiribati, Cambodia, and Lao PDR) are in the Asia region, with Lao PDR having two projects. A list of projects can be found in Annex 3 and brief descriptions of the projects are provided in Annex 5.

70. Due to resource constraints of the LDCF, funding opportunities for SLM through this funding window could not be fully realized. For example, at the end of the reporting period, on June 30, 2015, the GEF Secretariat had technically cleared 32 LDCF proposals for a total funding demand of \$235.68 million. These projects were awaiting additional funds to become available in the LDCF. While the technically cleared projects remained at concept stage and had yet to articulate specific, quantitative targets, at least 13 of them, with requested LDCF resources amounting to \$91.88 million, would incorporate SLM approaches; including integrated watershed management, land restoration, reforestation and re-vegetation, and climate-resilient crop and livestock management practices; to enhance the resilience of agro-ecological systems and other social-ecological systems to the adverse effects of climate change.

71. Four projects linked directly to natural resource management were financed under the SCCF for a total of \$25.0 million, leveraging an additional \$114.8 million in co-financing. The projects represent single country investments in Turkmenistan, Costa Rica, Egypt, and Morocco. A list of projects can be found in Annex 3 and brief descriptions of the projects are provided in Annex 5.

SLM synergies through the Adaptation Fund

72. The AF has been established by the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol of the UNFCCC to finance concrete adaptation projects and programs in developing countries that are Parties to the Kyoto Protocol. The Fund is financed with 2% of the Certified Emission Reduction issued for projects of the Clean Development Mechanism and other sources of funding, including country contributions. The GEF provides secretariat services to the Adaptation Fund Board on an interim basis in order to support and facilitate its activities.

73. The AF is strongly based on the principle of country-drivenness. There are no prioritized sectors or approaches but all project proposals have to be in compliance with national sustainable development strategies, including adaptation strategies. If such strategies include SLM among national adaptation priorities, SLM projects are eligible for AF financing within the country. The Strategic Results Framework of the Fund, which all AF projects should be aligned with, includes several expected outcomes and outputs that are also relevant to SLM projects, such as increased

adaptive capacity within relevant development and natural resource sectors, increased ecosystem resilience in response to climate change and variability-induced stress, and diversified and strengthened livelihoods and sources of income for vulnerable people in targeted areas. The Fund also acknowledges the increasing burden imposed by climate change on the most vulnerable communities in the world, and gives special attention to their particular needs. Because of the emphasis on vulnerable countries and communities, the potential for linking SLM priorities with climate change adaptation offers a major opportunity for win-win outcomes in countries affected by Desertification Land Degradation and Drought.

74. During the GEF reporting period, 13 projects were financed under the AF with direct links to SLM. The projects involve Guatemala, Rwanda, Uzbekistan, Seychelles, Myanmar, South Africa, Kenya, Costa Rica, India, Ghana, Mali, Jordan, and Morocco for a total grant of \$101.1 million. Co-financing does not apply as the AF covers the full costs of the specific adaptation activities. A list of projects can be found in Annex 4 and brief descriptions of the projects are provided in Annex 5.

5. PROGRESS WITH GEF-5 PROGRAMMING REFORMS

75. GEF-5 introduced several important reforms to strengthen country ownership and improving effectiveness and efficiency of the GEF Network. The reforms added new opportunities for GEF role as financial mechanism of the UNCCD, especially in the following areas: i) an improved resource allocation system; ii) financing for Enabling Activities under the Convention; iii) an incentive financing mechanism for SFM/REDD-plus that covers all types of forests. This section of the report summarizes the final status of GEF-5 programming to demonstrate how countries have responded to the reforms.

Progress in overall programming of LDFA resources

76. Of the total \$385 million allocated to the LDFA during GEF-5, \$350.9 million (91.1%) has been programmed through June 30, 2015 (see Table 5). This amount covers all grants utilized by countries through stand-alone LDFA projects, LDFA resources allocated to multi-focal area projects, enabling activities, and the SGP. It also includes investments through global and regional projects designed to support country-level actions on SLM. The final figure for GEF-5 includes project management costs, agencies fees and the LDFA share that was utilized for project preparation grants. The LDFA utilization percentage of 91.1% is in line with the overall utilization percentage of 91.8% of the GEF-5 replenishment.

Table 5: Status of LDFA resources for GEF-5 (\$ million) as of June 2015

	Allocation (\$ million)	Amount Programmed (\$ million)	% of Allocation Utilized
Total LDFA allocation	385	350.9	91.1%
Total LD STAR allocation	324	312.3	96.4%
Total LD set-asides	61	38.6	63.3%

Progress in utilization of the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources

77. The STAR was introduced as an improved system for allocating GEF resources to eligible countries. It was intended to serve as an effective means for promoting priority-setting and strategic programming of GEF resources by eligible countries. The STAR covers LDFA, along with Biodiversity and Climate Change, and provided indicative allocations for LDFA for a total of \$324 million for 143 countries in GEF-5 to use in activities related to combating land degradation and desertification. The STAR introduced an allocation floor of \$0.5 million, and an allocation ceiling percentage of 10% of the total allocation for the LDFA. The STAR allows for varying levels of flexibility in how countries utilize their resources, from a total flexibility to use allocations across all and any other focal areas to marginal adjustments between the different focal area allocations.

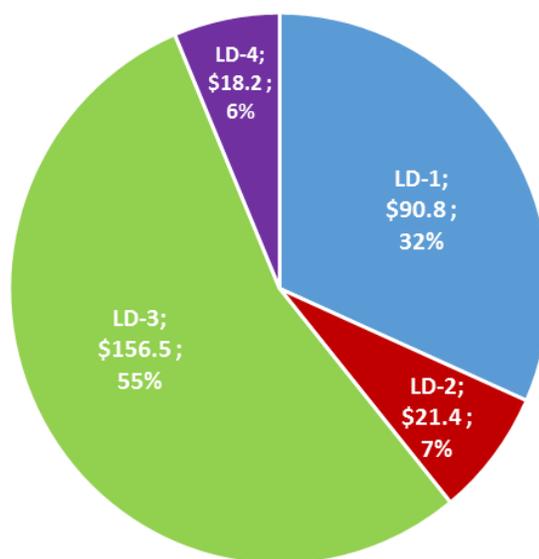
78. As indicated in Table 4 above, through June 2015, \$312.3 million (96.4%) of the total LD STAR allocation has been utilized by countries. For the 63 countries with less than or equal to \$7 million total in the STAR, 60 projects utilized some or all of their allocations either for a single stand-alone focal area or a multi-focal area project. Samoa and Tajikistan are the only two countries that exercised their eligibility under the flexibility rule to utilize their entire STAR allocation for a single project under the LDFA. Other flexible countries, including Comoros, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea and Swaziland in Africa; Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia in CEE; and Guyana in LAC also exercised their flexibility for projects under the Biodiversity or Climate Change focal areas.

79. Utilization of the GEF-5 LDFA STAR allocations exceeded 90% in all regions with little differences among the regions. These trends suggest that the STAR has influenced the engagement across all affected regions in utilizing GEF resources to combat land degradation. However, there is considerable variation in the extent to which countries program the LDFA resources, which is largely driven by individual needs and priorities of the countries. All GEF eligible countries can make marginal adjustments across the focal areas included in the STAR. A number of countries including Albania, Burundi, Kiribati, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Rwanda,

Togo, Tonga, and Tanzania chose to increase their LD STAR utilization by utilizing other focal area allocations under the marginal adjustment rule.

80. An amount of \$286.9 million (81.7%) of the total resources programmed was directed toward implementation of the four LDFA objectives for GEF-5⁵. Objective three (LD-3) accounts for the highest proportion of focal area resources, with \$156.5 million (55%) of the amount programmed towards focal area objectives (Figure 4). This reinforces the importance of this objective for countries to leverage other GEF focal areas and the SFM/REDD-plus incentive through multi-focal area projects. Objective one (LD-1), which focuses on agricultural and rangeland systems accounts for \$90.8 million (32%) of the resources. Objective two (LD-2) and Objective four (LD-4) each accounted for \$21.4 million (7%) and \$18.2 million (6%) of the total programmed, respectively. Compared to the indicative amounts allocated to each objective at start of GEF-5, these figures show that objective LD-3 exceeded the indicative target, while LD-1, which was expected to utilize up to \$200 million of the focal area allocation fell short of this indicative target.

Figure 4: Programming of GEF-5 LDFA resources (\$ million) by focal area objectives
(Note: Grant amounts exclude Agency Fees, Project Management Costs, and PPGs)



Enabling Activities

81. In GEF-5, for the first time, all GEF eligible country Parties to the UNCCD were given the opportunity to access GEF resources for enabling activities to support implementation of the

⁵ Improvements in the GEF RBM system and financial tracking now allow for programming of almost 100% of focal area resources towards focal area objectives (all resources except project preparation grants, which cannot be assigned to specific focal area objectives). These improvements took place half way through GEF-5 so that the overall figure for GEF-5 is only amounting to 81.7%.

Convention. Based on consultation with the UNCCD Secretariat, the GEF financing was exclusively for activities related to alignment of National Action Programs (NAPs) with the UNCCD 10-Year Strategy and for reporting and review process. Three modalities were put in place by the GEF Secretariat for accessing the funds: (i) Direct Access with the GEF Secretariat, (ii) through a GEF Agency, and (iii) through an umbrella project to be developed with a GEF Agency.

82. During the reporting period, 16 additional countries accessed GEF resources for Enabling Activities, which brought the GEF-5 total to 133 of 144 eligible countries having accessed GEF resources for Enabling Activities. These countries utilized different funding modalities: 11 countries chose Direct Access, 34 countries programmed through a GEF Agency, and 88 countries through Umbrella Projects. The total LDFA resources requested by all countries through the three modalities is \$11.8 million, with about 70% of resources targeted for alignment of NAP with the UNCCD 10-Year Strategy and Action Plan, and 30% for Reporting and Review Process.

83. In addition, *Global Support Programme: Increasing the Quantity and Improving the Quality of Information for the Review of Implementation of the UNCCD Implementation (#5541)* was supported with an amount of \$2.2 million. The project was instrumental in facilitating countries' reporting in the 5th reporting and review cycle of the UNCCD.

SFM/REDD-plus Incentive Mechanism

84. As part of the fifth replenishment, the GEF strengthened its focus on forests by expanding a financial incentive mechanism pioneered in GEF-4. For this purpose, the GEF created a separate \$250 million funding envelope operated as an incentive mechanism for eligible countries willing to combine significant fractions of their STAR allocations from Biodiversity, Climate Change and Land Degradation for more comprehensive SFM/REDD-plus projects and programs. The LDFA contributed \$ 20 million to the SFM/REDD-plus Program to enable countries leverage investments for improving ecosystem services in forest production landscapes. The incentive program also enables the GEF to advocate a landscape approach, which embraces ecosystem principles as well as the connectivity between ecosystems. This is consistent with Objective 3 of the LDFA Strategy, which emphasizes the need to reduce pressure from competing land uses.

85. Of the 88 multi-focal area projects in the entire GEF-5 LDFA portfolio, 50 leveraged funding from the SFM/REDD-plus incentive program, amounting to \$71.3 million. As expected, the projects were designed to improve conservation and sustainable use of forest landscapes through integration of SLM interventions. When linked to biodiversity, the focus is on buffer zones or corridors of protected area landscapes, such as in projects in Malawi, Zambia, Laos, Colombia, and Peru. Watershed approaches are also used to enhance integrated management of forests in production landscapes, and feature predominantly in the projects from Mexico, Burundi, and Venezuela. Forest restoration projects specifically target practices that increase

forest and tree cover in landscapes, such as those in Rwanda, Myanmar, and the Kyrgyz Republic, with the latter two specifically addressing dryland forests.

Cross-Cutting Capacity Development

86. In GEF-5, a Cross-cutting Capacity Development (CCCD) program was established to help countries address challenge of engaging with institutional and policy frameworks for implementing the conventions. Projects financed through the program address important capacity needs to enhance a country's ability to meet its obligations under the Conventions by creating synergies, while at the same time catalyzing the mainstreaming of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) into national policy, management or financial and legislative frameworks. Seventeen CCCD projects were financed during the reporting period, for \$18.6 million of GEF grants and \$28.5 million in co-financing. The portfolio consists of 17 individual country projects all financed during the last year of the GEF-5 replenishment period (FY2014).

Small Grants Program

87. The Global SGP programmed a total of \$255.2 million of GEF resources in GEF-5 from both core and STAR funds⁶. The total amount of STAR resources endorsed for SGP in GEF-5 was \$125.4 million, with \$29.9 million utilized by 66 countries from their LDFA allocations under the STAR. These resources provide grants to civil society organizations (CSOs), community-based organizations, and indigenous groups to support SLM activities. The LDFA resources were mostly allocated to objective one (LD-1) and objective three (LD-3) of the focal area strategy, to support improved integrated management of agro-ecosystems and production landscapes where deterioration of ecosystems services and goods undermines the livelihoods of grassroots communities.

88. In GEF-5, there has been an increasing demand by CSOs and communities for LD projects. Land is central to community livelihoods and the increasing need to manage degradation resulting from various factors, including impacts of climate change, may contribute to stronger interest by CSOs. This overall increase in the LD portfolio has also resulted in achievement of greater impact. As reported in SGP's Annual Monitoring Report for the period 2013-2014, some key achievements in the LD area include: nearly a quarter of a million ha of land brought under sustainable management through community-led projects, and involvement of, and impact on, a total of 125,601 communities. The SGP also contributed to improved management of about 76,000 ha of degraded grazing land. Through its support to these projects, SGP demonstrates the catalytic role the GEF plays in influencing practices that can inform policy through its transformative actions at site level.

⁶ Figure does not include agency fees.

6. PROGRAMMING DIRECTIONS IN GEF-6

89. Consistent with GEF’s mandate to invest in GEBs from production landscapes and its role as a financial mechanism of the UNCCD, the GEF-6 focal area strategy supports affected countries in achieving objectives of the 10-year Strategy, which “will involve long-term integrated strategies that focus simultaneously in affected areas, on improved productivity of land and on the rehabilitation, conservation, and sustainable management of land and water resources, leading to improved living conditions, in particular at the community level.” The GEF-6 strategy directly supports three of the four UNCCD strategic objectives on achieving long-term benefits for affected populations (SO 1), affected areas (SO 2), and for the global environment (SO 3).

90. In line with priorities of the Convention and the GEF Policy on Gender Mainstreaming, the GEF-6 strategy takes into account the need to address impacts of land degradation on the poor and women. Specifically, the strategy will support actions and innovations that generate human livelihood and GEBs. Because the GEF-6 replenishment phase (2014–2018) coincides with the final four years of the UNCCD 10-year strategy, the alignment seeks to ensure that countries appropriately channel LDFA investments to deliver targeted outcomes and catalyze support for combating land degradation.

91. The primary approach for GEF-6 is to address priorities that represent the best opportunity for supporting agriculture, livestock management, and forest landscape restoration to underpin rural livelihoods. This directly addresses the need to: a) reinforce SLM for enhancing resilience in agro-ecosystems; b) harness and maintain ecosystem services for agro-ecological intensification; c) promote integrated management of production landscapes; and d) mainstream SLM in sustainable development. As a result, the LDFA contributes to sustainable management of land, soil, water, and vegetative cover to generate multiple GEBs. Vegetative cover includes all types of forests and in line with that objective two on Forest Landscapes (LD-2) has been expanded from dryland forests to all types of forests. The focal area approach also creates opportunities for scaling-up successful interventions to benefit millions of land users.

92. Building on the focal area mandate and the opportunities for transformational impact, an aggregate area of 120 million ha is targeted for SLM coverage globally. This estimate includes potential coverage across crop, rangeland and forest landscapes in affected regions. In order to meet this target, the GEF-6 investments are guided by four objectives to deliver agreed global environment benefits and expected national socio-economic benefits (see Annex 1b for the Results Framework including expected outcomes and indicators).

93. GEF already has considerable experience investing in the mainstreaming of SLM, particularly in the context of creating enabling environment to meet the needs of affected populations. This experience shows that conducive policies, institutional frameworks, and investment opportunities can help affected populations to harness emerging opportunities (e.g.

payments for ecosystem services (PES) and other market-based mechanisms) for income generation and food security through SLM.

94. To further reinforce this need, a specific program priority under the new objective 4 (LD-4) focuses on mainstreaming SLM in development to help governments improve policies, and meet the institutional and investment needs for SLM, including private sector institutions. It will target all relevant development sectors that depend on productive land uses and involve rural communities. The GEF support specifically targets innovative mechanisms for multi-stakeholder planning and investment in SLM at scale, including engagement of the private sector. This is crucial for integrating ecosystem services into mainstream development investments and value-chains to support agriculture and food security across multiple scales, from local to national and regional. Empowering women in these investments and value chains has been proven to be an effective means for maximizing returns in agriculture and food security initiatives. Potential activities for support include:

- Incorporating SLM in new public-private partnership agricultural investments developed by countries in the context of smallholder agriculture;
- Securing innovative financing mechanism based on valuation of environmental services (e.g. PES and other market-based mechanisms) to create sustainable finance flow for sustainable agriculture;
- Improving valuation of natural resource assets and ecosystem services from production landscapes to inform decision-making on investments; and
- Developing mechanisms to scale-up best practices for landscape regeneration, e.g. through engagement of all relevant stakeholders, including CSO and private sector.

95. The indicative total focal area resources for programming in GEF-6 are \$431 million. Of this amount, \$346 million is allocated to individual countries through STAR, to be programmed to address the LDFA objectives as stated in the RBM framework (see Annex 1b). In addition, \$85 million has been allocated for programming as set-aside funds including convention obligations, regional and global projects, the Integrated Approach pilot on Fostering Sustainability and Resilience of Production Systems in Africa, and the contribution to the SFM program.

7. PORTOFOLIO MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

96. Portfolio monitoring and assessment is an important activity within the focal area cluster, and this report includes highlights from two main components: synthesis of project implementation reports for the GEF Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) and the Monitoring and Learning Review Mission. A third component is general knowledge management in the GEF, which includes among other elements the Portfolio Monitoring and Assessment Tool (PMAT, the LDFA “Tracking Tool”), which was only launched at start of GEF-5 and is therefore not

considered in this report due to a limited number of GEF-5 projects submitted for endorsement to date. All three components are essential for implementing GEF's RBM framework, including focal area learning to enhance further development of options and approaches for investing in GEBs through SLM. For the period covered by this report, highlights are presented from the LDFA cluster inputs into two AMRs (FY2013 and FY2014) and from a Monitoring and Learning Review Mission to India.

Annual Monitoring Report FY2013

97. The LDFA cohort for the FY2013 AMR includes a total of 23 projects, nine of which are from GEF-3, and 14 from GEF-4. Of these, one of the GEF-3 projects and 10 of the GEF-4 projects are at the mid-term review stage. Eight of the GEF-3 projects and four of the GEF-4 projects are at the terminal evaluation stage at project completion. Regionally, eleven of the projects are from Africa, six in the ECA, five in Asia, and one in the LAC region. These trends not only provide a useful opportunity for portfolio assessment of progress toward the focal area outcomes, but also enrich the portfolio level learning with respect to lessons and practices from advancing SLM.

98. The focal area portfolio review focused on two main aspects: a) assessment of progress towards outcomes for FY2013 based on the projects at mid-term and completion; and b) synthesis of lessons and emerging trends based on focal area learning objectives. The assessment of progress toward outcomes was relative to focal area targets established in the results framework for GEF-3 and GEF-4. This includes area under SLM, plans developed for SLM at multiple scales, beneficiaries reached, and global environment benefits generated.

99. Based on data reported in the FY2013 cohort at mid-term and completion, GEF investments in the projects covered over 1.3 million ha of production landscapes (agriculture, rangeland, and forest landscapes). An aggregated total area of 536,288 ha of this area is under SLM, with 190,793 ha under GEF-3 projects and 345,495 ha under GEF-4 projects in the FY2013 cohort. The overall SLM coverage includes land under agriculture production (255,519 ha), rangeland (171,677 ha), and forest landscape restoration/rehabilitation (45,461 ha). An estimated 815,800 individuals were reported as direct beneficiaries from implementation of projects included in the FY2013 cohort.

100. The findings and lessons emerged mainly in the following areas: a) institutional and governance frameworks for SLM implementation; b) approaches for stakeholder engagement in SLM implementation; c) linking the agreed GEBs to project level impacts at the different scales; d) synergy and tradeoffs in generating agreed GEBs from implementation of SLM projects at multiple scales; and e) GEF catalytic effect with respect to scaling-up and replication. A detailed summary of these findings and lessons learned was presented in a GEF publication titled

“Combating Land Degradation in Production Landscapes: Learning from GEF Projects Applying Integrated Approaches - Learning from GEF Projects Applying Integrated Approaches.”⁷

Annual Monitoring Report FY2014

101. The LDFA cohort for the FY2014 AMR includes a total of 21 projects, of which two are from GEF-3 and 19 from GEF-4. Among these, 15 projects from GEF-4 are at mid-term stage while the 6 remaining are at terminal evaluation stage at project completion. Eighteen of the projects are country-specific, with 10 from Africa, six from Asia, and two in the LAC region. The remaining three are regional projects, one of which is transboundary between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in Central Asia.

102. The assessment of progress toward outcomes was relative to focal area targets established in the results framework for GEF-3 and GEF-4. This includes area under SLM, plans developed for SLM at multiple scales, beneficiaries reached, and global environment benefits generated.

103. Based on data reported at mid-term and completion, GEF investments contributed to sustainable management of about 1.2 million ha of production landscapes (agriculture, rangeland, and forest landscapes): 367,966 ha under GEF-3 projects and 780,998 ha under GEF-4 projects in the FY2014 cohort. The achievement was driven largely by fostering an enabling environment for SLM through sectoral policies and plans, new institutional and policy framework for integrated ecosystem management and biodiversity conservation, and incentive mechanisms such as PES in watersheds.

104. From a development perspective, the FY2014 cohort also reported an estimated 904,220 people as beneficiaries, with 735,000 persons in Africa and 169,220 persons in Asia. These beneficiaries are key stakeholders in tackling drivers of land degradation, and their role is enhanced through supportive policies and institutional frameworks, strengthened capacities, and participatory processes at appropriate scales. In both Africa and Asia, projects engaged local communities, smallholder farmers, and local governments as major stakeholders for advancing a diversity of SLM interventions.

Portfolio Monitoring and Learning Review

105. The LDFA strategy for GEF-5 included the following two learning objectives:

- a) To develop a framework and tools for linking the measurement of agreed global environment benefits at project level to impacts across multiple scales, and
- b) To increase understanding of multiple benefits from SLM.

The overall purpose of these learning objectives is to improve portfolio level monitoring and reporting based on lessons and experiences from projects under implementation, including

⁷ The publication can be accessed from: <https://www.thegef.org/gef/node/10670>.

approaches for monitoring agreed global environment benefits and for assessing tradeoffs, costs and benefits of SLM interventions in the delivery of GEBs.

106. The GEF undertook a learning mission in November 2013 to India to observe and understand the approach of the Sustainable Land and Ecosystems Management (SLEM) Country Partnership Program (CPP) in combating land degradation. The mission was focused on the overall SLEM-CPP but based on experiences of the GEF/World Bank Uttarakhand Watershed Project with the overall goal to restore and sustain ecosystem functions in the Uttarakhand Himalaya watersheds as basis for enhancing income, food, and livelihood security. The GEF grant was linked to a decentralized watershed management project (referred to as the “Gramya”) funded by World Bank and Government of India.

107. The design of the Uttarakhand SLEM project was based on the fact there are strong links between livelihood needs and drivers of ecosystem degradation in the watersheds, requiring an integrated approach to ensure long-term sustainability and resilience to climate change. The project specifically recognized the crucial link between ecosystem services and livelihoods of women and vulnerable groups in the fragile watersheds. As often, women play a significant role in social and economic aspects, notably around the use and management of forests and other natural resources. The inclusion of women in decision-making process was therefore a priority, and assured using various tools and mechanisms, such as “women motivating women” for awareness and social mobilization, and participation of women in various committees and institutions. Project outcomes and impacts were based on participatory planning for the 20 micro-watersheds, and underpinned by interventions that reflect good practices for integrated management of land, soil, water, and forest vegetation.

108. The project demonstrated that sustainability of hill mountain eco-systems such as in the fragile Himalayan highlands in Uttarakhand can only be achieved by addressing water security issues at scale. In this regard, traditional knowledge was crucial during the planning phase and fully harnessed during implementation. Three key aspects of the project approach made a significant difference in livelihoods of the beneficiaries while contributing to environmental sustainability.

- a) ***Integrated water resource management:*** Capturing and efficiently managing runoff for year-round availability of water was a major priority for farmers. Hence more suitable cultivation practices and bio-engineering interventions were selected to increase water security and reduce soil erosion on the fragile slopes, which made it possible to increase irrigated land area by 4 percent. Improving water availability throughout the season in the micro-watershed areas where discharge had reduced or dried up led to successful revival of traditional water mills or “Gharat” with high economic return.
- b) ***Market value chains:*** The water surplus created through project activities has led to introduction of high value vegetable crops in the watersheds. An estimated 7,464 ha is now used for off-season vegetable production involving 20 different varieties, with a

cumulative annual output in excess of 36,000 tons. Success of the agribusiness initiative has induced farmers from adjoining areas to sell their surplus through cooperatives.

- c) ***Energy alternatives and gender-relevant benefits:*** The project upscaled pine needle briquette making that was initially promoted under the Gramya as a pilot to reduce the hardship of women in firewood collection and also to reduce forest fires. Pine needle briquettes provide an alternative source of energy for cooking and heating, used in 8,876 households in 337 so-called revenue villages covered under the project. As a result, the average dependency of a household on firewood has been reduced by 22 percent.

109. The Uttarakhand SLEM project mobilized a wide-range of institutions through a partnership framework to support implementation. The partners contributed training and capacity needs, demonstration of new technologies, microfinance, and development of market value chains for communities across the targeted watersheds. Market opportunities for high value crops and vegetables were further enhanced through support to Farmer Interest Groups as a means of increasing access to production and marketing services. Through partnership with a CSO known as the Central Himalayan Environment Association (CHEA), they now operate as a federation with CHEA providing full technical support and training on various aspects of the market value chain for high value crops and vegetables.

110. The decentralized approach to watershed management with the local institutions as de facto planners and implementers resulted in greater ownership of project at local level. Capacity development of Gramya panchayat and other local institutions was essential for strengthening these institutions, *vis-a-vis* administrative capacity, financial working and skill development. The focus on women-related issues and inclusion of women in decision-making processes established a critical foundation for sustainability of outcomes. Sustainability of project outcomes was also based on convergence with priorities of state departments and government agencies, as well as through MOU with communities for management of project assets.

111. All lessons learned from the series of learning missions undertaken in GEF-5 have been presented in detail at the fourth special session of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST S-4) in Cancun, 2015 and published in a recent GEF publication⁸.

8. CONCLUSION

112. In the reporting period of July 2013 to June 2015, the LDFA portfolio continued to have a significant number of projects covering all geographies and a wide range of agro-ecologies and thematic issues. There are total of the 132 projects that were approved for support during the reporting period by the LDFA and other focal areas and funds with land degradation relevance, including 74 from LDFA, 17 from CCCD, 24 from the LDCF, 4 from the SCCF, and 13 from the AF.

⁸ GEF (2014): Combating Land Degradation in Production Landscapes – Learning from GEF Projects Applying Integrated Approaches. <https://www.thegef.org/gef/node/10670>

113. The potential for achieving transformational impact through SLM is high. During the reporting period, in total 132 projects were approved for \$844 million in grant support, leveraging an additional \$3.14 billion in co-finance.

114. The reporting period has seen further progress and achievements with respect to GEF's role in general as financial mechanism of the UNCCD, and more specifically in relation to GEF activities in the LDFA. This report confirms a high utilization rate of GEF resources by eligible countries for projects to support implementation of the Convention. Of the total \$385 million tentatively allocated to the LDFA during GEF-5, \$350.9 million have been utilized, amounting to 91.1% of the allocation. This in line with the overall utilization rate of the GEF-5 replenishment.

115. The portfolio monitoring and learning mission in GEF-5 created valuable lessons on programming and priorities in the affected regions, which have helped to inform directions for the focal area in the GEF-6 replenishment phase.

116. The focus in GEF-6 on maximizing transformational impact, in particular through the IAP "*Fostering Sustainability and Resilience for Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa*" presents a timely opportunity for GEF and UNCCD to strengthen collaboration for actions to scale-up the implementation of SLM beyond project sites.

Annex 1a. GEF-5 LDFA Results-Based Management Framework

Goal: To contribute to arresting and reversing current global trends in land degradation, specifically desertification and deforestation.

Impact: Sustained productivity of agro-ecosystems and forest landscapes in support of human livelihoods

Indicators:

- Change in land productivity (*greenness measure as proxy - NPP, NDVI – corrected by RUE*)
- Improved livelihoods in rural areas (*Farmer income*)
- Value of investment in SLM (*US\$ generated from diverse sources, co-financing in projects*)

Objectives	Expected Outcomes and Indicators	Core Outputs
<p>LD-1: Agriculture and Rangeland Systems: Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem services sustaining the livelihoods of local communities</p> <p>(US\$200 million allocation)</p> <p><i>Outcome Targets: Sustainable Management of 120 million ha production landscapes</i></p>	<p>Outcome 1.1: An enhanced enabling environment within the agricultural sector</p> <p><i>Indicator 1.1 Agricultural policies support smallholder and community tenure security</i></p> <p>Outcome 1.2: Improved agricultural management</p> <p><i>Indicator 1.2 Increased land area with sustained productivity and reduced vulnerability of communities to climate variability</i></p> <p>Outcome 1.3: Sustained flow of services in agro-ecosystems</p> <p><i>Indicator 1.3 Maintained/increased flow of services in agro-ecosystems</i></p> <p>Outcome 1.4: Increased investments in SLM</p> <p><i>Indicator 1.4 Increased resources flowing to SLM from diverse sources</i></p>	<p>Output 1.1 National policies that guarantee smallholder and community tenure security</p> <p>Output 1.2 Types of Innovative SL/WM practices introduced at field level</p> <p>Output 1.3 Suitable SL/WM interventions to increase vegetative cover in agro-ecosystems</p> <p>Output 1.4 Appropriate actions to diversify the financial resource base</p> <p>Output 1.5 Information on SLM technologies and good practice guidelines disseminated</p>

Objectives	Expected Outcomes and Indicators	Core Outputs
<p>LD-2: Forest Landscapes: Generate sustainable flows of forest ecosystem services in drylands, including sustaining livelihoods of forest dependent people</p> <p>(US\$30 million allocation plus US\$20 million for the SFM/REDD-plus Incentive Program)</p>	<p>Outcome 2.1: An enhanced enabling environment within the forest sector in dryland dominated countries</p> <p><i>Indicator 2.1 Forestry policies support smallholder and community tenure security</i></p> <p>Outcome 2.2: Improved forest management in drylands</p> <p><i>Indicator 2.2 Increased land area under sustainable forest management practices</i></p> <p>Outcome 2.3: Sustained flow of services in forest ecosystems in drylands</p> <p><i>Indicator 2.3 Increased quantity and quality of forests in dryland ecosystems</i></p> <p>Outcome 2.4: Increased investments in SFM in dryland forests ecosystems</p> <p><i>Indicator 2.4 Increased resources flowing to SFM from diverse sources (e.g. PES, small credit schemes, voluntary carbon market)</i></p>	<p>Output 2.1 National policies that guarantee smallholder and community tenure security</p> <p>Output 2.2 Types of innovative SFM practices introduced at field level</p> <p>Output 2.3 Suitable SFM interventions to increase/maintain natural forest cover in dryland production landscapes</p> <p>Output 2.4 Appropriate actions to diversify the financial resource base</p> <p>Output 2.5 Information on SFM technologies and good practice guidelines disseminated</p>
<p>LD-3: Integrated Landscapes: Reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses in the wider landscape</p> <p>(US\$135 million allocation)</p>	<p>Outcome 3.1: Enhanced cross-sector enabling environment for integrated landscape management</p> <p><i>Indicator 3.1 Policies support integration of agriculture, rangeland, forest, and other land uses</i></p> <p>Outcome 3.2: Integrated landscape management practices adopted by local communities</p>	<p>Output 3.1 Integrated land management plans developed and implemented</p> <p>Output 3.2 INRM tools and methodologies developed and tested</p> <p>Output 3.3 Appropriate actions to diversify the financial resource base</p>

Objectives	Expected Outcomes and Indicators	Core Outputs
	<p><i>Indicator 3.2 Application of integrated natural resource management (INRM) practices in wider landscapes</i></p> <p>Outcome 3.3: Increased investments in integrated landscape management</p> <p><i>Indicator 3.3 Increased resources flowing to INRM and other land uses from divers sources</i></p>	<p>Output 3.4 Information on INRM technologies and good practice guidelines disseminated</p>
<p>LD-4: Adaptive Management and Learning: Increase capacity to apply adaptive management tools in SLM/SFM/INRM by GEF and UNCCD Parties</p> <p>(US\$15 million allocation)</p>	<p>Outcome 4.1: Increased capacities of countries to fulfill obligations in accordance with the provisions provided in the UNCCD.</p> <p><i>Indicator 4.1: Improved quality and timeliness of reporting compliance by countries</i></p> <p>Outcome 4.2: Improved GEF portfolio monitoring using new and adapted tools and methodologies</p> <p><i>Indicator 4.2 GEF-6 LD focal area strategy reflects lessons learned, and results of targeted research portfolio and implementation results from earlier replenishment periods</i></p>	<p>Output 4.1 At least 50 countries implementing UNCCD priorities with improved monitoring of impacts at national level</p> <p>Output 4.1 All country investments in LD Objectives 1-3 are linked to UNCCD action programs and national reporting process</p> <p>Output 4.2 GEF-financed projects contribute to SLM/SFM/INRM knowledge base</p>

Annex 1b. GEF-6 LDFA Results-Based Management Framework

Goal: To contribute to arresting and reversing current global trends in land degradation, specifically desertification and deforestation.

Impact: Sustained productivity of agro-ecosystems and forest landscapes in support of human livelihoods.

Global Target: 120 million hectares under Sustainable Land Management

Indicators:

- (a) Change in land productivity (greenness measure as proxy - NPP, NDVI – corrected by RUE)
- (b) Improved livelihoods in rural areas (Farmer income – disaggregated by gender)
- (c) Value of investment in SLM (\$ generated from diverse sources, co-financing in projects)

Gender Indicators:

Focal Area projects will use and incorporate GEF Gender Indicators, which will be monitored and aggregated at the Focal Area portfolio and Corporate levels.⁹

⁹ Refer to the core GEF Gender Indicators identified under the gender section of the Strategic Positioning Paper for GEF-6 replenishment. The five Gender Indicators are:

1. Percentage of projects that have conducted gender analysis during project preparation.
2. Percentage of projects that have incorporated gender sensitive project results framework, including gender sensitive actions, indicators, targets, and/or budget.
3. Share of women and men as direct beneficiaries of project.
4. Number of national/regional/global policies, legislations, plan, and strategies that incorporates gender dimensions (e.g. NBSAP, NAPA, NAP, TDA/SAP, etc).
5. Percentage of Project Implementation Reports (PIR), Mid-term Evaluation (MTE) and Terminal Evaluation Reports (TER) that incorporate gender equality and women's empowerment and assess results/progress.

Projects will use gender-sensitive indicators and sex-disaggregated data, and it will be systematically recorded, reported and integrated into adaptive management responses at the project level. GEF will undertake periodic reviews of the portfolio and highlight best practices in mainstreaming gender in projects, including through Annual Monitoring Review and Learning Missions.

Objectives	Program Priorities	Expected Outcomes and Indicators
<p>LD-1: Agriculture and Rangeland Systems: Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem services to sustain food production and livelihoods</p>	<p>Program Priority 1: Agro-ecological Intensification</p> <p>Program Priority 2: SLM for Climate Smart Agriculture</p>	<p>Outcome 1.1: Improved agricultural, rangeland and pastoral management</p> <p>Indicator 1.1 Land area under effective agricultural, rangeland and pastoral management practices and/or supporting climate-smart agriculture</p> <p>Outcome 1.2: Functionality and cover of agro-ecosystems maintained</p> <p>Indicator 1.2 Land area under effective management in production systems with improved vegetative cover</p> <p>Outcome 1.3: Increased investments in SLM</p> <p>Indicator 1.3: Value of resources flowing to SLM from diverse sources (including climate change adaptation and mitigation)</p>

Objectives	Program Priorities	Expected Outcomes and Indicators
<p>LD-2: Forest Landscapes: Generate sustainable flows of forest ecosystem services, including sustaining livelihoods of forest dependent people</p>	<p>Program Priority3: Landscape Management and Restoration</p>	<p>Outcome 2.1: Support mechanisms for forest landscape management and restoration established</p> <p>Indicator 2.1: Types of innovative mechanisms, institutions, legal and regulatory frameworks functioning to support SFM and restoration</p> <p>Outcome 2.2: Improved forest management and/or restoration Indicator 2.2 Land area under sustainable forest management and/or restoration practices</p> <p>Outcome 2.3: Increased investments in SFM and restoration Indicator 2.3: Value of resources flowing to SFM from diverse sources (e.g. PES, small credit schemes, voluntary carbon market)</p>

Objectives	Program Priorities	Expected Outcomes and Indicators
<p>LD-3: Integrated Landscapes: Reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses in the wider landscape</p>	<p>Program Priority 4: Scaling-up sustainable land management through the Landscape Approach</p>	<p>Outcome 3.1: Support mechanisms for SLM in wider landscapes established Indicator 3.1: Demonstration results strengthening cross-sector integration of SLM</p> <p>Outcome 3.2: Integrated landscape management practices adopted by local communities Indicator 3.2: Application of integrated natural resource management (INRM) practices in wider landscapes</p> <p>Outcome 3.3: Increased investments in integrated landscape management Indicator 3.3: Increased resources flowing to INRM and other land uses from diverse sources</p>
<p>LD-4: Maximizing transformational impact: Maintain land resources and agro-ecosystem services through mainstreaming at scale</p>	<p>Program Priority 5: SLM Mainstreaming in Development</p>	<p>Outcome 4.1: SLM mainstreamed in development investments and value chains across multiple scales Indicator 4.2: Increased investments in SLM</p> <p>Outcome 4.2: Innovative mechanisms for multi-stakeholder planning and investments in SLM at scale Indicator 4.2: Innovative mechanisms, institutions, legal and regulatory frameworks functioning to support SLM\</p>

Annex 2. LDFA Project Portfolio Approved in FY2014 and FY2015

FY2014 (Final Year of GEF-5)

All amounts in \$ million

GEF ID	Country	Agency	Project title	Total GEF Grant	LDFA Amount	Co-finance	LDFA Objectives	Other Focal Area Objectives
5208	Palau	UNEP	R2R: Advancing Sustainable Resources Management to Improve Livelihoods and Protect Biodiversity in Palau	4.09	0.41	15.73	LD-3	BD-1; BD-2; SFM/REDD+-1; IW-1
5324	Brazil	FAO	Reversing Desertification Process in Susceptible Areas of Brazil: Sustainable Agroforestry Practices and Biodiversity Conservation	4.30	15.25	15.97	LD-2; LD-3	BD-2; SFM/REDD+-1
5353	Armenia	UNDP	Mainstreaming Sustainable Land and Forest Management in Dry Mountain Landscapes	3.26	1.50	13.99	LD-2; LD-3	BD-2; LD-2; LD-3; CCM-5; SFM/REDD+-1
5397	Vanuatu	FAO	R2R: Integrated Sustainable Land and Coastal Management	5.02	0.55	14.00	LD-3	BD-1; CCM-5; IW-3; SFM/REDD+-1; SFM/REDD+-2
5406	Gambia	FAO	Community-Based Sustainable Dryland Forest Management	3.36	3.06	12.56	LD-2	

GEF ID	Country	Agency	Project title	Total GEF Grant	L DFA Amount	Co-finance	L DFA Objectives	Other Focal Area Objectives
5410	Venezuela	FAO	Sustainable Forest Lands Management and Conservation under an Eco-social Approach	9.03	0.31	25.73	LD-2	CCM-5; BD-2; SFM/REDD+-1; SFM/REDD+-2
5458	Peru	IADB	Conservation, Management and Restoration of Fragile Lomas Ecosystems	2.17	1.10	10.55	LD-2; LD-3	BD-1; BD-2
5463	Tanzania	UNDP	Securing Watershed Services Through SLM in the Ruvu and Zigi Catchments Eastern Arc Region	4.00	3.48	15.00	LD-3; LD-3; LD-3	
5479	India	World Bank	Integrated SLEM Approaches for Reducing Land Degradation and Desertification	4.56	4.16	18.00	LD-1; LD-1; LD-3; LD-3; LD-3	
5481	Morocco	FAO	Conservation of Biodiversity and Mitigation of Land Degradation Through Adaptive Management of Agricultural Heritage Systems	0.85	0.50	7.85	LD-1; LD-3	BD-2
5487	Regional ¹⁰	AfDB	Integrated Development for Increased Rural Climate Resilience in the Niger Basin	13.10	0.81	61.00	LD-2	IW-1; IW-3; CCM-5; SFM/REDD+-2
5510	Papua New Guinea	UNDP	R2R Strengthening the Management Effectiveness of the National System of Protected Areas	11.91	0.82	42.60	LD-3	BD-1

¹⁰ Burkina Faso, Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Chad

GEF ID	Country	Agency	Project title	Total GEF Grant	L DFA Amount	Co-finance	L DFA Objectives	Other Focal Area Objectives
5514	Mauritius	UNDP	Mainstreaming Biodiversity into the Management of the Coastal Zone in the Republic of Mauritius	5.11	0.75	20.40	LD-3	BD-2; BD-1
5517	Micronesia	UNDP	R2R Implementing an Integrated Ridge to Reef Approach to Enhance Ecosystem Services, to Conserve Globally Important Biodiversity and to Sustain Local Livelihoods in the FSM	5.11	1.70	17.86	LD-3	BD-1; IW-1
5522	Libya	FAO	Sustainable Land Management and Conservation of Oases Ecosystems in Libya	4.35	3.97	13.85	LD-1; LD-3	
5531	Haiti	UNEP	Ecosystem Approach to Haiti Cote Sud	6.81	0.26	21.05	LD-1	CCA-1; CCA-2; CCA-3; CCM-2; CCM-5; SFM/REDD+-1; SFM/REDD+-2; BD-1
5536	Turkmenistan	UNDP	Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy for Sustainable Water Management in Turkmenistan	6.77	1.41	29.30	LD-1	CCM-1; CCM-2

GEF ID	Country	Agency	Project title	Total GEF Grant	LDFA Amount	Co-finance	LDFA Objectives	Other Focal Area Objectives
5541	Global	UNEP	Global Support Programme: Increasing the Quantity and Improving the Quality of Information for the Review of Implementation of the UNCCD Implementation	2.19	2.00	2.46	LD-4	
5547	Congo DR	FAO	Community-Based Miombo Forest Management in South East Katanga	4.96	0.70	10.00	LD-2	SFM/REDD+-1; SFM/REDD+-2; CCM-5
5550	Tuvalu	UNDP	R2R Implementing a Ridge to Reef Approach to Protect Biodiversity and Ecosystem Functions	4.10	1.89	10.22	LD-3	BD-1; BD-2; IW-3
5551	Kiribati	FAO	R2R Resilient Islands, Resilient Communities	5.14	1.77	12.25	LD-3	BD-1; IW-3; SFM/REDD+-1
5578	Tonga	FAO	R2R Integrated Land and Agro-ecosystem Management Systems	2.56	1.60	5.40	LD-1; LD-3	BD-2; SFM/REDD+-1
5677	Sri Lanka	FAO	Rehabilitation of Degraded Agricultural Lands in Kandy, Badulla and Nuwara Eliya Districts in the Central Highlands (CH)	1.47	1.34	6.53	LD-1; LD-3	
5691	Tanzania	UNEP	Sustainable Land Management of Lake Nyasa Catchment in Tanzania	1.42	1.30	5.25	LD-1; LD-3	
5698	Global	UNEP	Sustainable Land Management and Climate Change Mitigation Co-benefits SLM CCMC	1.98	1.80	2.20	LD-4	

GEF ID	Country	Agency	Project title	Total GEF Grant	L DFA Amount	Co-finance	L DFA Objectives	Other Focal Area Objectives
5699	Kazakhstan	UNDP	Supporting Sustainable Land Management in Steppe and Semi-arid Zones through Integrated Territorial Planning and Agro-environmental Incentives	2.08	1.90	8.05	LD-3	
5700	Mongolia	UNDP	SLM Offset in Western Mongolia	1.41	1.29	5.20	LD-3	
5718	Uganda	UNDP	Integrated Landscape Management for Improved Livelihoods and Ecosystem Resilience in Mount Elgon	1.77	0.81	7.63	LD-3; LD-3; LD-3	CCM-5; CCM-5
5724	Global	FAO	Participatory Assessment of Land Degradation and Sustainable Land Management in Grassland and Pastoral Systems	2.89	2.64	6.00	LD-4	
5736	Global ¹¹	UNDP	GEF SGP Fifth Operational Phase - Implementing the Program Using STAR Resources III	7.24	1.17	7.25	LD-1; LD-3	BD-1; BD-2; CCM-1; CCM-4; CCM-5; IW-1; IW-2; CHEM-1; CD-2; CD-5
5745	Nigeria	UNDP	Sustainable Fuelwood Management in Nigeria	4.83	1.11	15.90	LD-2	CCM-2; CCM-3; CCM-5; SFM/REDD+-1

¹¹ Armenia, Burundi, Cameroon, Ghana, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Maldives, Thailand, Ukraine, Vietnam, Congo DR

GEF ID	Country	Agency	Project title	Total GEF Grant	LDFA Amount	Co-finance	LDFA Objectives	Other Focal Area Objectives
5746	Mali	UNEP	Scaling up and Replicating Successful Sustainable Land Management (SLM) and Agroforestry Practices in the Koulikoro Region of Mali	1.69	1.22	6.79	LD-1; LD-3	BD-2
5750	Global	UNEP	Mainstreaming Sustainable Management of Tea Production Landscapes	2.19	2.00	12.14	LD-1; LD-1; LD-3; LD-3; LD-4	
5752	Benin	UNDP	Promotion of Sustainable Biomass-based Electricity Generation in Benin	4.24	1.00	14.30	LD-3	CCM-3; SFM/REDD+-1
5754	Regional ¹²	IADB	IDB-GEF Climate-Smart Agriculture Fund for Latin America and the Caribbean (PROGRAM)	5.40	3.00	50.85	LD-1	CCM-5
5755	Bolivia	UNDP	Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems in Amazonia by Indigenous and Local Communities to Generate Multiple Environmental and Social Benefits	6.80	0.85	26.38	LD-3; LD-3	BD-2; BD-2; SFM/REDD+-1
5757	Bahamas	UNEP	Implementing Land, Water and Ecosystem Management	0.95	0.46	1.00	LD-3; LD-4	BD-2
5764	Indonesia	IFAD	Sustainable Management of Peatland Ecosystems in Indonesia (2014-2018)	5.22	2.62	28.70	LD-2	CCM-5; SFM/REDD+-1; SFM/REDD+-2

¹² Latin America and Caribbean

GEF ID	Country	Agency	Project title	Total GEF Grant	LDFA Amount	Co-finance	LDFA Objectives	Other Focal Area Objectives
5767	Philippines	UNDP	Implementation of SLM Practices to Address Land Degradation and Mitigate Effects of Drought	0.95	0.87	4.16	LD-1; LD-3	
5775	Global ¹³	UNEP	Building the Foundation for Forest Landscape Restoration at Scale	2.08	1.90	9.30	LD-3	
5785	Mexico	FAO	Sustainable Land Management Promotion	1.90	1.74	6.58	LD-1; LD-3	
5788	Cote d'Ivoire	UNEP	Assessment of Land Degradation Dynamic in Coffee -Cocoa production and Northern Ivory Coast to promote SLM practices and Carbon Stock Conservation ALDD SLM CSC	1.89	1.73	9.75	LD-1	
5789	Botswana	UNDP	Using SLM to Improve the Integrity of the Makgadikgadi Ecosystem and to Secure the Livelihoods of Rangeland Dependent Communities	0.87	0.76	6.80	LD-3; LD-3	
5797	Global	FAO	Securing Tenure Rights for Forest Landscape Dependent Communities: Linking Science with Policy to Advance Tenure Security, Sustainable Forest Management and People's Livelihoods	2.19	2.00	4.55	LD-2; LD-2	

¹³ Ethiopia, Indonesia, India, Kenya, Niger

GEF ID	Country	Agency	Project title	Total GEF Grant	LDFA Amount	Co-finance	LDFA Objectives	Other Focal Area Objectives
5798	Regional ¹⁴	FAO	Adaptive Management and Monitoring of the Maghreb's Oases Systems	1.89	1.73	4.16	LD-4	
5802	Senegal	UNEP	Promoting SLM Practices to Restore and Enhance Carbon Stocks through Adoption of Green Rural Habitat Initiatives	1.45	0.79	6.20	LD-3	CCM-5
5811	Regional	UNEP	Closing the Gaps in Great Green Wall Linking sectors and stakeholders for increased synergy and scaling-up	1.89	1.73	7.25	LD-4	
5822	Serbia	UNEP	Enhanced Cross-Sectoral Land Management through Land Use Pressure Reduction and Planning	0.72	0.66	2.90	LD-3	
5823	Bangladesh	UNEP	Establishing National Land Use and Land Degradation Profile toward Mainstreaming SLM Practices in Sector Policies	0.80	0.73	3.28	LD-3	
5824	Global ¹⁵	UNEP	Sharing Knowledge on the Use of Biochar for Sustainable Land Management	2.00	1.83	1.26	LD-1; LD-4	
5825	Georgia	UNEP	Applying Landscape and Sustainable Land Management (L-SLM) for Mitigating Land Degradation and Contributing to Poverty Reduction in Rural Areas	1.01	0.92	3.65	LD-1; LD-3	

¹⁴ Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania, Tunisia

¹⁵ China, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Kenya, Peru, Vietnam

GEF ID	Country	Agency	Project title	Total GEF Grant	L DFA Amount	Co-finance	L DFA Objectives	Other Focal Area Objectives
5848	Indonesia	UNDP	Capacity Development for Implementing Rio Conventions through Enhancing Incentive Mechanism for Sustainable Watershed/Land Management	2.06	0.94	6.00	LD-3	CD-4; CD-5; CD-2
5898	Global ¹⁶	UNEP	Support to 16 GEF Eligible Parties for Alignment of National Action Programs and Reporting Process under UNCCD	1.14	1.05	1.00	LD-4	
Total				187.17	91.89	676.78		

¹⁶ Bolivia, Fiji, Micronesia, Cambodia, Kuwait, Libya, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Palau, Solomon Islands, Suriname, El Salvador, Tonga, Timor Leste, Tuvalu, Zambia

FY2015 (First Year of GEF-6)

All amounts in \$ million

GEF ID	Country	Agency	Project title	Total GEF Grant	LDFA Amount	Co-finance	LDFA Objectives	Other Focal Area Objectives
6940	Lao PDR	UNDP	Sustainable Forest and Land Management in the Dry Dipterocarp Forest Ecosystems of Southern Lao PDR	11.86	1.02	54.74	LD-3	BD-1; BD-2; SFM-1; SFM-3
6943	Azerbaijan	UNDP	Conservation and Sustainable Use of Globally Important Agro-biodiversity	4.56	1.08	20.70	LD-1	LD-1; BD-3
6949	Tajikistan	UNDP	Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pamir Alay and Tian Shan Ecosystems for Snow Leopard Protection and Sustainable Community Livelihoods	4.58	1.46	19.00	LD-3	SFM-1; SFM-2; SFM-3; BD-1; BD-4
6956	Egypt	UNDP	Sixth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Egypt	3.11	0.63	3.96	LD-2	BD-4; CCM-2
6958	Kyrgyz Republic	UNDP	Conservation of Globally Important Biodiversity and Association Land and Forest Resources of Western Tian Shan Forest Mountain Ecosystems and Support to Sustainable Livelihoods	4.37	1.36	16.50	LD-3	SFM-1; SFM-2; SFM-3; BD-1; BD-4
6965	Indonesia	UNDP	Strengthening Forest Area Planning and Management in Kalimantan	9.86	1.00	55.00	LD-3	BD-4; SFM-1

GEF ID	Country	Agency	Project title	Total GEF Grant	LDFA Amount	Co-finance	LDFA Objectives	Other Focal Area Objectives
6992	Myanmar	UNDP	Ridge to Reef: Integrated Protected Area Land and Seascape Management in Tanintharyi	5.75	0.50	16.00	LD-3	BD-1; SFM-1
7993	Belarus	UNDP	Conservation-oriented Management of Forests and Wetlands to Achieve Multiple Benefits	4.67	0.44	14.10	LD-3	BD-1; CCM-2; SFM-1; SFM-3
8005	Armenia	IFAD	Sustainable Land Management for Increased Productivity	4.31	3.94	23.00	LD-1; LD-4	
8021	Zambia	AfDB	Zambia Lake Tanganyika Basin Sustainable Development Project	8.03	2.49	26.56	LD-1; LD-2	CCM-2; BD-4; SFM-2
8031	Uzbekistan	UNDP	Sustainable Natural Resource and Forest Management in Key Mountainous Areas Important for Globally Significant Biodiversity	6.80	2.67	24.00	LD-3	BD-1; SFM-1; SFM-2
9037	Kyrgyz Republic	World Bank	Sustainable Forest and Land Management Project	4.50	1.17	15.00	LD-3	CCM-2; SFM-1
9050	Chad	AfDB	Building Resilience For Food Security and Nutrition in Chad's Rural Communities	5.84	1.78	17.60	LD-1; LD-3	BD-4; SFM-2
9051	Regional	AfDB	Moringa Agro-forestry Fund for Africa (non-grant)	13.08	12.00	50.80	LD-1; LD-2; LD-3	

GEF ID	Country	Agency	Project title	Total GEF Grant	LDFA Amount	Co-finance	LDFA Objectives	Other Focal Area Objectives
9055	Ecuador	UNDP	Sustainable Development of the Ecuadorian Amazon: Integrated Management of Multiple Use Landscapes and High Value Conservation Forests	13.58	1.36	49.34	LD-3	BD-4; SFM-1
9070	Regional ¹⁷	IFAD/UNEP, FAO, UNDP, World Bank, CI, UNIDO	Fostering Sustainability and Resilience for Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa - An Integrated Approach (IAP-PROGRAM)	115.93	75.17	805.36	LD-1; LD-3; LD-4	BD-3; BD-4; CCM-2
9071	Global ¹⁸	World Bank/UNDP, UNEP, IUCN, WWF-US, ADB	Global Partnership on Wildlife Conservation and Crime Prevention for Sustainable Development (PROGRAM)	98.51	12.72	513.14	LD-1; LD-2; LD-3	BD-1; BD-1; BD-1; BD-2; BD-3; BD-4; CCM-2; SFM-1; SFM-2; SFM-3
9086	Indonesia	UNDP	Sixth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Indonesia	3.90	0.89	6.42	LD-2	BD-4; CCM-1
9088	Costa Rica	UNDP	Sixth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Costa Rica	2.54	0.59	3.16	LD-3	BD-4; CCM-2; LD-3
9093	Sri Lanka	UNDP	Sixth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Sri Lanka	2.73	0.45	3.00	LD-1	BD-4; CCM-2

¹⁷ Burkina Faso, Burundi, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda

¹⁸ Botswana, Congo, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Gabon, Indonesia, India, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia, Congo

GEF ID	Country	Agency	Project title	Total GEF Grant	LDFA Amount	Co-finance	LDFA Objectives	Other Focal Area Objectives
9094	Regional ¹⁹	FAO	Integrated Natural Resources Management in Drought-prone and Salt-affected Agricultural Production Systems in Central Asia and Turkey (CACILM2)	11.97	7.47	38.61	LD-1; LD-1; LD-3; LD-4	CCM-2
Total				340.48	130.19	1,775.99		

¹⁹ Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Turkey, Uzbekistan

Annex 3. Projects with Activities in Production Landscapes Approved under LDCF and SCCF in FY2012 and FY2013

LDCF

All amounts in \$ million

Agency	Country	Region	Project Type	Project Title	Total LDCF amount	Co-Financing	Trust Fund	Date of approval
5376	Chad	AFR	FSP	Enhancing the resilience of the agricultural ecosystems (Projet d'amélioration de la résilience des systèmes agricoles au Tchad) - PARSAT	8.00	24.50	LDCF	18-Sep-13
5394	Zambia	AFR	FSP	Climate Resilient Livestock Management Project	7.00	20.83	LDCF	23-Oct-13
5414	Kiribati	Asia	FSP	Enhancing national food security in the context of global climate change	5.00	7.14	LDCF	3-Jul-13
5419	Cambodia	Asia	FSP	Strengthening the resilience of Cambodian rural livelihoods and sub-national government system to climate risks and variability	5.17	15.86	LDCF	24-Oct-13
5432	Angola	AFR	FSP	Integrating Climate Resilience into Agricultural and Agropastoral Production Systems through Soil Fertility Management in Key Productive and Vulnerable Areas Using the Farmers Field School Approach	7.47	25.33	LDCF	30-Jul-14

5433	Mozambique	AFR	FSP	Strengthening Capacities of Agricultural Producers to Cope with Climate Change for Increased Food Security through the Farmers Field School Approach	10.07	30.00	LDCF	23-Oct-13
5435	Zambia	AFR	FSP	Promoting Climate Resilient Community-based Regeneration of Indigenous Forests in Zambia's Central Province	4.36	23.70	LDCF	25-Nov-13
5462	Lao PDR	Asia	FSP	Strengthening Agro-climatic Monitoring and Information Systems to Improve Adaptation to Climate Change and Food Security in Lao PDR	6.16	16.78	LDCF	7-Jan-14
5489	Lao PDR	Asia	FSP	Climate Adaptation in Wetlands Areas (CAWA)	5.33	16.91	LDCF	7-Jan-14
5503	Senegal	AFR	FSP	Mainstreaming Ecosystem-based Approaches to Climate-resilient Rural Livelihoods in Vulnerable Rural Areas through the Farmer Field School Methodology	6.99	20.90	LDCF	27-Feb-14
5566	Senegal	AFR	FSP	Strengthening land & ecosystem management under conditions of climate change in the Niayes and Casamance regions - Republic of Senegal	4.65	43.70	LDCF	14-Jan-14

5567	Myanmar	Asia	FSP	Adapting Community Forestry landscapes and associated community livelihoods to a changing climate, in particular an increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events	5.57	19.21	LDCF	5-Dec-13
5580	Mauritania	AFR	FSP	Development of an improved and innovative delivery system for climate resilient livelihoods in Mauritania	5.58	11.90	LDCF	24-Feb-14
5592	Somalia	AFR	FSP	Enhancing Climate Resilience of the Vulnerable Communities and Ecosystems in Somalia	8.98	64.82	LDCF	7-Jan-14
5603	Uganda	AFR	FSP	Reducing Vulnerability of Banana Producing Communities to Climate Change Through Banana Value Added Activities - Enhancing Food Security And Employment Generation	3.18	7.74	LDCF	30-Jan-14
5632	Madagascar	AFR	FSP	Enhancing the adaptation capacities and resilience to climate change in rural communities in Analamanga, Atsinanana, Androy, Anosy, and Atsimo Andrefana	6.60	34.30	LDCF	10-Feb-14
5651	Sudan	AFR	FSP	Livestock and Rangeland Resilience Program	9.42	32.35	LDCF	26-Mar-14

5664	Afghanistan	Asia	FSP	Building Resilience of Communities Living Around the Northern Pistachio Belt (NPB) and Eastern Forest Complex (EFC) of Afghanistan through an EbA approach	7.67	7.00	LDCF	24-Mar-14
5694	Comoros	AFR	FSP	Building Climate Resilience through Rehabilitated Watersheds, Forests and Adaptive Livelihoods	5.74	12.63	LDCF	30-Jul-14
5695	Tanzania	AFR	FSP	Ecosystem-Based Adaptation for Rural Resilience	8.40	21.55	LDCF	17-Oct-14
5703	Sudan	AFR	FSP	Enhancing the resilience of communities living in climate change vulnerable areas of Sudan using Ecosystem Based approaches to Adaptation (EbA)	4.80	11.10	LDCF	31-Jul-14
5710	Regional	AFR	Program	Rural livelihoods' adaptation to climate change in the Horn of Africa -Phase II (RLACC II)	18.43	30.00	LDCF	14-Nov-14
5782	Gambia	AFR	FSP	Adapting Agriculture to Climate Change in the Gambia	7.05	21.79	LDCF	30-Jul-14
6923	Eritrea	AFR	FSP	Mainstreaming climate risk considerations in food security and IWRM in Tsilima Plain	10.01	27.50	LDCF	7-Jan-15
Total					171.64	547.51		

SCCF

All amounts in \$ million

Agency	Country	Region	Project Type	Project Title	Total SCCF amount	Co-Financing	Trust Fund	Date of approval
5685	Morocco	AFR	FSP	Increasing Productivity and Adaptive Capacities in Mountain Areas of Morocco (IPAC-MAM)	7.20	28.00	SCCF	21-Mar-14
6927	Egypt	AFR	FSP	Integrated Management and Innovation in Rural Settlements	8.62	39.95	SCCF	30-Oct-14
6945	Costa Rica	LAC	FSP	Strengthening Capacities of Rural Aqueduct Associations' (ASADAS) to Address Climate Change Risks in Water Stressed Communities of Northern Costa Rica	5.64	26.85	SCCF	30-Oct-14
6960	Turkmenistan	ECA	FSP	Supporting Climate Resilient Livelihoods in Agricultural Communities in Drought-prone Areas	3.50	20.00	SCCF	30-Oct-14
Total					24.96	114.80		

Annex 4. Projects Approved under the Adaptation Fund in FY2014 and FY2015

All amounts in \$ million

Country	Project Title	Grant	Implementing Agency	Approval Date
Guatemala	Climate change resilient productive landscapes and socio-economic networks advanced in Guatemala	5.42	UNDP	14-Sep-2013
Rwanda	Reducing Vulnerability to Climate Change in North West Rwanda through Community Based Adaptation	9.97	Ministry of Natural Resources	01-Nov-2013
Uzbekistan	Developing climate resilience of farming communities in the drought prone parts of Uzbekistan	5.41	UNDP	20-Feb-2014
Seychelles	Ecosystem Based Adaptation to Climate Change in Seychelles	6.46	UNDP	20-Feb-2014
Myanmar	Addressing Climate Change Risks on Water and Food Security in the Dry Zone of Myanmar	7.91	UNDP	27-Feb-2014
South Africa	Building Resilience in the Greater uMngeni Catchment	7.45	SANBI	10-Oct-2014
Kenya	Integrated Programme To Build Resilience To Climate Change & Adaptive Capacity Of Vulnerable Communities In Kenya	9.99	NEMA	10-Oct-2014
Costa Rica	Reducing the vulnerability by focusing on critical sectors (agriculture, water resources, and coastlines) in order to reduce the negative impacts of climate change and improve the resilience of these sectors	9.97	Fundecooperación para el Desarrollo Sostenible	10-Oct-2014
India	Enhancing Adaptive Capacity and Increasing Resilience of Small and Marginal Farmers in Purulia and Bankura Districts of West Bengal	2.51	NABARD	10-Oct-2014
Ghana	Increased resilience to climate change in Northern Ghana through the management of water resources and diversification of livelihoods	8.29	UNDP	05-Mar-2015
Mali	Programme Support for Climate Change Adaptation in the vulnerable regions of Mopti and Timbuktu	8.53	UNDP	25-Mar-2015
Jordan	Increasing the resilience of poor and vulnerable communities to climate change impacts in Jordan through Implementing Innovative projects in water and agriculture in support of adaptation to climate change	9.23	MOPIC	10-Apr-2015
Morocco	Climate changes adaptation project in oasis zones – PACC-ZO	9.97	ADA	10-Apr-2015
	Total	101.11		

Annex 5. Description of Approved Programs and Projects

L DFA Approved Projects in FY2014 (Final Year of GEF-5)

5208 Palau (UNEP): R2R Advancing Sustainable Resources Management to Improve Livelihoods and Protect Biodiversity in Palau

Palau's lowland forests are considered one of the most intact in the Pacific and home to over 1,353 species of plants of which at least 135 are endemic. Priority environmental problems identified in Palau are impacts from climate change, habitat loss and degradation including ridge to reef impacts from erosion and non-point source pollution, invasive alien species, over harvesting of forest and marine resources, and illegal harvesting of native and threatened species. This project is designed to effectively conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and maintain ecosystem goods and services in Palau by building institutional capacity to integrate the Palau Protected Area Network with the SLM initiative, and foster a ridge-to-reef approach across and within these initiatives.

The project will develop three key elements: improving Palau's Protected Area Network; developing SLM; and developing national coordination to ensure than issues are addressed in a complementary fashion. The project will improve livelihoods and protect biodiversity primarily through the design and initial implementation and testing of an approach to resource management and conservation, resulting in four new protected areas adding at least 95,000 ha of marine and 6,300 ha of terrestrial to the existing PAN of 11,000 ha marine and 2,100 ha terrestrial. The project will also develop at least 8 SLM plans for the country's 16 states and will result in one-third of all native forest totaling 8,100 ha under SFM. The project is expected to develop GHG benefits in excess of 141,000 tCO_{2e} per year.

5324 Brazil (FAO): Reversing Desertification Process in Susceptible Areas of Brazil: Sustainable Agroforestry Practices and Biodiversity Conservation

The deforestation rates in the Brazilian Cerrado and Caatinga are 0.69%/year and 0.28%/year respectively. Each year about 200,000 ha of forests are lost in Caatinga, and about 1.4 million ha from the Cerrado. Drivers include unsustainable extraction of fuelwood for domestic purposes, unsustainable farming practices being adopted by both smallholder farmers and commercial agriculture. Although the Cerrado was previously considered not suitable for large scale agriculture, with improved agricultural techniques, the Cerrado has been transformed into an area of intense and large-scale agricultural operations particularly soy. Cattle-raising is another major industry Cerrado contributing 70% of the beef cattle production in the country.

The project will promote integrated natural resources management (INRM) systems in production landscapes within both small and large scale farming enterprises, develop small and large scale SFM experimental areas in Caatinga and Cerrado where enhanced management will be supported and restore 10 forest corridors between protected areas. With improved SFM and INRM practices, pressure on forests and forest resources will be drastically reduced and degradation processes reversed, covering over 20,300 ha, creating more than 81,300 ha as

sustainably managed biodiversity corridors connecting protected areas. Reduced degradation and increase in forest cover will result in reduced carbon emissions and enhanced carbon storage estimated at 11.5 million tCO₂e.

5353 Armenia (UNDP): Mainstreaming Sustainable Land and Forest Management in Dry Mountain Landscapes

The project is designed to engineer a paradigm shift from unsustainable to sustainable forest management in NE Armenia. The target area contains 65% of Armenia's forest resources and provides essential ecosystem services including water provision (for urban use and food production), land slide control and carbon storage and sequestration. The forests also provide critical habitats for wildlife and hosts globally important biodiversity. Notwithstanding this significance, the area's forests suffer from accelerating degradation, which is undermining ecosystem functions and derivative services. This degradation is largely attributed to the ongoing and historic deforestation and overexploitation of forest resources.

The project will promote an integrated approach towards fostering sustainable forest management seeking to balance environmental management with development needs by setting up a multi-sector planning platform to balance competing environmental, social and economic objectives in district development plans and associated investments. The project will demonstrate sustainable forest management practices, test new management measures, and involve local communities in SFM to directly address drivers of forest degradation. It will contribute to reductions in emissions estimated at 668,000 tCO₂-eq in High Conservation Value Forests over a ten year period and 180,000 tCO₂-eq sequestered through 3,000 ha reforestation.

5397 Vanuatu (FAO): R2R Integrated Sustainable Land and Coastal Management

The project aims to contribute towards the CCM-5 objective of reducing emissions from land use, land use change and forestry. The project will improve the current land use practices in efforts to address the major forest degradation driver, large-scale cattle farming. Silo-pastoral measures including retention of trees, planting of fodder crops and improved grass. Fuel wood collection also contributes to forest degradation in the country. The project addresses this threat directly by replacing wood-fired facilities with solar driers. The project attempts to tie various aspects of natural resource planning and rural development together. It will pilot carbon monitoring, reporting and verification in select areas, allowing for replication of such methods and setting up of a national level system. Emissions of 1,405,440 tCO₂e is expected to be reduced through the proposed project.

5406 Gambia (FAO): Community-Based Sustainable Dryland Forest Management

Due to the geography of the watershed of the Gambia River, forest degradation is one of the major environmental problems. From a socio-economic perspective, a significant part of rural population depends on forests and forest products for their daily income, fuelwood, construction material, and traditional medicines. Loss of forests resources has a serious impact on the well-being of these communities.

Due to the position of the country, the presence of various agro-ecological zones (Sahelian, Sudanian, Sudano-Sahelian, and Guinean), and a pronounced dry season from October to May, the dryland forests of Gambia also represent a key asset against land degradation and

desertification. The project aims to protect and sustainably manage 14,700 ha of dryland forests and help more than 2,000 households to reduce firewood pressure on forests. Support will be materialized by management agreements, management plans, and training, notably provided to the Community Forestry Committees. SLM and SFM techniques will be tested and implemented.

5410 Venezuela (FAO): Sustainable Forest Lands Management and Conservation under an Eco-social Approach

Venezuela as a high forest cover country has maintained 54% of its territory covered with forest and has followed a relatively low rate of deforestation. However expansion of agriculture and livestock is a key driver for the replacement of forest with other land uses and commercial forest exploitation in the absence of sound data and planning has resulted in significant forest degradation. Government policy has acknowledged the potential of forests to contribute to rural development through expansion of production, however without incorporating biodiversity and climate change issues as well as ensuring best management practices for SFM are implemented further forest degrade and loss is predicted

The project will promote a strategy for natural resources in which forest activities take into account the short and long term context of ecological, economic and social interactions. The project will strengthen the national forest inventory system with improved products on biodiversity, forest carbon and land degradation over an area of 4.4 million ha; two forest management units covering 274,511 ha will have SFM plans developed with biodiversity and carbon issues addressed; participatory agreements prepared for SFM implementation with local communities covering over 166,634 ha including the roll out of a new national system of certification of forest management linked to government performance payments. The project will also restore over 3000 ha of degraded forests and is estimated to enhance carbon stocks in excess of 200,000 tCO₂e.

5458 Peru (IADB): Conservation, Management and Restoration of Fragile Lomas Ecosystems

This project will work to protect a threatened and rare ecosystem, the lomas, of Peru. Found scattered among the deserts on the coast these ecosystems are home to many endemic species, including some that are limited to a single site. There are many endemic plant species from important plant families and stopping points for migratory birds. Importantly, this project will include the protection of a currently unprotected Alliance for Zero Extinction site (AZE), the small group of sites considered the most important in preventing extinctions. This ecosystem with its low vegetation is especially vulnerable to degradation from overuse by grazing and tourism. In addition, unsustainable urban development and mining threaten these sites. This project will work with the local governments to develop a series of protected areas for these sites along with land management plans that incorporate the protection of these sites. There are existing local efforts to protect and reforest these areas, which this project will build upon and formalize.

5463 Tanzania (UNDP): Securing Watershed Services Through SLM in the Ruvu and Zigi Catchments Eastern Arc Region

In the highly diverse watersheds of the Eastern Arc Mountains, the Ruvu and Sigi sub-catchments, there is severe land degradation issues outside protected areas largely driven by expansion of human settlements, expansion of commercial and subsistence agriculture,

inappropriate agriculture practices, and over-harvesting of forest resources. The decreases in natural forests, bushlands and woodlands are well documented, notably in the East Usambaras. The two Ruvu and Sigi rivers are also critical for supplying water to the most important cities in the country. Tanzania has two main barriers that hinder the achievement of the long-term vision to secure watershed services: the absence of a collaborative framework for effective participation of stakeholders in controlling land degradation and upscaling SLM in the two watersheds; and the lack of demonstrated experiences in Integrated Nature Resource management at the landscape level. The project will focus on supporting the collaborative framework to effectively coordinate the integration of SLM into the planning and monitoring of land management in the Ruvu and Zigi watersheds, and on reducing the effects of land degradation on ecosystem services through SLM. It will lead to the adoption of SLM practices on more than 200,000 ha, including securing ecosystem services, reduction of soil erosion, siltation and pollution in water bodies.

5479 India (World Bank): Integrated SLEM Approaches for Reducing Land Degradation and Desertification

The project is tackling two important key issues related to SLM: scaling up and sustainability of SLM activities at local level. The project is based on an analysis of previous SLM projects and addresses the root causes and the drivers of this non sustainable situation. The project will scale up integrated SLM approaches for reducing Land degradation and desertification in Karnataka and Maharashtra through: implementation of SLM best practices on 50,000 ha; crop diversification on 25,000 ha; 100 community awareness workshops; nationwide SLEM outcomes monitoring in line with UNCCD impact indicators; support of 500 local SLM champions; and documentation and dissemination of best practices through a 'Community of Practice' initiative. This project has a clear focus on replication and upscaling of best practices in SLM that have been developed, tested and have had demonstrated success in a long-term partnership of GEF with India under the SLEM program. Earlier innovative approaches will now be mainstreamed in to wider application.

5481 Morocco (FAO): Conservation of Biodiversity and Mitigation of Land Degradation through Adaptive Management of Agricultural Heritage Systems

The oases ecosystems are globally important assets in the North Africa region. They are unique because of their biological and cultural importance, including the crucial role they play in underpinning the livelihoods of desert communities. Morocco is one of the countries that gives utmost priority to management of oases ecosystems with a view to preserving the cultural and biological heritage. Hence a number of important baseline initiatives are being implemented by the Government.

Despite commitment from the Government, institutional, policy, and market barriers make it difficult for oases communities to maintain practices that are sustainable. Furthermore, efforts toward addressing these barriers across the country are fragmented and uncoordinated. This project is designed to foster a holistic and integrated approach toward management of oases ecosystems, building on existing baseline investments by the Government and partners. It will focus on creating enabling environment for the community management of oases ecosystems, promoting SLM practices in targeted oases, mainstreaming biodiversity in the production systems, and synthesizing lessons to facilitate scaling-up nationally.

5487 Regional²⁰ (AfDB): Integrated Development for Increased Rural Climate Resilience in the Niger Basin

The Niger River is the economic mainstay for the nine riparian countries in the Basin. The Basin has tremendous potential for development and infrastructure, including hydropower, irrigation, navigation, fish farming, and the potential to create large number of new jobs. However, the infrastructure and development potential remains significantly under-tapped, which limits economic growth and the improvement of livelihoods in the Basin. About 70% of the 100 million people in the Basin live in rural areas where food security and social well-being are largely dependent on unreliable rainfall and highly-variable river flow patterns. The Basin's population and economy is highly impacted by extreme climate and rainfall variability, both of which may be exacerbated by climate change. The project will mitigate threats to the stability of the Basin's ecosystems and new infrastructure, rehabilitate degraded lands, and promote the conservation and sustainable exploitation of the Basin's biodiversity and combat deforestation in selected areas.

The project will focus on increasing water security and climate resilience at regional level; building resilience to climate change at sub-basin and watershed level in the Niger Basin; capacity building at regional, national, sub-basin and community level; climate change adaptation investments in the Republic of Chad; and reforestation investments for climate change mitigation benefits in Burkina Faso. The project is expected to reduce approximately 1.5 million additional tons of CO₂-e.

5510 Papua New Guinea (UNDP): R2R Strengthening the Management Effectiveness of the National System of Protected Areas

New Guinea is one of the world's Megadiverse regions, containing an estimated 7% of the world's biodiversity in less than 1% of the land area. The island of New Guinea as a whole (combining mainland PNG and Indonesia's West Papua region) contains the largest contiguous area of forest remaining in the Asia-Pacific region and constitutes the third largest tropical rainforest in the world. PNG has more than 18,894 described plant species, 719 birds, 271 mammals, 227 reptiles, 266 amphibians and 341 freshwater fish species. Endemism probably exceeds 30% for PNG and is well over 70% for Papuasias. The forests perform a number of crucial ecological functions, which include regulation of water catchments and enhancement of water quality; global, regional and microclimate stabilization; soil and nutrient retention which is particularly important for the extensive cultivated gardens; insect and rodent control; crop pollination; and the maintenance of fish stocks. Riverine systems and estuaries also perform important functions, e.g. in wetlands management, transport of nutrients for offshore sea-grass beds and reefs and stabilization of coastal systems. This rich biodiversity is threatened due to forest conversion and degradation from logging, mining, expanding industrial agriculture and a rapidly expanding largely rural human population with expanding needs for cash crops and subsistence gardens.

This project is designed to support this country commitment, by strengthening links between the central government's policy and institutional systems and 'bottom up' conservation initiatives that are being established by community landowners and conservation partners in key

²⁰ Burkina Faso, Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Chad

biodiversity areas throughout the country. The project will help the planned Conservation and Environment Protection Authority (CEPA) put in place a system for supporting and overseeing conservation areas—improving governance of the PA system while simultaneously strengthening PA management in areas with high biodiversity values. The project will focus on management capabilities of the PNG state to oversee protected area management and strengthening the capacity of the state and local communities to cooperatively manage PA sites. The immediate GEBs are the conservation of more than 331,000 ha of critical landscape, and the maintenance of important populations of restricted-range flagship species including birds of paradise and four species of tree kangaroo.

5514 Mauritius (UNDP): Mainstreaming Biodiversity into the Management of the Coastal Zone in the Republic of Mauritius

Biodiversity and ecosystem services are being lost in coastal and marine landscapes in the Republic of Mauritius due to unplanned infrastructure developments that reduce and degrade natural habitats, and cause land degradation, undermining ecosystem functionality and resilience, especially in sensitive lagoon areas. This project will address the threats to biodiversity in Coastal Wetlands, Shore and Offshore ESAs within six the target landscapes (five in Mauritius Main Island and one in Rodrigues). It will support the incorporation of environmentally sensitive areas (ESA) recommendations into policies and enforceable regulations pertaining to Coastal Zone Management (CZM) and support the effective management of marine protected areas (MPAs). It will also support measures to arrest land degradation in sensitive locations; reducing coastal erosion and sedimentation and help restore ecosystem functions in key wetland areas.

As a result of the project, biodiversity within coral reefs, sea-grass beds, mangroves, inter-tidal mud-flats, sand beaches and dunes, and coastal freshwater marshlands will be better protected and managed sustainably. It will lead in reduction in the threats to biodiversity and ecosystem function across target landscapes with a total area of 150,000 ha., containing 27,000 ha of ESAs; reduction in pressures to Coastal Wetlands, Shore and Offshore ESAs Systems; tourism sector funding channeled to biodiversity increase; threats to biodiversity in the offshore environment are mitigated and fish stocks protected in at least 8,000 ha of seascapes through the improved management of MPAs and no-take zones, erosion and soil loss are reduced in 200 ha in erosion prone watersheds, and ecosystem services restored in 15.4 ha in freshwater wetlands.

5517 Micronesia (UNDP): R2R Implementing an Integrated Ridge to Reef Approach to Enhance Ecosystem Services, to Conserve Globally Important Biodiversity and to Sustain Local Livelihoods in the FSM

The Federal State of Micronesia is part of two Global 200 WWF Ecoregions and forms part of the Polynesia/Micronesia Hotspot and is one of the most endangered terrestrial ecosystems globally. The project will focus on High islands which host an important diversity of marine ecosystems. Four of the world's seven sea turtles, 4,000 species of fish, and 800 species of hard corals are present on the high islands. Intense population growth, destructive fishing practices, and agriculture development have placed increasing pressure on natural resources of these islands. To tackle these drivers, this project will support the on-going initiatives, in developing integrated ecosystem management through "ridge to reef" approach. The project will support the full operationalization of at least twenty existing and new protected areas, covering a total of 16,000ha. Secondly, the project will strengthen the existing integrated land use plan including

through the valuation of goods and services of natural systems as well as different SLM practices.

5522 Libya (FAO): Sustainable Land Management and Conservation of Oases Ecosystems in Libya

The Government of Libya is proposing to address threats to long-term viability of its oases production systems through promotion conservation agriculture. This form of agricultural practice optimizes the use of land, water, and biodiversity in crop production as a means of safeguarding important ecosystem services. In a dryland country such as Libya, conservation agriculture also presents an opportunity for farmers to combat land degradation and mitigate biophysical risks, particularly related to drought and water scarcity.

The proposed project builds on four decades of effort by the Government to boost agricultural productivity, and emphasizes the need to address ecological sustainability of oases ecosystems at scale through achieving sustainability of the primary land and resource uses through conservation agriculture, including livestock management; and pro-active conservation across the landscape to prevent further habitat degradation and the loss of oases ecosystem services through activities that enhance the sustainability of existing biodiversity and other resources (water, soil, etc.). Sustainability will be assured through the adoption by government and farmers of land use practices and systems that produce GEBs while increasing income or lead to livelihood stability.

5531 Haiti (UNEP): Ecosystem Approach to Haiti Cote Sud

The South-western coast of Haiti is exposed to extreme weather events and natural risks. These include hurricanes, cyclones, floods, droughts, landslides, earthquakes and tsunamis. The ability to plan, manage, adapt to and respond to these risks is very low and each year results in destruction of livelihoods, assets, illnesses and even deaths. These impacts affect fisheries and agriculture, the two main sources of livelihoods in the area, leading to severe negative impacts on food security and a general increase in poverty. Storms, hurricanes and floods are having major impacts, undermining economic growth and recovery efforts and causing widespread damage. The project aims at increasing resilience to climate change risks and decreasing disaster risk using an ecosystem management approach targeting protected areas and fragile ecosystems in the Southwestern Peninsula of Haiti.

The project will establish effective climate resilient management of Ile Vache National Park and Port Salut Protected Landscape, and improve forest and land use climate resilient practices in five protected areas which will result in an estimated reduction of 408,226 CO₂ tons/year. It will promote disaster risk reduction through an ecosystem management approach in the broader Southwest Peninsula landscape. At least 150km of coastlines will be rehabilitated and made resilient providing local communities with healthy coastal ecosystems.

5536 Turkmenistan (UNDP): Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy for Sustainable Water Management in Turkmenistan

The Turkmen agriculture is highly dependent on irrigation and water pumping. The numerous pumping stations account for more than 250 MW of installed power capacity, and diesel oil is

used to run off-grid water pumping stations and small-size farming irrigation systems. Due to its size, huge inefficiencies of the infrastructure design, and bad maintenance, irrigation is the second largest power-consuming sector in Turkmenistan (31% of total power consumption). Irrigation and water supply are responsible for 27% of all CO₂ emissions. Agriculture is also responsible for a large share of the N₂O and CH₄ emissions of the country. Most of the 33.9 million ha of Turkmen agricultural land is composed of desert pasture, an important portion being severely degraded (4.5%) or moderately degraded (45%). Bush forest areas are grazed and cut for fuel, leading to a loss in of desert range production, reduction in biodiversity, wind erosion of the denuded lands, and an increase in unfixed sands around roads, settlements and irrigated areas. The privatization of livestock has resulted in a huge increase in livestock numbers and land close to water points or agricultural areas are overgrazed.

This project will reduce GHG emissions from energy use in Turkmenistan water sector by introducing renewable energy, and energy efficiency practices and technologies; and prevent the degradation of arable land and pastures and reducing agricultural GHG emissions by supporting the adoption of low-GHG and SLM technologies and practices in the agricultural and water supply sector. It will focus on improving technological and knowledge base about modern energy efficiency (EE) and renewable energy (RE) technologies and their application in water management sector; implementing pilot modernization of selected irrigation schemes with introduction of EE and RE technologies, improved EE for the entire irrigation network, along with measures reducing N₂O emissions through better fertilization management; demonstrating low-carbon technologies to address water-related root causes of pasture and land degradation in pilot sites and of technologies and practices to reduce non-CO₂ agricultural emissions; technical assistance to local communities for sustainable water/energy/land use plans; and support of a National Sustainable Energy and Water Management Program. It will contribute to GHG emissions savings estimated at 70,000 t CO₂ eq. over the 20 years lifetime of the improved irrigation and water management systems.

5541 Global (UNEP): Global Support Programme: Increasing the Quantity and Improving the Quality of Information for the Review of Implementation of the UNCCD Implementation

GEF Financing for Enabling Activities under the UNCCD is an important milestone in funding the Convention implementation. In GEF-5, it is the first time ever the financing is being provided to eligible Parties under this Convention to support Parties in implementing specific activities that help them fulfill obligations under the Convention. Parties at CRIC 9 identified two immediate priorities for Enabling Activities financing: alignment of national action programs (NAPs) with the Strategy, and reporting process.

The main objective of this project is to increase the quantity and improve quality of information that is being generated in the above mentioned context and to make it better available for the implementation of the Convention. Major outcomes are: improved capacities of UNCCD reporting entities for indicator-based reporting on Convention implementation using the new reporting guidelines and templates; and an operational technical assistance framework to directly support and facilitate the work at country level. The main output include: training workshops on reporting; a national and regional backstopping systems (inter alia provided through national consultants) in place to provide affected country parties (ACPs) with external technical

assistance on progress and performance indicators reporting; and a capacity Development Market Place available to Convention Parties.

547 Congo DR (FAO): Community-Based Miombo Forest Management in South East Katanga

The overall deforestation rates for DRC remains relatively low but not for the semi-arid to sub-humid miombo woodlands of Katanga Province. Deforestation and forest degradation are especially severe around urban centers where the demand for charcoal and firewood is increasing. The greatest single barrier to sustainable miombo forest management is that there are no tested and proven miombo forest management system for the production of charcoal and fuelwood. The target areas also have agricultural extensification as an additional driver of forest degradation and loss.

This project aims to promote sustainable management and restoration of miombo forest ecosystems in order to contribute to climate change mitigation and improve community livelihoods through the development of community-based forest management systems. It will address reducing pressures on forest resources and generate sustainable flows of forest ecosystem services; strengthen the enabling environment to reduce GHG emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and enhance carbon sinks from land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) activities; promote conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through sustainable management of land use, land-use change and forestry; and generate sustainable flows of forest ecosystem services in arid, semi-arid and sub-humid zones, including sustaining livelihoods of forest-dependent people. It will focus on community-based forest management, strengthening of legal frameworks, and knowledge management. The project will restore and manage Miombo forests with ensuring that focus is on community engagement and community based measures.

5550 Tuvalu (UNDP): R2R Implementing a Ridge to Reef Approach to Protect Biodiversity and Ecosystem Functions

Tuvalu has four uplifted coral islands and five atolls with many small coral islands reaching a maximum elevation of 5m, scattered over 900,000 km² of ocean. The total area of 27km² is small, although some atoll lagoons are very large (Funati lagoon e.g. is 25km x 18 km). The total population is around 10,500, with very high population density in some areas such as Vaiaku, the largest island on Funafuti lagoon (>1,610 persons/km²). Coral reef fisheries constitute a major natural resource, along with offshore pelagic fishes (tuna). Tuvalu is an LDC with a small and highly vulnerable economy strongly exposed to external economic and environmental influences. This project will target some of these threats, seeking to reduce vulnerability and protect biodiversity and ecosystem functions in Tuvalu.

The project implements a ridge-to-reef approach that integrates terrestrial and marine biodiversity with water and land management, jointly implemented by government and local communities. It will support the strengthening and development of a network of Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs) to effectively protect about 15% of its coastline by the end of the project in 2018. It will seek to harmonize LMMA principles within Tuvalu's Policy and Legislation, develop Action Plans and implement selected priorities of these Plans in the nine

islands (nature conservation with local communities, rehabilitation of damaged island and coastal areas, including degraded coral reefs).

5551 Kiribati (FAO): R2R Resilient Islands, Resilient Communities

The project is a part of the larger Ridge to Reef (R2R) Program in the Pacific Island Countries. Kiribati is an atoll nation with 33 islands spread over 3.5 million square kilometers of the Pacific Ocean and home to over 100,000 Kiribati people. The country is recognized as one of the most vulnerable to climate change and, while GDP per capita is near the lowest in the Pacific island Forum Group, the coastal and marine biodiversity plays a critical role in the life of Kiribati people.

The project aims to strengthen the national network of protected areas; promote SLM and integrated landscape management; and manage knowledge for the dissemination of best practices. The project will give an opportunity to integrate multiple sectors into a cohesive planning and management system. It will sustain a national network of protected areas in a country where few protected areas have been established and will also enable the Government of Kiribati to test a range of approaches to rehabilitate, manage, and protect mangroves. The project will protect 7,400ha of land and 10 percent of marine areas of Gilbert and Line islands. New land use planning tools will be tested in pilot sites.

5578 Tonga (FAO): R2R Integrated Land and Agro-ecosystem Management Systems

This is a child project of the Ridge to Reef program designed to strengthen the resilience of communities by enhancing land tenure systems, improve forest management, and pilot an integrated agro-ecosystem approach to rehabilitate degraded landscapes on Tonga Islands. Multiple environmental benefits will be obtained from the integrated agro-ecosystem management approach, including reduced destruction of agro-biodiversity that provide valuable sources of food and ecosystem services and habitat, particularly in coastal areas already vulnerable to saltwater inundation and erosion; the establishment of organic fertilizer as an alternative to the use of harmful pesticides to improve soil quality and fertility; an increase in rainwater harvesting capacity to reduce the communities' vulnerability to drought for adaptation to climate change and climate variability; and the regeneration of forest landscapes previously degraded by foraging pigs and land clearing as a conservation programme for preserving native biodiversity. Carbon benefits are also expected from reforestation and recovery of degraded land (mainly mangroves), as well as from preventing deforestation mainly through the activities targeted at enhancing the system of land administration.

5677 Sri Lanka (FAO): Rehabilitation of Degraded Agricultural Lands in Kandy, Badulla and Nuwara Eliya Districts in the Central Highlands (CH)

Nearly one third of land in Sri Lanka is currently subject to soil erosion and soil fertility degradation. The major driver is population growth with rapidly increasing demands for land for agricultural purposes and other uses. Demands from various users such as agriculture, industry, transport, and settlements have added pressure on the land and resulted in land degradation. Even a higher percentage of land, about 50%, is already classified as degraded.

The project would reverse and arrest degradation of agricultural land in Kandy, Nuwara Elia, and Badulle Districts located in the Central Highlands targeting a total area of approximately 580,000 ha through strengthening the capacity of national and local stakeholders to plan and implement

SLM measures in the Central Highlands resulting in the generation of significant GEBs in terms of improved provision of agro-ecosystem services and reduced vulnerability to climate change. The project will intervene by strengthening the enabling framework for SLM; implementation of land restoration techniques on 10,000 ha; develop and implement innovative funding systems to promote SLM; and knowledge management, awareness raising, and dissemination of best practices.

5691 Tanzania (UNEP): Sustainable Land Management of Lake Nyasa Catchment

Land degradation is a major problem in the Lake Nyasa's catchment area due to inappropriate agriculture practices (sloping land, shifting cultivation, burning and wildfires, mining, and deforestation). More than 95% of the population depends on agriculture as a main source of income and food security. Most of them are small scale farmers who cannot afford to buy agricultural inputs such as fertilizers, seeds and agrochemicals. In order to increase yields, they adopt extensive agriculture, open new fields in the natural landscape and the forests.

The lake is threatened by siltation from land degradation in the surrounding catchment caused by local communities. Environmental degradation has increased soil erosion rates, increased nutrient loading, and reduced water quality, production and abundance of fishes. In addition, population growth coupled with poverty and unsustainable agriculture practices, including overgrazing, have increased pressure on land. The project will focus on targeting the root causes of land degradation by promoting an integrated catchment area approach and proposing livelihoods alternative options. The project will support planning and investments at catchment, sub-catchment levels, and community levels. The transformation on the ground will take place because SLM practices will be adopted by the communities (agroforestry, conservation agriculture techniques as minimum tillage, mixed cropping, crop rotations, mulching, field level catchment protection activities, etc.).

5698 Global (UNEP): Sustainable Land Management and Climate Change Mitigation Co-benefits SLM CCMC

The SLM has high potential to reduce GHG emissions, by reducing emissions from biomass burning, biomass decomposition and the breakdown of soil organic matter (SOM), and also to sequester carbon (C) through practices that increase biomass production and promote the build-up of SOM. One of the barriers to the assessment of global carbon benefits resulting from SLM is access to and application of suitable quantification tools and well documented and harmonized datasets on SLM practices. The GEF has maintained a long-term interest in estimating the carbon benefits of the SLM activities it supports in order to understand the global carbon benefits that might be achieved by such activities. Such estimation would allow the GEF to surmise the global C impact of these activities and report this to the relevant conventions (UNFCCC, UNCCD etc.). This interest led to investment in the development of a suite of tools to measure, monitor and report on the impact of land management projects on carbon stock changes and GHG emissions, through the GEF's Carbon Benefits Project (CBP). The tools include a Simple Assessment and a Detailed Assessment which is online tools based on the IPCC method. In line with the recommendations from the GEF Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP), this project will focus on the enhancement of existing tools, training and outreach on existing tools, and comparative analysis of tools.

5699 Kazakhstan (UNDP): Supporting Sustainable Land Management in Steppe and Semi-arid Zones through Integrated Territorial Planning and Agro-environmental Incentives

Despite large agricultural subsidies, the government baseline programs mainly target conventional agricultural practices that focus on increased short-term output without taking ecosystem constraints into account. Subsidies thus fail to improve ecosystem services delivery and may even provide perverse incentives for land degradation. The project aims at facilitating a transformative shift from unsustainable to integrated SLM in steppe, semi-arid and arid zones in Kazakhstan through supporting SLM planning and agro-environmental incentives for land users. It will address improved land use planning and management and tackle changes in existing policies and legislation to change the current agricultural subsidy system into an agro-ecological incentive system that is conducive to SLM. The project would directly create GEBs on 750,000 ha of land (introduction of SLM practices, improved vegetation cover).

5700 Mongolia (UNDP): SLM Offset in Western Mongolia

Land degradation is the most serious environmental problem in Mongolia. Decreasing carrying capacity and productivity of land resources directly impacts the nation's productivity and efforts for equitable and sustainable development. Moreover, land degradation most directly and severely hits the rural population. More than 75% of Mongolia's pasturelands now suffer from degradation. Increasing mining development in all its forms, industrial and artisanal, formal and illegal, is one of the drivers of land degradation that poses multiple threats to land resources, ecosystems and wildlife, as well as human health and well-being.

The project is designed to reduce negative impacts of mining on rangelands in the western mountain and steppe region by incorporating mitigation hierarchy and offset for land degradation into the landscape level planning and management. The project will create the necessary framework and conditions for SLM offset mechanisms to be operationalized and implemented. This will include development of a clear SLM mitigation hierarchy, and detailed procedures and guidelines for SLM and biodiversity set aside mechanism, and associated institutional mechanisms for compliance monitoring and enforcement. The project support will not be limited to facilitating offset programme implementation by mining companies. A six-step for setting up offset programmes will be followed by the implementation support. GEBs to be created are to improve vegetative cover and carbon sequestration on an area of 100,000 ha which is directly targeted by the project. Indirectly, it is envisaged that the predominantly pastoral livestock herding landscapes of the five western aimags (Uvs, Bayan Olgii, Khovd, Zakhan and Gobi-Altai), with total area size of 41,525,399 ha will be impacted in the long term.

5718 Uganda (UNDP): Integrated Landscape Management for Improved Livelihoods and Ecosystem Resilience in Mount Elgon

With its 4,000 km², Mount Elgon is the largest volcanic base in the world and a biodiversity important area. It is located on the Uganda-Kenya border. Uganda's mountain regions have been noted to be particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts due to the people's dependence on the services provided by the ecosystems and their lack of capacity to adapt to the climate changes. The Mt Elgon region has especially been singled out as needing protection as it is an important biodiversity area and a water tower for both Uganda and Kenya. It serves as a catchment area for the drainage systems of the three lakes: Victoria, Turkana and Kyoga. However, its landscape is already experiencing adverse effects of climate changes like erratic

rains, drought, famine, floods and landslides. Forest cover has dramatically reduced from 90% in 1960 to virtually 0 below 2,000m elevation in 2010. Natural forests are still a key economic resource and 31% of the population obtains income from selling firewood. However, the declining availability of fuel wood has driven 38% of the rural population to use on-farm fuel wood resources. The main driver of land degradation is insecure land tenure. The main causes of GHG emission are agriculture and LULUCF, with savannah and agricultural waste burning, clearing and on-site burning, as well as grassland conversion.

The project is designed to address ecosystem resilience and land degradation problems by promoting an integrated landscape approach to improve land management as well as livelihoods for communities around Mount Elgon. The project will support local governments and communities to introduce a range of innovative and economically viable land use options that reverse the rate of land degradation on the mountain slopes in a critical disaster-prone landscape and contribute to the mitigation of climate change. The project will invest in agroforestry, shade coffee production, conservation agriculture, including reforestation and sustainable use of forest resources, to reduce land degradation on 28,800 ha and improve forest cover on 5,000 ha, resulting in enhancement of carbon stocks by at least 88,887 tCO₂ e/y or 266,662 tCO₂e in three years.

5724 Global (FAO): Participatory Assessment of Land Degradation and Sustainable Land Management in Grassland and Pastoral Systems

Rangelands cover some 25 percent of the global land area and include the drylands of Africa (66 percent of the total continent area), the Arabian Peninsula, the steppes of Central Asia and the Highlands of Latin America. In the Sahel, pastoralism accounts for 70-90 percent of cattle rearing and 30 to 40 percent of sheep and goat rearing. In the Sahel and West Africa, transhumant pastoralism supplies an estimated 65 percent of beef, 40 percent of mutton and goat meat, and 70 percent of milk. Managing these systems sustainably is therefore a global priority from both the environment and development perspective.

The contribution that rangelands make to ecosystem services is important (regulating services for water, climate regulation due to carbon sequestration, pollination, etc.). Assigning them an economic value and gathering systemic data in rangelands should become a global priority. The need is crucial to empower pastoralists and institutions to apply holistic approaches to management of their rangelands that will generate knowledge on multiple ecosystem benefits and livelihood opportunities in the context of a changing climate. The project will improve decision making process affecting pastoral, grassland, and agrosylvo-pastoral stakeholders to reverse land degradation (LD) in a context of multiple environmental and socio-economic benefits (enhancement of food security, resilience to climate change, conservation of biodiversity, and livelihoods). The project is based on coupling bottom-up and top-down approaches focusing on the two main identified drivers: lack of comprehensive process to transfer LD and SLM information to appropriate policies and legal instruments to sustainably manage grassland areas, and lack of agreed indicators on assessing the multiple ecosystem benefits in grasslands and pastoral areas.

5736 Global²¹ (UNDP): GEF SGP Fifth Operational Phase - Implementing the Program Using STAR Resources III

This project covers STAR funding contributions committed by eleven countries to the GEF Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP) in addition to the core grant allocations and/or STAR allocations they have received, but not exceeding the total STAR funding ceiling that a GEF SGP country programme can receive. The additional STAR funding will be critical for these GEF SGP country programmes both programmatically and strategically. These country programs have operated with grant resources lower than their absorptive capacity. The additional STAR funding endorsed will support the implementation of national priority programmes at the community level and significantly enhance the scope and potential impact of SGP in these countries.

The GEF SGP seeks impact-level results contributing to GEBs through innovation, demonstration and piloting that will be up-scaled by other partners and actors. The objectives and expected outcomes of the GEF SGP for the 5th Operational Phase (OP5) build directly on the GEF's strategic priorities for GEF-5. Facing environmental degradation and depletion of natural resources, communities are finding ways of doing things differently to achieve both environmental protection and sustainable livelihoods. GEF SGP believes that local communities have an intimate knowledge about their living environment and socio-economic needs, and should be empowered to find solutions and make decisions on local environmental governance whilst addressing global environmental issues.

5745 Nigeria (UNDP): Sustainable Fuelwood Management in Nigeria

Deforestation is the largest source of GHG emissions in Nigeria; it is responsible for 40% of national CO₂ emissions. Unsustainable and constantly growing consumption of fuelwood by Nigerian households is one of the main causes of deforestation. Fuelwood use has grown from 50 million m³/year in 1990 up to 70 million m³/year, largely due to population growth, but also due to the absence of affordable energy alternatives. The proposed project focuses on Cross River State (CRS), in southeast Nigeria where more than 50% of the remaining Tropical High Forest in the country is found. From 2000 to 2008 the CRS area showed steady loss of forest cover at a rate of 2.2% yearly. The loss has been mainly attributed to agricultural expansion; and unsustainable wood extraction for timber and fuel wood. A number of other initiatives are addressing the issue of agricultural expansion and illegal logging. Since 2008, a moratorium has been put in place on logging in CRS.

The proposed project will promote improved cook stoves and complement it with measures to promote sustainable forest management by local communities. It coordinates closely with UNREDD initiative to tackle the fuelwood demand issue, which is not covered within UNREDD program but is vital for sustainable forest management. Through the project interventions 50,000 ha of forestlands will be under improved community-based forest management. It will contribute to reduction in land degradation; and direct GHG emission reduction from use of efficient cook stoves estimated at 20,000 tCO₂/year or 500,000 tCO₂ over 25 years. Additional climate mitigation is expected from sequestration of CO₂ in forest systems.

²¹ Armenia, Burundi, Cameroon, Ghana, Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Maldives, Thailand, Ukraine, Vietnam, Congo DR

5746 Mali (UNEP): Scaling up and Replicating Successful Sustainable Land Management (SLM) and Agroforestry Practices in the Koulikoro Region of Mali

The Koulikoro region of Mali is facing multiple environmental problems caused by human activities (shifting agriculture, bushfires, unsustainable agriculture practices, forest destruction, etc.) and other natural phenomena. The degradation of ecosystem services (desertification, water shortage, lack of wood, lack of biodiversity) constitutes serious threats to socioeconomic activities and reduces climate change adaptation capacity.

The proposed project aims to scale up SLM through good management of agricultural landscape and securing livelihoods of local communities in the context of climate change. The project will contribute to the global effort of mitigating the effects of land degradation and biodiversity loss through restoration of degraded lands with proven technologies including agroforestry, micro-dose practices, and protection of forest ecosystems. Better grazing management will also be promoted to improve animal nutrition and reduce animal pressure. The project will also contribute to the conservation of the biodiversity of the Baoule Biosphere reserve. It will focus on promoting good SLM agricultural and pastoral practices; promoting local alternative livelihoods; and supporting the local level capacity building.

5750 Global (UNEP): Mainstreaming Sustainable Management of Tea Production Landscapes

As an important land use in numerous developing countries, tea production systems can be both a contributor to land degradation and a segment of the rural economy that is particularly susceptible to land degradation. Tea is produced both on large plantations, employing thousands of workers, and also by millions of smallholders, for whom it often provides the only source of cash income. In both large- and small-scale production systems, inappropriate practices in planting, growing and processing tea can cause land degradation and depletion of natural resources. On the other hand, well-managed tea production landscapes can help arrest or even reverse land degradation, while providing a range of economic and ecological benefits for local communities, downstream beneficiaries, and the global commons.

This project seeks to reduce land degradation associated with tea production in Asia by supporting farmers and catalyzing industry and government leaders to mainstream SLM and integrated natural resource management (INRM) practices. At least 30,000 smallholders in the most important tea producing countries of Asia: India, China, Vietnam and Sri Lanka - will make improvements in tea production to reverse land degradation on at least 60,000 ha in key degraded landscapes through an incentive based approach to SLM that addresses major technical and financial barriers.

5752 Benin (UNDP): Promotion of Sustainable Biomass-based Electricity Generation in Benin

The objective of the project is to pioneer an integrated energy and ecosystems-based approach to grid-based biomass electricity generation. The project is expected to reduce GHG emissions by substituting sustainable biomass-based electricity to fossil-fuel based electricity, and support the rehabilitation of carbon stocks in Benin forest. In order to meet the domestic demand in Benin, the National Electricity Company (SBEE) now operates costly thermal power plants, which consume annually about 120,000 tons of imported fuel oil. All petroleum products are imported.

The share of renewable energy in the energy balance is less than 5%. Benin has a huge potential of renewable biomass (700MW), especially from agriculture residues. Past attempts at developing biomass-based electricity have failed. The private sector did not want to invest in the sector because of badly designed power purchase agreements (PPAs); and high perceived risks associated.

The project is designed to pioneer an integrated energy and ecosystems-based approach to grid-based biomass electricity generation. The project is expected to reduce GHG emissions by substituting sustainable biomass-based electricity to fossil-fuel based electricity, and support the rehabilitation of carbon stocks in Benin forest. It will focus on the establishment of policy, institutional, legal and regulatory framework for biomass energy generation; setting up catalytic financial incentives promoting investment in biomass energy generation; facilitation and establishment of the first biomass plant in Benin; and land use and sustainable forestry management and implementation. The expected direct GHG emissions savings are estimated at 293,740 t CO₂e over a 20-year period. This translates to a cost per ton of reduced CO₂e of \$6.7/t CO₂e.

5754 Regional²² (IADB): IDB-GEF Climate-Smart Agriculture Fund for Latin America and the Caribbean (PROGRAM)

One of the barriers to greater private sector participation in sustainable and climate smart agriculture practices are the perception of risk and the long payback periods for investments. The program will address this barrier by identifying opportunities and developing detailed economic and financial ecosystem services appraisals and market studies. This project will address financial barriers by providing debt with long tenors, guarantees, and low collateral requirements. It will support targeted investments in small and medium sized enterprises to foster climate smart agriculture.

An indicative pipeline of potential investments has been developed in Paraguay, Bolivia, Chile, Brazil, and Honduras. Examples of investments include: reforestation of degraded pasture land; loans to small holders for agricultural services and water resiliency; sustainable aquaculture certification; productive use of degraded lands; certification of sustainable coffee production. Benefits estimates include 3 million tCO₂e sequestered, 300,000 ha certified improved land use; and 16,500 ha with climate resilient technologies/practices.

5755 Bolivia (UNDP): Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems in Amazonia by Indigenous and Local Communities to Generate Multiple Environmental and Social Benefits

The Amazon region of northern Bolivia is a known biodiversity hotspot. Within the region Original Indigenous Peasant Territories (TIOCs) have historically been conserved and sustainably managed by indigenous people through sustainable use of non-timber forest products (especially Brazil nut) and subsistence forest use. However, the sustainability of these activities is currently under threat of conversion to other land uses as viability of traditional land-use is threatened as a result of poor management practice, illegal logging and fire.

²² Latin America and Caribbean

The region is experiencing rapid change including incorporation of the region with the rest of the country as a result of the development of communications and highways; devolution of political decisions through local participation in the municipalization processes and increased organizational capacity among local and indigenous actors; and changes in land tenure patterns with the recognition of the rights of local agro-extractive and indigenous communities. The project therefore offers the opportunity to support sustainable active management by indigenous peoples which provides economic and social benefits that reinforce motivations to maintain the forest and avoid conversion. The project includes 4 ITOC located in Pando and Beni Departments which have high biodiversity, and are home to indigenous people from a number of different ethnic groups (Esse-Ejja-Tacana-Cavineno, Tacana-Cavineno, Cavineno and Chacobo-Pacahuara). These have been prioritized because they i) form a contiguous block; ii) are actively managed for Brazil nut extraction; iii) are subject to imminent threats and iv) are formally titled to indigenous communities. The project will ensure the long-term conservation status of globally important forest habitats in the project area, covering at least 350,000ha, by strengthening of community-based governance and the generation of sustained economic benefits by the forests from the sale of NTFPs. The SLM practices (e.g. diversified cocoa plantations and silvopastoral systems) will be applied over an area of 125,000ha of non-forest land in the landscapes. The project is estimated to address deforestation of 2,887ha, equivalent to the avoidance of an estimated 248,325tC.

5757 Bahamas (UNEP): Implementing Land, Water and Ecosystem Management

The Government of Bahamas is seeking GEF incremental financing to pursue an integrated approach for management of land, water and biodiversity on its largest island, the Grand Bahama. The island has a historical legacy of environmental degradation due to slash-and-burn agricultural practices, which has now evolved into a form of commercial intensification that is not sustainable. For example, open trench wells are used for irrigation and fertilizers are indiscriminately applied. In addition to the growing threat from poor agricultural land use, the island is faced with competing land uses due to physical development, particularly touristic and commercial in nature. This has further increased the risk of soil erosion, deforestation, and deteriorating water quality, for both the marine environment and freshwater resources. Addressing environmental threats has been hampered by weak policy, regulatory and institutional environments.

This project will address these barriers through development and implementation of integrated, innovative technical solutions for the maintenance of ecosystem health; strengthening of national environmental monitoring and evaluation systems; strengthening of the enabling environment in support of policy, legislative and institutional reforms and increase of capacity for sustainable natural resource management; and enhancing knowledge exchange, best practices, replication and stakeholder involvement in natural resource management. The global environment benefit will accrue from SLM covering an estimated 20,000 ha, including the potential to secure fragile coral reefs from land-based erosion.

5764 Indonesia (IFAD): Sustainable Management of Peatland Ecosystems in Indonesia (2014-2018)

The conversion of forests to agriculture is a common phenomenon in most peatland ecosystems in Indonesia. Indonesia's peatland forests which in the 1980s constituted approximately 50% of

worlds' total tropical peatlands decreased from 25 million ha to 15 million ha by 2011. Much of the remaining peatlands continues to be affected by logging and drainage. The expansion of plantations for oil palm and pulp and paper and the associated drainage has been an important cause of deforestation, biodiversity loss, and peatland subsidence. Peatlands in Indonesia store an estimated 80 billion tons of carbon, equivalent to approximately 5% of all global soil carbon, and an estimated 2 billion tons of CO₂ is released per annum from peatland degradation (equivalent to 5.6% of global fossil fuels emissions). Peatland fires in Indonesia are an annual problem which affects the entire region.

The proposed project has been developed to support Indonesia with the implementation of the ASEAN Programme for Sustainable Management of Peatland Ecosystems (2014-2020) as well as related national Strategies and plans. The overall goal of the project is to conserve and significantly reduce GHG emissions from peatlands while at the same time meet the livelihood needs of adjacent communities. The project is expected to reduce CO₂ emissions from peatlands by 10 to 57 million tons.

5767 Philippines (UNDP): Implementation of SLM Practices to Address Land Degradation and Mitigate Effects of Drought

Almost half of the arable land in the Philippines has been moderately to severely eroded. The current and historic causes of land degradation are deforestation, expansion of urban settlements, improper soil management and inappropriate crop management. The project is designed to act as a catalyst for the widespread uptake of SLM practices in the Philippines to arrest the accelerating land degradation, in particular soil erosion, and mitigate the effects of the reoccurring droughts that the country is experiencing.

The project will set in place a national enabling environment to promote integrated landscape management where development needs will be balanced with the environmental services provided by land. This will be achieved through integrating SLM into local development plans, strengthening institutional collaboration between national regulatory units, and facilitating informed decision-making on land management. Further, the project will adapt land use practices in agriculture sector - testing new management measures, as needed to reduce environmental stressors in at least one municipality with major land degradation problems in order to showcase the practices for wider replication.

5775 Global²³ (UNEP): Building the Foundation for Forest Landscape Restoration at Scale

This project will engage the Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration to catalyze ambitious actions on accelerating forest landscape restoration. More than two billion ha of land are degraded, increasingly leading to degraded forest lands. This includes 700 million ha in Africa, 400 million ha in Asia, and 500 million ha in Latin America, which translates into major costs to the global environment due to associated land degradation, biodiversity loss, and GHG emissions. The potential for restoration is hampered by inadequate access to tools for targeting interventions, and enabling conditions to mobilize resources need relative to the scale of degradation.

²³ Ethiopia, Indonesia, India, Kenya, Niger

The Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration is seeking to address this need in the context of supporting the "Bonn Challenge," which is a commitment made by several countries to bring 150 million ha into the process of restoration by 2020. This will have significant positive impacts for people, land degradation, forests, biodiversity, and climate stability. GEF financing will be used to target five countries (Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Kenya, and Niger), selected based on factors that include: ecological opportunities for restoration, presence of enabling conditions to allow restoration at scale, political interest from key stakeholders, existing partners, and demographics related to poverty. It will enable further development and application of decision-support tools in new geographies, thereby promoting their utilization and improvement in the context of generating global environment benefits through integrated landscape approaches.

5785 Mexico (FAO): Sustainable Land Management Promotion

With arid and semi-arid lands covering 54% of the national territory, Mexico is one of the countries most vulnerable to land degradation. Land degradation in Mexico affects 85 million ha (47% of national territory) and is mainly due to fertility loss in production systems and soil erosion. Although much has been done to develop policy and institutional frameworks for combating the problem, actual efforts toward implementation of SLM at local level are limited. There are no comprehensive strategies to support local agricultural production in the most vulnerable areas.

The project seeks to address this problem by targeting barriers at local and territorial level, including the lack of local planning instruments, inadequate knowledge and capacities for implementing good SLM practices, lack of involvement of young generations, fragmentation of interventions by civil society, and lack of differentiated intervention schemes adapted to local contexts. The focus will be on six selected micro-regions representing different agro-ecological zones, social and cultural composition, as well as levels of land degradation. It will address the implementation of best practices of SLM in production landscapes, including creation of reference demonstrative centers; promotion of integrated territory management and SLM strategies, based on participatory planning to rationalize the natural resources, enhance landscape management, and build up governance at local level to reduce or stop land degradation processes; and development of a standardized monitoring system and capacity development program. Through the promotion of integrated practices, local benefits such as watershed protection and resilience to climate change will contribute global environment benefits including avoided GHG emissions, increased carbon sequestration, and biodiversity conservation. An estimated 4,000 ha is targeted for SLM, with considerable potential for scaling-up through a multi-scale institutional and governance framework.

5788 Cote d'Ivoire (UNEP): Assessment of Land Degradation Dynamic in Coffee -Cocoa production and Northern Ivory Coast to promote SLM practices and Carbon Stock Conservation ALDD SLM CSC

Cote d'Ivoire is facing many environmental challenges amplified by the unprecedented socio-political crisis and armed conflict it has experienced over the 2000 to 2011 period. The lack of presence of the authority, surveillance, and resources in conflict zones has increased the degradation of natural resources that form the basis of survival for millions of Ivoirians. Another

cause of land degradation is the poor agricultural practices, the lack of alternative and capacity to adopt SLM practices, in a context of population increase. Cocoa production occupies now 40 percent of classified forests.

The government of Cote d'Ivoire is implementing a series of initiatives to improve the whole agriculture sector, especially revitalizing the cocoa-coffee sector, restore forests, clarify land tenure issues, train and educate the young. This project aims to catalyze these efforts, maintaining the functionality of cocoa-coffee production zones in the central and reverse land degradation trend in northern parts of the country through creating an enabling capacity and policy environment through development of community land use plans and facilitating access to good SLM practices. The project will improve agro-ecosystem services in six Regions in the North and the Coffee-Cocoa production zone in the central part of the country, bringing 60% of agricultural land under good SLM.

5789 Botswana (UNDP): Using SLM to Improve the Integrity of the Makgadikgadi Ecosystem and to Secure the Livelihoods of Rangeland Dependent Communities

Botswana is located in the semi-arid interior of Southern Africa, in an ecoregion receiving between 200mm and 650 mm of rainfall per annum, and an inter-annual variability of about 40%. Around 80% of the country is covered with Kalahari sand soils and savannah ecosystems that support both commercial and communal livestock systems, as well as protected areas. The Makgadikgadi ecosystem lies towards northeast Botswana. Overgrazing is a severe problem in this region. Several root causes have been identified from the lack of integrated land policy and land use planning, lack of legislation on SLM and economic activities in ecologically sensitive areas, unsustainable land use patterns and absence of clarity in property rights (tribal grazing land policy), and lack of awareness and empowerment of local communities.

The project aims to mainstream SLM in rangeland areas of the Makgadikgadi Sub-region productive landscapes to deliver on multiple ecosystems benefits related to both livelihoods and natural resource management. The project will support sustainable land and livestock management in more than 1,900,000 ha to improve range condition and flow of ecosystem services to support livelihoods of local communities and biodiversity in Southern Sua Pan Region and to reduce the negative effects of uncontrolled fires. The best practices will be replicated on similar savannahs affected by land degradation in the neighbouring Tutume sub-district. The project will also support effective resource governance frameworks for SLM and equitable resource access (local level participatory land use plans, fire management strategies, sub-regional forums, decision making support, monitoring system).

5797 Global ²⁴ (FAO): Securing Tenure Rights for Forest Landscape Dependent Communities: Linking Science with Policy to Advance Tenure Security, Sustainable Forest Management and People's Livelihoods

Tenure security is widely recognized as a key precondition for sustainable land and forest management. Recent tenure reforms in Africa, Asia and Latin America provide greater legal recognition of customary and local authorities, indigenous territorial rights, and women's rights to forest land and resources. However, implementation of these reforms has been uneven and has led to mixed results, including increasing tenure insecurity.

²⁴ Uganda, Indonesia, Peru (first stage) and DRC, Nepal, and Ecuador (second stage)

This global project will help explore the relationships between statutory and customary land tenure and how these relationships affect the tenure security of forest dependent communities, including women and other marginalized groups. Through the use of a global comparative approach and standardized methodologies, this project will analyze differential success or failure of policy and institutional innovations intended to enhance secure tenure rights for forest and trees, and identify strategies that are likely to lead to desired outcomes. More specifically, the project outcomes strive for raising of awareness, capacity building, and more effective ways to achieve multi-actor collaboration and cross-sectoral coordination in the implementation of land tenure reforms in target countries.

5798 Regional²⁵ (FAO): Adaptive Management and Monitoring of the Maghreb's Oases Systems

Oases ecosystems dominate zones of about 30% of the grounds that emerged along the large arid scarf which links Africa to Asia; from the Sahara to Mongolia. They shelter about 150 million people, who are custodians of a rich culture and indigenous knowledge that is responsible for conserving a unique oasis agro-ecosystem based on the date palms, orchards, and annual/perennial recurrent crops.

Oases are the results of a rigorous management of water and ground resources in a strong alliance with the date palm tree. Oases constitute verified and alive experiments of sustainable development. They reflect the optimization of interactions between cultural references, engineering constraints, economic limits and ecological potentials in a climatic environment pretty hostile. The Maghreb region is arid at 70 percent and oases ecosystems are part of the solutions. However, communities and farmers are facing today amazing challenges due to land degradation, water scarcity, fragile soils, and water and wind erosion. These problems are resulting in a spiral of increasing rural poverty with outward migration to urban areas and abroad. The project is designed to address lack of information on the current status and future development of oasis ecosystems among stakeholders (decision makers, communities, CSO), and lack of capacity and knowledge to support best agro-ecological practices for oasis ecosystem. The project reasoning is based on a series of current initiatives on oases and will propose additional transformational activities at regional/national level to reinforce a coalition of partners and create a relevant monitoring system and at local level to develop the knowledge mechanism of adaptive management best practices, building capacities at the level of oases communities targeting especially the most vulnerable groups.

5802 Senegal (UNEP): Promoting SLM Practices to Restore and Enhance Carbon Stocks through Adoption of Green Rural Habitat Initiatives

A traditional technique of building, "the Nubian Vault" is promoted by a consortium of NGOs that is based on the use of local material (mud). The plan of the government is to promote this technique to create green jobs, reduce deforestation for building materials, improve awareness on climate changes, and include CCM issues in local development plans. Therefore, this project will support mainstreaming SLM in land use planning and promote practices that enhances carbon stock and generate revenue for local communities through increase productivity and green jobs.

²⁵ Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania, Tunisia

It will also focus on knowledge management and advocacy to replicate and scale up the approach.

The project aims to promote conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through sustainable management of Land-Use Change and Forestry while reducing pressure on natural resources from competing land use in wider landscape. The project will achieve multiple global environment benefits: energy efficiency and GHG emissions avoided from the building sector using Nubian Vault technique (472,500 tCO₂), GHG avoided from deforestation (4,844 of CO₂ avoided), carbon stocks restoration by mainstreaming integrated NRM in local planning, reducing tensions on land use and rights with the promotion of local land use plans, and support of SLM practices. Social and economic benefits include an increased number of local communities having access to a decent habitat, the boost of the local economy, reinforcement of capacities, and better incomes.

5811 Regional (UNEP): Closing the Gaps in Great Green Wall Linking sectors and stakeholders for increased synergy and scaling-up

The Great Green Wall Initiative (GGWI) has galvanized action to implement SLM and improve the mandate of the UNCCD in the Sahel. The GGWI has helped to shed a spotlight on recent innovations in SLM in the region and has leveraged a high degree of political will and leadership from member States. At the sometime, the GGWI is also helping to coordinate the implementation of the three main Rio conventions by promoting an integrated landscape approach. The project aims to promote a greater implementation of policies for SLM in the Sahel (Countries from the Great Green Wall Initiative) through enhanced investment, intersectoral coordination, and engagement of civil society groups, including the marginalized ones. The project is based on adaptive management and learning by strengthening the dialogue among various stakeholders and developing knowledge and awareness of the developmental and environmental benefits of SLM. The project will help to improve the representation of participants by promoting a greater diversity of public institutions and a greater role of Civil Organizations, including the private sector.

The project will build on nascent networks and initiatives in the participating countries and at regional level (as RESAD and RADD0). IUCN will work through its State members to strengthen links between government sectors and to enable UNCCD and GGWI focal points to better understand and follow the status of activities and progress in their countries. IUCN will strengthen links with marginalized groups in networks and dialogue on SLM through existing structures, including the World Initiative for Sustainable Pastoralism and the World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous Peoples. Specific activities will target women as natural resource managers.

5822 Serbia (UNEP): Enhanced Cross-Sectoral Land Management through Land Use Pressure Reduction and Planning

In Serbia, the issue of land management lags behind other environmental subjects as water management and air quality. However, significant efforts were made in the past years to highlight the importance of land degradation as a growing problem and start with the activities for quantifying soil contamination. The project aims at reducing pressures on land as a natural resource from competing land uses in the wider landscape through reversal of land degradation and remediation and development of instruments and mechanisms for integrated land use

management and capacity development. It will focus on enhancing the enabling environment for long-term integrated land use management; landscape level management plans and its implementation, and capacity building and awareness raising. Project will contribute to GEBs by strengthening sound practices for land management and reducing pressures to ecosystems.

5823 Bangladesh (UNEP): Establishing National Land Use and Land Degradation Profile toward Mainstreaming SLM Practices in Sector Policies

Land use in Bangladesh is diverse and often conflicting: land is intensively used for agriculture, settlements, forests, shrimp farms, natural fisheries, salt production, industrial and infrastructural developments and tourism. This has resulted in demand for expansion in all land uses (urban area, settlement, shrimp etc.), increasing demands for new uses (tourism, export processing zones and others), conflicting land uses and demands, and encroachment and conversion of land from one use to the other.

This project will address these competing land uses; establishing a knowledge base and an enabling policy and institutional environment for SLM consideration in the country's development agenda. The project will support establishing a land use and land degradation profile, SLM mainstreaming, and SLM monitoring. GEBs are being indirectly created by reducing the vulnerability of agro-ecosystems in the country.

5824 Global²⁶ (UNEP): Sharing Knowledge on the Use of Biochar for Sustainable Land Management

The proposed project seeks to establish a framework to harness the potential of biochar as an option for SLM in countries affected by land degradation due to declining soil fertility. The project specifically builds on ongoing efforts in the involved six countries where biochar is being promoted to address problems of decline in productivity of land and concerns over disposal of organic residues. This country-based engagement will create opportunity for alignment with priorities on SLM in the Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and the Latin America and Caribbean regions.

The GEF resources requested will be used to harness a wide range of investments already existing in the countries as part of the baseline on use of biochar in SLM. It will catalyze the collation of the best available knowledge by mobilizing experts and world-leaders in biochar science and engineering, to expand the demonstration of biochar in a range of settings (soil types, climates and agricultural systems), and to disseminate the findings broadly amongst landholders and resource managers. The project will be implemented through a multi-scale platform for stakeholder engagement, building on existing frameworks in each of the countries to involve grassroots communities, civil society groups, and scientific institutions. Co-financing is contributed by institutional partners located in the targeted countries, as well as in the United States and Australia. Hence the south-south and north-south cooperation will establish a strong foundation globally on various aspects of biochar application.

5825 Georgia (UNEP): Applying Landscape and Sustainable Land Management (L-SLM) for Mitigating Land Degradation and Contributing to Poverty Reduction in Rural Areas

²⁶ China, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Kenya, Peru, Vietnam

Land degradation continues to be a major problem in Georgia. According to data of the Ministry of Agriculture of Georgia, 60% of the agricultural lands are of medium or low productivity. Overgrazing and uncontrolled grazing, poor forest management and loss of forest cover, and unplanned urban expansion are major drivers for land degradation. The problem is aggravated by the lack of efficient land management policies, a weak regulatory framework, limited access to appropriate information and technology, and weak institutional capacities and a lack of cooperation between various stakeholders.

This project will support Georgia to build capacities to mainstream SLM principles and best practices into decision-making structures at all levels. This includes improving the existing regulatory framework, strengthening institutional coordination, national expertise, and generation and dissemination of knowledge to foster informed decision-making at national level and in rural communities. The project will integrate SLM within current national policies; reform the existing institutional structure for SLM decision-making; assist the national and local government in integration of SLM principles and practices within existing and proposed community land use management and watershed plans; and provide for demonstrations of economically viable and replicable sustainable land use management practices in select rural communities.

5848 Indonesia (UNDP): Capacity Development for Implementing Rio Conventions through Enhancing Incentive Mechanism for Sustainable Watershed/Land Management

The project addresses some of the bottlenecks that hamper the effective implementation of the Rio Conventions. The National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA), which was undertaken in 2005, identified key barriers. Some of these barriers cut across the three Rio Conventions and are related to legislative/regulatory frameworks and economic incentives still remain unaddressed. The NCSA processes also identified priority thematic issues that cut across the Rio Conventions, which are: deforestation; land, coastal and marine degradation; and drought and flood. In particular, the degradation of land and watersheds is accelerating because of growing population, urbanization, unsustainable use of natural capital, changing climate, weak governance, limited transparency in procedures, and lack of inclusive decision making processes, among others. The proposed project builds on key findings of the NCSA, and aims to address capacity issues associated with legislative/regulatory frameworks and economic incentives. The project will also strengthen capacities to monitor and evaluate environmental impacts that cut across the three Rio Conventions. It will use an area based approach, particularly watershed/land management to facilitate the integration of the UNCBD, UNCCD and UNFCCC. Through proposed activities, the capacities of the Government of Indonesia to report on all Rio Conventions will be enhanced.

5898 Global²⁷ (UNEP): Support to 16 GEF Eligible Parties for Alignment of National Action Programs and Reporting Process under UNCCD

This is an enabling activity support project that will have a major role of capacity building to reinforce the institutional framework related to SLM in these participating countries; supporting them to develop participatory approaches involving multiple stakeholders and CSOs, including gender issues, and mainstream as far as possible the SLM agenda in the national development planning system.

²⁷ Bolivia, Fiji, Micronesia, Cambodia, Kuwait, Libya, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Palau, Solomon Islands, Suriname, El Salvador, Tonga, Timor Leste, Tuvalu, Zambia

LDFA Projects Approved in FY2015 (First Year of GEF-6)

6940 Lao PDR (UNDP): Sustainable Forest and Land Management in the Dry Dipterocarp Forest Ecosystems of Southern Lao PDR

Savannakhet Province, located in the southern part of the country, is the largest province in Lao PDR, covering an area of 21,774 km². The main types of forest are dry dipterocarp, lower and upper mixed deciduous dry evergreen forest and bamboo. Savannakhet also has four National Biodiversity Conservation Areas, a protection forest, as well as a number of provincial protected areas. The two production forests are state-owned and operated with the participation of local villages in collaboration with the provincial government. The forest plays an important and at times essential role in supporting livelihoods. Wildlife and non-timber forest products (NTFPs) are consumed by households as well as sold for extra cash income.

The proposed project is to facilitate a transformative shift towards sustainable land and forest management in the forested landscape of Savannakhet Province to secure the critical wildlife habitats, conserve biodiversity and maintain a continuous flow of multiple ecosystem services including quality water provision, flood prevention, carbon storage and sequestration through enabling policy environment and increased compliance and enforcement capacities for sustainable land and forest management across landscapes including protected areas; Sustainable Forest Management and Protected Area Expansion in five priority Districts of Savannakhet Province; and developing and promoting Incentives and Sustainable Financing for Biodiversity Conservation and Forest Protection. It will contribute to the avoidance of forest degradation on 1 million ha of forest land and increase management effectiveness of PAs on 420,000 ha.

6943 Azerbaijan (UNDP): Conservation and Sustainable Use of Globally Important Agrobiodiversity

Azerbaijan is one of the Vavilov centers of diversity for agriculture. High diversity of soil and climatic conditions of the country supports rich variety of plant genetic resources with more than 4500 higher plants being registered. 237 of which are endemic and threatened. However, close to 90% of cereal crops and vegetable seed material is currently imported, requiring extensive planting systems and larger planting areas. In the past decade, the area covered by cereal crops have increased two fold, and 42% of all agricultural lands are now considered eroded. The productivity, at the same time, fell by 15%. Under proper use and management of local varieties of Caucasian Vavilov Centers demonstrate stable yields, soil control, excellent adaptation to poor soil conditions, and less water and agro-chemical inputs.

The project aims to ensure conservation and sustainable use of threatened local plant genetic resources important to biodiversity, land integrity, and food security of Azerbaijan through conservation of crop wild relatives through the establishment of micro-reserves; investing in capacity building and know-how of small-scale farmers in growing crops and vegetables using local varieties and landraces with intensified soil protecting technologies; and enabling policy

environment to ensure that use of local varieties and landraces is embedded as standard agriculture practices at over 70% of arable land by 2025.

6949 Tajikistan (UNDP): Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pamir Alay and Tian Shan Ecosystems for Snow Leopard Protection and Sustainable Community Livelihoods

The proposed project builds on the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Conservation Program (GSLECP), which unites Governments, UN Agencies, NGOs and Researches of the Central Asian snow leopard range in the effort to conserve this species, as postulated by the International Agreement signed in Bishkek in 2013. This national project is the first one of a series of focused efforts on snow leopard (SL) protection in Central Asia. Tajikistan is the center of the SL range; the habitat in the country covers 8,570,000 ha. Before 1980s, Tajikistan had over 1,000 individuals of the species, the current population is estimated to be around 200-300 individuals. The project builds on a landscape approach; integrating key biodiversity areas (KBAs), buffer zones, corridors and sustainable forest and pasture management in wider landscapes through the improvement of the ecological management effectiveness of KBAs in the snow leopard range in the eastern part of Pamir Alay Mountains and Western and Central Tian Shan. It also deals with integrated land, forest and pasture management in wider productive landscapes, in Turkestan, Zaravshan, and Gissar districts around the KBAs identified, and will develop a National Plan for Snow Leopard Conservation and also support the engagement of Tajikistan in the international cooperation in SL conservation, monitoring and law enforcement.

6956 Egypt (UNDP): Sixth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Egypt

Since 1992, the Egypt Small Grants Program (SGP) Country Programme has supported more than 260 NGOs and CBOs with over USD 7 million in grants to 300 projects. Over the past two decades, the SGP Egypt Country Program has followed a trajectory of greater and greater strategic focus both geographically and thematically, as articulated in successive Country Program Strategies, guided, reviewed and approved by the National Steering Committee. Building on this record, the proposed project will focus on enabling community organizations in Egypt to take collective action for adaptive landscape management for socio-ecological resilience - through design, implementation and evaluation of grant projects for GEBs and sustainable development. This will be achieved through resilient rural landscapes for sustainable development and global environmental protection; and promoting community-based integrated low-emission urban systems in southern Sinai; Red Sea coast, an area of high biodiversity and significant potential for ecotourism, with threats from habitat conversion and unsustainable use; and Fayoum depression, a region of intensive farming, inefficient use of water, and reliance on non-sustainable energy sources, but with high potential for the use of biomass as a renewable energy source and soil conditioner, improved water resource management and energy efficiency.

6958 Kyrgyz Republic (UNDP): Conservation of Globally Important Biodiversity and Association Land and Forest Resources of Western Tian Shan Forest Mountain Ecosystems and Support to Sustainable Livelihoods

The proposed project builds on the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Conservation Program (GSLECP), which unites Governments, UN Agencies, NGOs and Researches of the Central Asian snow leopard range in the effort to conserve this species, as postulated by the International

Agreement signed in Bishkek in 2013. This national project is one of three (Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan) focused efforts on snow leopard (SL) protection in Central Asia.

The project builds on a landscape approach; integrating key biodiversity areas (KBAs), buffer zones, corridors and sustainable forest and pasture management in wider landscapes through the establishment of new National Parks (Alatai 65,705 ha and Kanattuu 36,780 ha) in Western Tian Shan region and improve the ecological management effectiveness of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) in the snow leopard range in the Pamir Alay Mountains and Central Tian Shan. It will also integrate land, forest and pasture management in buffer-zones and wider productive landscapes, around the National Parks and KBAs identified, and will develop a National Plan for Snow Leopard Conservation and also support the engagement of Kyrgyzstan in the international cooperation in SL conservation, monitoring and law enforcement.

6965 Indonesia (UNDP): Strengthening Forest Area Planning and Management in Kalimantan

This project is aligned with the Commodities Integrated Approach Program (IAP) and provides direct value added contributions to achievement of the IAP outcomes. To reduce or take deforestation out of commodity agriculture supply chains, production has to come from areas that do not contribute to deforestation, and more efficient land use and location of production is the departing point for the Commodities IAP. This project directly addresses these root causes.

The Government of Indonesia has clearly identified safeguarding of forest biodiversity and ecosystems, and improvement in strategic plantations/commodities siting and management as priorities for meeting its biodiversity conservation and emission reduction goals. In the baseline situation, the insufficient policy framework and capacity for high value conservation (HVC) forest protection and for pursuing green growth in strategic plantations/commodities will mean the main threats from this sector to biodiversity and ecosystem services in Kalimantan will continue to grow, and will lead to further habitat destruction and fragmentation, as well as loss of emission abatement and associated revenue opportunities. The project is aligned with the Commodities Integrated Approach Program, and will focus on forest ecosystem and biodiversity mainstreamed in policies and decision making processes for forest area planning and management, strengthened and expanded implementation of best practices in three target landscapes in Kalimantan (100,000 ha), and creation of incentives to safeguards forests.

6992 Myanmar (UNDP): Ridge to Reef: Integrated Protected Area Land and Seascape Management in Tanintharyi

The country's southern-most Tanintharyi Region is a relatively undeveloped area with high biodiversity and endemism that provides invaluable ecosystem services. Approximately 20% of Myanmar's Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) are located in Tanintharyi. The whole Tanintharyi region, as well as a small part of the Mon and Kayin States, fall under the Sundaic Subregion Priority Corridor. The corridor includes the largest areas of lowland wet evergreen forest remaining in the Indo-Myanmar (Indo-Burma) Hotspot. The Priority Corridor also includes a significant portion of coastline, a large number of offshore islands and significant areas of key wetland habitats, including mangrove and intertidal mudflats.

This project will contribute to reversing increasing severe threats from land conversion to oil palm and rubber and infrastructure development. It will focus on integrated land and seascape planning and management in Tanintharyi on at least 2 million ha; strengthening management and threat reduction in the target PAs and buffer zones, and emplacement of the National Biodiversity Survey (NBS) framework.

7993 Belarus (UNDP): Conservation-oriented Management of Forests and Wetlands to Achieve Multiple Benefits

Forests and wetlands of Belarus are home to important biodiversity, among which are populations of European bison, Aquatic warbler, and Greater spotted eagle. The European bison is not only the last and only representative of wild bison in Europe, it is also a national symbol and flagship species in the country. Threats to biodiversity in Belarus are driven by inadequate effectiveness and sustainability of management of forest and wetland ecosystems in and outside protected areas. To reverse these threats, this project will focus on changing wetland and forest management practices by designing mechanisms for financially sustainable forestry and regulated tourism, including the involvement of local communities and private farmers. It will also focus on sustainable management of biodiversity important forests outside protected areas by redesigning forest management plans for 150,000 ha of forests and 260,000 ha of peatlands, and advancing the state of monitoring and demonstration of active habitat management.

8005 Armenia (IFAD): Sustainable Land Management for Increased Productivity

Armenia, with a predominant mountainous landform with arid climate conditions and vulnerable ecosystems, a particular history of droughts and uneven distribution of water resources, and an estimated 80% of land affected by land degradation processes, is among the most sensitive countries in the Europe and Central Asian Region to global environmental changes. Overall, challenges for the sustainable management of agricultural land in Armenia are due to multiple factors, such as its geographic location, anthropogenic, and climate change related issues. One of the main drivers of land degradation are unsustainable farming practices and the deterioration and abandonment of a large part of the Soviet-era irrigation schemes because the on-farm systems were not adapted to smallholder agriculture. In response to these challenges, this project will therefore focus on investments in sustainable farming systems and technologies, soil erosion prevention through ecological restoration measures, and enhancing the enabling environment to improve capacity of key practitioners against land degradation risks.

8021 Zambia (AfDB): Zambia Lake Tanganyika Basin Sustainable Development Project

Zambia is a landlocked developing country whose 14 million people face high levels of poverty and dependence on agriculture and natural resources. The country is particularly vulnerable to environmental degradation and climate variability. The country is also at the heart of the Miombo Ecoregion, listed as a WWF Global 200 Ecoregion due to its high species richness.

The main driver of land and forest degradation and biodiversity loss is primarily by shifting cultivation, deforestation and overfishing. The majority of inhabitants in Northern Province are subsistence farmers using the traditional slash and burn shifting cultivation practice, with very low productivity and chronic insecurity. Until now, efforts have failed to comprehensively address the underlying environmental and socio-economic problems in the Lake Tanganyika's basin in a context of climatic variability, reduced lake productivity, and a wide range of climate related events as flooding, heavy rains, and high temperatures.

An integrated landscape approach is proposed to protect ecosystem services in the area of the Northern Province for the benefit of local communities, mainly farmers and fishermen, and the integrity of the Lake Tanganyika (which 10 million people across four countries rely on the ecosystem services related to water, food, and minerals). It will focus on technical assistance to support integrated natural resources management, sustainable agro and forest ecosystem development to diversify livelihoods, and monitoring and evaluation, outreach, and dissemination of best practices.

8031 Uzbekistan (UNDP): Sustainable Natural Resource and Forest Management in Key Mountainous Areas Important for Globally Significant Biodiversity

The mountainous landscapes of Uzbekistan represent inseparable mosaics of forest, grassland and water ecosystems, that together function and deliver ecosystem services for local communities, unless disturbed. Over the course of the past 15 years, the mountainous landscapes of Uzbekistan have suffered from continued degradation of grasslands and forests. The symbol of Uzbekistan's mountainous areas biodiversity is the Snow Leopard. Given that Uzbekistan is the periphery of the range of Snow Leopard (where it is most vulnerable), it is important to remove threats to Snow Leopard in high altitude grasslands and forests at the landscape level.

The project will focus on Landscape level planning and management decision-making, strengthening key biodiversity areas, and sustainable economic development incentives for communities to reverse environmental degradation. In this way it is expected to improve management on 1 million ha of the Pamir Alay and Tian Shan landscape.

9037 Kyrgyz Republic (World Bank): Sustainable Forest and Land Management Project

Although forests cover less than 6% of the area of the Kyrgyz Republic they play a vital economic, social and environmental role and are especially important for the livelihoods of rural communities. More than 2 million people live in or near forest and rely on the forests, not only for timber and fuel wood but also for pasture as well as non-timber forest products such as nuts, fruit, mushrooms, and medicinal plants. The forest cover of Kyrgyz Republic, mainly as a result of over harvesting, has been reduced to roughly half the area it covered in the 1930s. Forest degradation and deforestation continue and now increase vulnerability of agro-ecosystems and the local population, aggravated by climate change.

As a response to this problem, a forestry sector reform in the Kyrgyz Republic is underway with some development partners supporting the pilots. This proposed project is designed to provide a framework for intervention and support to this on-going reform to allow for adjustment and adaptive management as the reform progresses.

9050 Chad (AfDB): Building Resilience for Food Security and Nutrition in Chad's Rural Communities

Chad is one of Africa and the world's poorest countries, classified 184th out of 187 in the Human Development Index. Agriculture is accounting for 20% of GDP but employing 80% of the population. Despite its vast arid and semi-arid areas, Chad comprises different ecosystem types and has enormous potential in its natural resources and agricultural potential. The population is typically smallholders engaged in subsistence cultivation and livestock on marginal land, thus depending on farming, herding or gathering woody products. The land on which they depend is

characterized by low productivity sand dunes and ouadis (oases), and therefore dry farming activities form the basis of their livelihood. Inappropriate farming practices, overgrazing, deforestation, and the pressures from a changing climate and growing population have caused extensive land degradation.

The proposed integrated solution is an ecosystem approach to enhance the productive capacity of natural resources land, forest, and water in a holistic way and alongside resilience, tackling the cycles and linkages between causes and effects. The project will focus on enhancing agro-sylvo-pastoral productivity in drylands by investing in soil fertility and water conservation with appropriate Sustainable Land and Water Management practices; scaling up an integrated landscape approach for the preservation of land, forests and biodiversity for enhanced resilience and well-being; and knowledge management and monitoring.

9051 Regional (AfDB): Moringa Agro-forestry Fund for Africa (non-grant)

Agriculture is the main driver of macro and micro economies, but also the main force behind loss of ecosystem services and resources degradation with consequences on food security and poverty. Land and forest degradation are driven by the expansion of unsustainable forms of agriculture, logging, and fuel wood. Integrating trees and woody shrubs into more sustainable and cost-effective agriculture practices helps raise yields, lower the need for water and fertilizer, diversify incomes, while reducing emissions of GHGs and allowing adaptation to climate change.

The project aims to scale up investment in agroforestry activities in selected African countries for biodiversity conservation and reduced land/forest degradation. Basically, the project targets the improvement of management of landscapes on 79,000 ha to maintain significant biodiversity and associated ecosystems goods and services. The project also targets more than 200,000 ha of production systems under sustainable land and forest management. The proposed activities will support transformational shift towards a low emission and resilient development path, mitigating 9.5 million of tons of CO₂.

9055 Ecuador (UNDP): Sustainable Development of the Ecuadorian Amazon: Integrated Management of Multiple Use Landscapes and High Value Conservation Forests

The Republic of Ecuador has an extraordinary biological richness that makes it one of the 17 megadiverse countries in the world, hosting 8% of mammal species, 10% of amphibians, 18% of birds and 18% of orchids at a global level, in addition to being the country with the highest biodiversity per square meter in Latin America. Ecuador has undertaken significant institutional changes in recent years, from a new political constitution including the rights of nature to decentralization development and land-use planning. This provides an opportunity to manage the Ecuadorian Amazon (CTEA) through an effective decentralized system that could manage the heterogeneity of a complex system. However at the same time these opportunities pose challenges. National and local government levels must assume new challenges and responsibilities in their planning processes, including promoting coordination and strengthening of an agreed common vision for the governance of the natural resources in the CTEA. Barriers include Weak multilevel governance for management and sustainable production within

landscapes, Limitations in access to market, credit and incentives for sustainable production, and Low capacities for sustainable production practices and focus principally at field and plot levels. This project will address these challenges through support to establish multi-level governance framework for sustainable forest management and SLM in multi-use landscapes, access to markets, credit and incentives for sustainable production of the main products in multiple use and value conservation forests (HCVF) of the CTEA, and Landscape level implementation of sustainable practices in commercial production and livelihoods systems, aligned with the conservation and restoration of HVCF. The project will lead to including conservation of biodiversity, soils, water resources and carbon sequestration) in 1,000,000 ha of HVCF; and provides avoided carbon emissions estimated at 11,601,774 /CO₂eq and mainstream conservation, restoration and sustainable production ensuring integrated management in community and indigenous peoples' 300,000 ha lands in HVCF.

9070 Regional²⁸ (IFAD/UNEP, FAO, UNDP, World Bank, CI, and UNIDO): Fostering Sustainability and Resilience for Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa - An Integrated Approach (IAP-PROGRAM)

This is one of the three GEF integrated pilot programs (IAPs) focused on Fostering Sustainability and Resilience for Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa. It is designed as a robust response to the growing pressure to transform African agriculture through intensification with high inputs and high yielding varieties, which is likely to undermine sustainability of the natural capital: land, water, soils, trees, and genetic resources that underpin food and nutrition security. It is intended to emphasize the need for sustainability and resilience of agro-ecologies by bridging the gap between traditional practices of smallholder farmers and modern farming practices that seek higher yields.

The program's theory of change is based on the assumption that by appropriately integrating management of natural capital and ecosystem services at scale, smallholder farmers who account for more than 70% of agricultural production in Sub-Saharan Africa, can more adequately ensure the sustainability and resilience of production systems for food security. It will focus on creation and/or strengthening of institutional frameworks to promote integrated approaches in smallholder agriculture; scaling-up of interventions for sustainability and resilience; and promoting effective monitoring and assessment of ecosystem services and GEBs through application of innovative tools and practices. Global environment benefits will be contributed through the arrest and reversal of land degradation (up to 10 million ha under integrated management), sequestration of carbon and avoidance of GHG emissions (up to 20 million tons of CO₂ eq), and protection of agro-biodiversity in production landscapes, including indigenous crop varieties and livestock breeds. The actual quantification of these benefits will be determined from the child projects to be developed and implemented under the program.

The IAP-Program works with small-scale farmers to sustainably increase yields thereby increasing food security for millions of poor people, while preventing desertification, improving land health, and sequestering carbon. In the course of implementation, it will benefit millions of poor farmers and in particular women.

²⁸ Burkina Faso, Burundi, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda

9071 Global²⁹ (World Bank/UNDP, UNEP, IUCN, WWF-US, ADB Global): Partnership on Wildlife Conservation and Crime Prevention for Sustainable Development (PROGRAM)

Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trafficking (IWT) is reaching unprecedented scales and threatening the populations of numerous charismatic species including the African elephant, rhinos, tiger and pangolins. In 2014, over 25,000 elephants were slaughtered for their ivory, and rhinos were poached at a rate of more than 2 a day. Poaching is driven by a rising demand for illegal wildlife products, especially from the rapidly growing economies of Asia and South East Asia. The value of illegal trade has been estimated at between \$5 and \$20 billion per annum, making wildlife crime the fourth most lucrative illegal business after narcotics, humans and armaments. While demand plays a key role in fueling the slaughter of animals at industrial scales, on the ground, poaching is driven by various factors including poverty, lack of enforcement, corruption and political stability.

This program is to stop poaching, trafficking and demand of wildlife and wildlife products illegally traded between Africa and Asia, and to create the necessary conditions for the securing the habitats for these animals to roam freely, and to provide opportunities for the local communities to benefit from wildlife. The program will seek to create the appropriate policy and legal framework, as well as the necessary conditions on the ground for proper enforcement and communities engaged in wildlife activities that generate local and GEBs.

The protection of habitats (including closed canopy forests and savannas) and the livelihoods of the local communities (mainly pastoralism and small scale agriculture), will render additional GEBs including millions of CO2 mitigated and millions of ha under SLM.

9086 Indonesia (UNDP): Sixth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Indonesia

Since 1992, the GEF Small Grants Program (SGP) Indonesia Country Program has provided support to grassroots movements in conserving biodiversity, mitigating the impacts of climate change, halting land degradation and reducing pollution of international waters. Over the years, GEF SGP Indonesia has successfully supported a total of 502 projects, for a total disbursement of close to USD 9.0 million that have built its constituents' capacities and generated significant impacts in sustainable environment management, livelihoods, and poverty reduction. The Country Program has grown in line with the dynamics of community-based natural resource governance and environmental protection efforts. Since the early stages of program implementation, GEF SGP Indonesia placed a high priority on establishing direct partnerships with community-based organizations and their supporting non-governmental organizations.

The essential problem to be addressed by this project is the organizational weaknesses of the communities living and working in the affected rural landscapes to act strategically and collectively in building social and ecological resilience. This weakness impedes on the necessary community collective action in forest landscapes in Gorontalo province, as well as coastal seascapes of Sulawesi, including Wakatobi and Banggai archipelagos, and Nusa Penida island (Bali) for adaptive management of resources and ecosystem processes for sustainable development and GEBs. The project will focus on resilient rural landscapes for sustainable

²⁹ Botswana, Congo, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Gabon, Indonesia, India, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia, Congo Republic

development and global environmental protection and community-based integrated low-emission systems. In order to ensure sustainability of community-based landscape and seascape management initiatives, the SGP Indonesia Country Program will actively develop and maintain broad-based relationships/partnerships that promote collaboration.

9088 Costa Rica (UNDP): Sixth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Costa Rica

This project focuses geographically on the Jesus Maria and Barranca river basins of Costa Rica. These basins form a critical part of the Montes de Aguacate Biological Corridor (CBMA), connecting a number of areas of high biological diversity with their vital ecosystem services. During the process of formulating the plan for strategic management of the CBMA, four focal ecosystem components were prioritized. These components represent ecological values (such as biodiversity, water resources, genetic richness, climatic resilience) within the Biological Corridor, are priorities for management and administration within the territory.

For the past 22 years, the GEF Small Grants Program in Costa Rica has strengthened capacities of approximately 500 communities and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) for local conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, use of renewable energy resources, energy efficient initiatives and degraded land restoration with special attention to improve sustainable production and livelihoods. The SGP will focus on supporting and coordinating specific level of community-based actions by financing small-scale projects run by local communities within the priority landscapes to achieve landscape-scale impacts. Alternative livelihoods will be supported in the SGP priority areas, through the identification and development of innovative products and services with special attention to the needs of women and youth groups.

9093 Sri Lanka (UNDP): Sixth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is an island with a wide variety of biologically diverse ecosystems ranging from tropical rainforests to coral reefs. It is considered to be the most biodiverse country in Asia per unit area and is part of a global biodiversity hot spot stretching from the Western Ghats of India. However, over the past decades pressure has been mounting on its rich biodiversity from coastal and rainforest habitat conversion and fragmentation due to increasing demand for land for development and unsustainable production practices, competition between invasive exotic species and indigenous species, and extreme weather events leading to prolonged droughts and floods. These pressures are unmitigated in the absence of institutional coordination with regard to environment conservation and a generally low level of understanding and capacities for scientific management.

The proposed project focuses on three key landscapes selected by the SGP National Steering Committee based on global environmental, socioeconomic and other strategic criteria such as past experience and the availability of tested solutions to underlying local sustainable development problems. The project will develop and implement adaptive landscape management strategies that build social, economic and ecological resilience built upon and maintained through the production of global environmental and local sustainable development benefits

9094 Regional³⁰ (FAO): Integrated Natural Resources Management in Drought-prone and Salt-affected Agricultural Production Systems in Central Asia and Turkey (CACILM2)

Land Degradation is a regional issue in Central Asia, requiring joint action. The 5 Central Asian countries Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan established already in 2003 a multi-country and multi-donor (including GEF) platform to tackle these issues within the context of implementing the UNCCD through a 10-year multi-country program: "Central Asian Countries Initiative on Land Management" (CACILM). Recognizing the results, lessons learned, and the importance of the integrated approaches and Approaches developed under the program's first phase, the governments of Central Asian countries and Turkey agreed to make commitments to support a second phase of this program, called CACILM-2. It will focus on establishing an efficient multi-country knowledge platform, supporting SLM and climate change advisory with consolidated guidelines, extension, and knowledge products for a wide range of users. It would also support links and collaboration with the global decision support platform on SLM (LADA-WOCAT) and other stakeholders. The project will directly support national activities in the respective countries through dedicated LD and CC STAR allocation, with a focus on climate-smart agriculture, scaling up of best practices, and integration of resilience into policy, legal and institutional frameworks for SLM. GEBs that will include GHG emission reductions amount to 4 million tons of CO₂ equivalents, and SLM practices on at least 340,000 ha in the region.

Projects with Activities in Production Landscapes Approved under SCCF in FY 2014 and FY 2105

5376 Chad (IFAD): Enhancing the resilience of the agricultural ecosystems (Projet d'amélioration de la résilience des systèmes agricoles au Tchad) – PARSAT

In spite of Chad recently becoming an oil producer, it remains among the poorest countries in the world, highly exposed to external shocks, including those caused by climate change. As a result of climate change, combined with inherently fragile soils, land degradation, a largely arid or semi-arid climate, and very limited access to agricultural inputs; Chad's rural populations suffer from frequent drought, floods and locust invasions. Drawing on a robust portfolio of past and present investments in Chad, IFAD is launching an integrated program aiming to sustainably intensify and enhance the resilience of smallholder production systems, and to promote improved access to markets and value chain development in the Sahelian zones of Chad.

The proposed project seeks to strengthen the resilience of smallholder production systems and improve food security in the face of climate change. The project is structured around two principle components, aiming to (i) improve the capacity of farmer organizations to manage small-scale agro-pastoral infrastructure, promote resilient land and water management practices, improve access to productive assets, and improve weather forecasting and agricultural planning; as well as (ii) improve access to markets through resilient rural infrastructure, enhance value addition in agricultural production systems, and scale up cereal banks for improved food security. Through targeted land and water management interventions, the project will enhance

³⁰ Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Turkey, Uzbekistan

the asset base for smallholder farmers; and through a participatory training program it will disseminate innovative and locally appropriate agricultural technologies and practices to 14,500 vulnerable farmers.

5394 Zambia (AFDB): Climate Resilient Livestock Management Project

Zambia has been adversely affected by the impacts of climate change, and it remains highly vulnerable. More intense and more frequent periods of drought and extreme flooding are expected to affect an ever larger share of the population over larger areas of land. The Zambian economy and population continue to rely on agriculture, with 28 per cent of total agricultural output being produced by the livestock sub-sector. Livestock herders are also among the most exposed to the effects of climate change, and the least able to adapt. Building on and enhancing the resilience of AfDB's LISP project, which seeks to improve the infrastructure required for livestock production and marketing in the Northern and Muchinga regions of Zambia, the proposed LDCF grant would support targeted investments in climate-resilient livestock management practices and livelihood diversification.

The proposed project, requesting \$6.80 million from the LDCF, aims to strengthen the adaptive capacity of Zambian livestock farmers to the impacts of climate change. The project is structured around three principle components, seeking to (i) promote climate-resilient livestock investments and enhance the adaptive capacity of livestock breeders; (ii) strengthen the technical capacities of central and local government authorities, and local communities to plan and implement adaptation measures in the livestock sector; and (iii) to gather, store and share data and information of the adaptation measures implemented.

5414 Kiribati (UNDP): Enhancing national food security in the context of global climate change

Kiribati's population relies on remittances, fishing and agriculture for food security. However, agriculture is challenging and limited due to a lack of available land and freshwater and generally poor soil quality. Therefore, Kiribati is highly dependent on coastal zone fisheries for both subsistence and commerce. Climate change is negatively impacting the integrity of coastal zone ecosystems by increasing ocean temperatures, causing stress on coral reefs and fish species. If this situation remains unsustainable, coastal zone fisheries may collapse.

This project will assist Kiribati in the implementation of several key priority interventions identified in its NAPA. In particular, the project is expected to strengthen national capacity, policy and planning to integrate decision making tools for climate-resilience and increase preparedness for extreme events; and to reduce the vulnerability of local communities to the impacts of climate change on food production. Project activities include concrete investments in the establishment of Fisheries Conservation Field Schools. Technical and financial assistance will further be provided to support implementation of improved fisheries production strategies. Most importantly, the project will pursue a holistic approach to conserving coastal fisheries by developing and implementing coastal zone plans and national guidelines for ecosystem-based adaptation.

5419 Cambodia (UNDP): Strengthening the resilience of Cambodian rural livelihoods and sub-national government system to climate risks and variability

Cambodia is one of the poorest nations in South-East Asia. Approximately 70% of Cambodian households derive all or parts of their income from agriculture. The latter is mostly dependent on the monsoon rain and natural flooding, hence making the Cambodia's economy and population very vulnerable to climate change. This is particularly true for landless, land-poor and women-headed households.

The proposed initiative is designed to reduce the vulnerability of rural Cambodians, especially the aforementioned target groups. The project will invest in climate-resilient small-scale water infrastructure in at least 10 districts, particularly targeting rain-fed farming. Climate resilient agricultural practices and livelihood measures will be demonstrated in at least 10 districts and a performance-based adaptation financing mechanism will be established to cover 89 communes. This will facilitate climate-smart development planning and lead to nation-wide impact over time. In the mid to long-term, project activities are expected to: (i) strengthen climate sensitive planning, budgeting and execution; (ii) enhance the resilience of livelihoods of the most vulnerable groups vis-a-vis erratic precipitation; and (iii) further the enabling environment at the sub-national level to attract and manage a larger volume of climate adaptation finance.

5432 Angola (FAO): Integrating Climate Resilience into Agricultural and Agropastoral Production Systems through Soil Fertility Management in Key Productive and Vulnerable Areas Using the Farmers Field School Approach

Climate change has already affected smallholder farmers in Angola through increasing temperatures and decreasing as well as more variable rainfall. These effects, combined with land degradation, limited access to agricultural inputs, insecure land tenure and weak institutional and technical capacities; limit improvements in agricultural productivity and food security in Angola's Central Plateau. The proposed LDCF grant would introduce an integrated approach to climate change adaptation in the context of smallholder, rain-fed agro-pastoral production landscapes; while mainstreaming adaptation into higher level planning and policy-making processes.

The proposed project aims to strengthen the climate resilience of agro-pastoral production systems in vulnerable areas through mainstreaming climate change adaptation into agricultural and environmental policies, programs and practices; and disseminating climate-resilient land and water resources management for smallholder farmers through farmer field schools. Specifically, the project would (i) strengthen knowledge and understanding of climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation among national and subnational authorities; (ii) scale up resilient SLM practices and technologies through farmer field schools; and (iii) mainstream adaptation into agricultural and environmental sector policies and programs.

5433 Mozambique (FAO): Strengthening Capacities of Agricultural Producers to Cope with Climate Change for Increased Food Security through the Farmers Field School Approach

Mozambique's economy continues to grow rapidly, however, the country remains among the poorest in the world, with very high rates of food insecurity and chronic malnutrition among children. Agricultural production remains focused on very small farms, with limited access to

agricultural inputs and, as a result, low levels of productivity. Since 1960, Mozambique has experienced more frequent events of heavy rainfall, while dry seasons have grown longer. Although the threats and opportunities presented by climate change vary across the vast and geographically diverse country, smallholder farmers will be the least able to adapt to future changes. The proposed project seeks to address these vulnerabilities across different production systems, building on and strengthening baseline investments in agricultural development and food security.

The proposed project aims to enhance the capacity of Mozambique's agricultural and pastoral sectors to cope with the effects of climate change by scaling up the transfer and adoption of appropriate adaptation technologies through an established network of farmer field schools, and by mainstreaming relevant data and information on climate change risks and adaptation measures into agricultural development policies, plans and programs. The project is structured around three principle components, seeking to (i) incorporate improved, climate-resilient agricultural practices in the framework of the Strategic Plan for the Agricultural Sector (PEDSA) and its investment plan (PNISA); (ii) increase the resilience of at least three different agricultural production systems through the adoption of climate change adaptation strategies and practices, and a broader choice of genetic material; and (iii) enhance the sustained capacity of extension services to promote the dissemination and adoption of adaptation technology.

5435 Zambia (UNDP): Promoting Climate Resilient Community-based Regeneration of Indigenous Forests in Zambia's Central Province

Zambia's indigenous forests are under tremendous pressure from land-use change, the unsustainable use of biomass for energy, and timber extraction. Climate change is emerging as an additional, significant driver of deforestation and forest degradation. At the same time, Zambia's rural poor rely increasingly on forests and the ecosystem services these provide as a source of livelihood and income. Consequently, Zambia's indigenous forests and agroforestry systems present an important entry point for enhancing the resilience of rural communities and landscapes to the effects of climate change. The proposed project focuses on the country's Central Province, where forest loss, on the one hand, and the risks imposed by climate change on rural livelihoods, on the other hand, are the most severe.

The proposed project seeks to increase the rate of forest regeneration and promote climate-resilient adaptation practices among forest-dependent communities in Zambia's Central Province. The project is structured around three principal components, aiming to (i) pilot community-based, climate-resilient agro-forestry and assisted natural regeneration techniques; (ii) promote integrated, climate-resilient fire management; and (iii) increase the knowledge about and uptake of appropriate supply-side, biomass energy production technologies.

5462 Lao PDR (FAO): Strengthening Agro-climatic Monitoring and Information Systems to Improve Adaptation to Climate Change and Food Security in Lao PDR

The population of Lao PDR, about 76 per cent, relies on agriculture for income and subsistence. The agricultural population is highly vulnerable in the face of the expected impacts of climate change, including more frequent and more severe droughts and floods. Yet Lao PDR lacks the technical and institutional capabilities required to systematically incorporate climate change risks

in agricultural policy, planning and investments. The proposed project aims to address these key shortcomings, building on the government's ongoing agricultural development initiatives.

The proposed project aims to enhance the monitoring, analysis, communication and application of agro-meteorological data and information for decision-making in relation to agriculture and food security at the national and provincial levels in Lao PDR; and to improve the monitoring and analysis of agricultural production systems by strengthening the Land Resources Information Management System (LRIMS) and Agro-Ecological Zoning to support climate-resilient agricultural policy and investment. The project is structured around three principle components and five outcomes, seeking to (i) improve facilities for agro-meteorological monitoring, communication and analysis; (ii) strengthen institutional and technical capacities to archive, interpret and share agro-meteorological data; (iii) develop integrated Land Resources Information Management System, Agro-Ecological Zones and Systems at Risk; (iv) develop technical capacities for the sustained operation and use of above resources; and (v) share knowledge for climate-resilient agriculture and food security planning and programming.

5489 Lao PDR (FAO): Climate Adaptation in Wetlands Areas (CAWA)

The rural communities in the target project areas of Xe Champone and Beung Kiat Ngong wetlands are vulnerable to climate change. This vulnerability is compounded by the interdependence of communities' livelihoods with the wetlands, which are also vulnerable to climate change.

The proposed project would lead to (i) an improvement in the understanding of climate change impacts and risks, enhancing capacities of communities, local and central administrations to design, prioritize and implement climate change adaptation and disaster management measures; (ii) efficient and cost-effective measures in place to reduce the impact of climate change and natural disasters on wetlands ecosystems and local livelihoods, such as early warning, disaster risk reduction and early recover measures, adaptive agricultural practices, systems, and infrastructure; and (iii) integration with local and national planning processes. The project is innovative in the country context, as well as likely to be sustainable and scalable.

5503 Senegal (FAO): Mainstreaming Ecosystem-based Approaches to Climate-resilient Rural Livelihoods in Vulnerable Rural Areas through the Farmer Field School

Methodology

Climate change threatens to further exacerbate the adverse trends facing agriculture and rural development in Senegal. Low agricultural productivity; owing to poor management practices, the continued erosion of natural assets, and rising competition between farmers and herders; combined with rapid population growth and a chronic lack of investment and incentives for sustainable agricultural development leave the country poorly equipped to respond to rising temperatures and increasingly erratic rainfall. A number of baseline development initiatives are underway to promote agricultural development, food security, and sustainable natural resources management in Senegal. Several of these use farmer field schools as an entry point to reach rural producers and to promote the adoption and replication of sound agricultural and agro-pastoral production systems.

The proposed project, requesting aims to enhance the capacity of Senegal's agro-pastoral sector to develop more climate-resilient production systems and to integrate climate change adaptation

strategies into on-going agro-pastoral and agricultural development policies and programs. The project is structured around three principle components, seeking to (i) enhance capacities for systematically gathering climate-related data for enhanced adaptation, and develop adaptation strategies specific to different agro-ecosystems; (ii) enhance the capacities of farmers and agro-pastoralists to adopt climate-resilient practices and technologies through a network of farmer field schools, and enhance crop and beef value chains for improved revenue generation among rural households; and (iii) increase institutional and technical capacities at the national level to develop climate change adaptation policies, strategies and programs, and establish a sustainable financing mechanisms to support the replication of successful adaptation measures at the local level.

5566 Senegal (UNDP): Strengthening land & ecosystem management under conditions of climate change in the Niayes and Casamance regions - Republic of Senegal

Senegal is highly vulnerable to natural hazards; including drought, floods, locust infestations and coastal erosion; many of which are being exacerbated by rising temperatures, changing precipitation regimes and sea-level rise. The regions of Casamance and Niayes are heavily affected by the changing nature, intensity and frequency of natural hazards; particularly the increased incidence of drought and salt water intrusion in the former, and sand encroachment in the latter.

The proposed project aims to strengthen the enabling environment for ecosystem-based adaptation measures in Senegal's Niayes and Casamance regions. The project is structured around three principle components, seeking to (i) establish effective systems for forecasting, preparedness and decision support as it relates to the impacts of climate change on key ecosystem services; (ii) reduce vulnerability through innovative, ecosystem-based adaptation measures in two target areas in Niayes and Casamance; and (iii) enhance the institutional, technical and human capacities of hydro-meteorological services, extension workers, local governments and communities to plan, implement, monitor and share knowledge on ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation.

5567 Myanmar (UNEP): Adapting Community Forestry landscapes and associated community livelihoods to a changing climate, in particular an increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events

The project will support integration of adaptation activities within baseline projects in community forestry and climate monitoring/forecasting by undertaking scientific assessments to gauge potential risks posed by climate change, integrating multi-benefit resilience-building measures in forestry activities, and helping communities better prepare for climate-related hazards through improved early warning systems coverage. It will also support institutional capacity building through inclusion of adaptation aspects in existing forestry laws. Project consultations have involved NGOs, local communities and community user groups, and local communities will be engaged throughout project design and implementation. Project components will also take indigenous/ traditional knowledge into consideration.

5580 Mauritania (UNEP): Development of an improved and innovative delivery system for climate resilient livelihoods in Mauritania

This project will reduce vulnerability to climate change in Mauritania through ecosystems-based approaches. Agriculture and livestock herding in the Sahelian Acacia Savannah Ecoregion are

severely constrained by aridity, with pressures being exacerbated by rapidly growing populations. Threats faced to ecosystems and livelihoods are exacerbated by climatic factors such as wild fires, droughts and flash floods that are expected to grow more severe or frequent with climate change.

This project seeks to address these problems and build resilience of community livelihoods to climate change through ecosystems-based adaptation (EbA) approaches. It will assist in overcoming barriers to EbA, generating lessons that can be applied in specific agro-ecological and socio-economic environments in Mauritania, and build capacity to plan and implement EbA.

5592 Somalia (UNDP): Enhancing Climate Resilience of the Vulnerable Communities and Ecosystems in Somalia

Somalia is emerging from more than two decades of conflict, and it is only beginning to establish a national, legal and institutional framework to promote sustainable development; including the relevant policies and institutional capacities to advance climate change mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction. In the face of more frequent and more intense droughts and floods due to climate change, and given accelerating post-conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts; there is a critical need as well as a time-bound opportunity to promote climate-resilient development strategies, approaches and practices at different levels -- from the federal government to local, agro-pastoral production systems.

The proposed project aims to enhance the resilience and improve the adaptive capacity of vulnerable Somali communities in pilot areas and the ecosystems on which they depend to the adverse effects of climate change. The project is structured around two principal components that seek to (i) strengthen and develop policies, plans and tools to promote the integration of climate change risks and adaptation into environmental governance and natural resources management; and (ii) demonstrate locally appropriate technologies and practices to reduce the vulnerability of rural communities and ecosystems.

5603 Uganda (UNIDO): Reducing Vulnerability of Banana Producing Communities to Climate Change through Banana Value Added Activities - Enhancing Food Security and Employment Generation

Banana is the main staple in Uganda, with per capita consumption the highest in the world. The project will target banana producing districts in Western Uganda where banana is extensively cultivated, mainly by smallholder farmers (in the Bushenyi district in Western Uganda, banana is cultivated on 40% of the total area, predominantly by smallholder farmers). The banana's ability to produce fruits all year round makes it an important food security crop and cash crop. The bananas are mainly sold fresh and the farmers receive very little from sales, and waste due to an inefficient supply and value chain is significant. Furthermore, scientists predict that CC will decrease availability of other annual staple crops such as maize, rice and wheat, further increasing demand for banana.

In line with the NAPA identified key coping strategies of food preservation, alternative livelihood systems and changes in agriculture practices, the project will develop capacities for communities to engage in livelihood diversification value addition activities such as: vacuum packing and solar drying of fresh bananas; banana juice and wine making. It will provide

additional income to build adaptive capacity and resiliency to the effects of climate change, in that the resulting wealth created will enable further CCA coping strategies through: changes in agriculture practice, construction of reservoirs for water harvesting and soil conservation strategies. In addition the project will support: the use of banana waste for biofuel to power the processing facilities as well as domestic use; development of the banana tissue culture industry for the benefit of the communities and promote investment and access to finance to support the cottage industries that this project will develop

5632 Madagascar (UNDP): Enhancing the adaptation capacities and resilience to climate change in rural communities in Analamanga, Atsinanana, Androy, Anosy, and Atsimo Andrefana

Rural communities in Madagascar's southern, central and eastern regions suffer adverse impacts of climatic extremes such as cyclones and droughts, which affect health (especially through impacts on water supply and sanitation) and livelihoods and subsistence (through adverse impacts on agriculture, livestock and fishing).

This LDCF project will help communities in these regions adapt to impacts of climate change in the above-mentioned sectors by providing technical assistance and concrete investments to integrate climate resilience in rural water and sanitation infrastructure and agriculture, as well as advisory support. Additionally, hydromet equipment will be provided to selected project areas to assist with early warning. Key policy frameworks and sector plans will also integrate climate resilience aspects, and a climate resilient agricultural input supply chain will be established. The project is in alignment with Madagascar's NAPA.

5651 Sudan (IFAD): Livestock and Rangeland Resilience Program

With climate change, mean annual temperatures in Sudan could increase by 2.7°C by 2050. The combined effects of rising temperatures and reduced precipitation and water retention will increase the frequency and magnitude of extreme events, while adding to existing pressures on scarce natural resources. The effects of climate change present a severe threat to Sudan's livestock systems, which contribute some 20 per cent of GDP and accounted for 56% of agricultural exports in 2012. The proposed project aims to reduce the vulnerability of rural populations, their livelihoods and productive assets to the adverse effects of climate change in the semi-arid livestock producing areas in the south of Sudan. The project is structured around three principal components that seek to (i) develop 300 community adaptation plans and build local capacities for their implementation; (ii) reduce the vulnerability of nomadic and sedentary pastoral systems and communities through community-based investments in climate-resilient natural resources management; and (iii) put in place a Drought Monitoring, Preparedness and Early Response System and a National Adaptation Strategy for the Livestock Sector.

The proposed project adopts an innovative and comprehensive approach to reducing the vulnerability of rural populations, their livelihoods and productive assets in the semi-arid livestock producing areas in the south of Sudan. With a view to achieving sustainable outcomes, the project will invest in the capacity and skills of community-based organizations as well as local and state-level officials to develop and implement appropriate adaptation strategies; and it will facilitate policy and regulatory development to promote scaled-up adaptation at the national

level. The project is fully integrated within a seven-year baseline investment by IFAD, which will further enhance the potential for scaling up.

5664 Afghanistan (UNEP): Building Resilience of Communities Living around the Northern Pistachio Belt (NPB) and Eastern Forest Complex (EFC) of Afghanistan through an EbA approach

Afghanistan is a least-developed country that is highly vulnerable to environmental and developmental risks, including climate change. Changes in rainfall are unfavorable, with overall annual rainfall in decline, and heavy rainfall events on the increase. Drought is becoming more frequent and intense. Climatic variability is exacerbating degradation of natural resources, notably forests, from factors such as over-exploitation, tree-felling for construction, poor management and logging.

The project will apply a broad range of measures, including policy, investment, capacity and awareness-related, to create sustainable solutions with impact. The project will support on ground initiatives that include planting of site-specific, climate-resilient plant species and trees; measures to maintain soil accretion; community-managed nurseries; small-scale freshwater reservoirs; and other measures to effectively generate ecosystem services. The project will also support the establishment of a national committee to facilitate cross-cutting approaches such as EbA; generate guidelines on EbA for policy and decision-makers; develop training modules for (i) local authorities and community groups, and (ii) school and university curricula; and further the base of scientific knowledge on native forest restoration as an EbA approach.

5694 Comoros (UNEP): Building Climate Resilience through Rehabilitated Watersheds, Forests and Adaptive Livelihoods

Comoros needs to address the rapid degradation of watersheds and river basins, as well as the livelihood of communities who depend on them. The project introduces an integrated watershed management through ecosystem-based adaptation approaches, as a means of adapting to climate change, to be implemented through three major components: 1) Capacity building to address climate change risks in water management; 2) Pilot demonstrations of resilient watersheds and ecosystem-based adaptation; and 3) Alternative livelihood strategies for targeted communities, in order to support sustainable land and water use.

To strengthen natural resource planning at the local level, the project is also piloting innovative technologies such as GIS and crowd-sourcing platforms. Furthermore, developing a more thorough knowledge-base on the state of watersheds through community-based approaches will ensure overall project sustainability. The project will also work closely with local stakeholders, including local organizations, NGOs, and women's groups as to encourage ownership and buy-in of project activities.

Finally, project aims to scale-up reforestation and watershed rehabilitation activities to other sites, as well as seek coordination with other GEF-funded initiatives in Comoros. The project also includes strong private sector collaboration through component 3. Alternative livelihood production strategies explored with private sector partners, including niche products such as pharmaco-cosmetic uses of agro-forestry products, will promote increased income and will support project scale-up through the enhancement of economic activity.

5695 Tanzania (UNEP): Ecosystem-Based Adaptation for Rural Resilience

Climate change, particularly through more frequent and more intense floods and drought, presents a major risk to food and water security in rural Tanzania. When faced with climate change -induced extreme events, rural populations in the country's central plateau and Zanzibar resort to traditional coping mechanisms that often rely on increasing consumption of scarce natural resources. Beyond the near-term relief they provide, these coping strategies are leaving people and productive assets more vulnerable to climate change. Tanzania has embarked on two ambitious, sector-wide investment programs to enhance agricultural productivity as well as food and water security at the national level, with tangible investments being carried out by rural communities and local authorities. Without due consideration of the future impacts of climate change, however, these investments and their beneficiaries will remain at risk.

The proposed project aims to strengthen climate resilience in rural communities in Tanzania's central plateau and Zanzibar through institutional and technical capacity building, ecosystem-based adaptation measures and diversified, resilient livelihood options. The project is structured around three components that would aim to (i) enhance stakeholders' capacity to plan and implement adaptation measures at the national and sub-national levels; (ii) carry out tangible, ecosystem-based adaptation measures and livelihood diversification strategies to reduce vulnerability in four rural districts; and (iii) disseminate lessons and best practices to promote scaling up. The proposed project would contribute towards the implementation of Tanzania's NAPA priorities in the areas of food security, natural resources management and human settlements. The project is also aligned with Tanzania's Climate Change Strategy, the National Strategy for Poverty Reduction and Economic Growth, the Agriculture Sector Development Strategy and the Water Sector Development Strategy and Policy

5703 Sudan (UNEP): Enhancing the resilience of communities living in climate change vulnerable areas of Sudan using Ecosystem Based approaches to Adaptation (EbA)

In the Southern Sudan's White Nile state seventy percent of this region's population of 1.7 million lives in rural areas and depends on rain-fed agriculture and livestock rearing for the livelihood. The area's ecological zones range from semi-desert to sub-humid, and adverse climatic conditions that include low and decreasing rainfall, drought, heatwaves and dust storms. Climate change is expected to exacerbate these conditions and possibly introduce new stresses. The project will support a multi-stakeholder platform for dialogue on climate change adaptation and EbA in Sudan, build capacity at various levels for EbA policy and implementation, and will actively engage vulnerable stakeholder groups, including women, through consultations.

The LDCF project will employ an ecosystems-based approach to adaptation by supporting additional adaptation measures in 6 baseline projects in water resources, rangeland management, forestry, rainfed agriculture and environmental management. On-the-ground EbA measures will focus on regeneration of critical ecosystem services to enable resilience to increasingly dry and droughtlike conditions. Community livelihoods will be diversified through climate resilient activities that may include fish production, bee keeping, vegetables gardens, etc.

5710 Regional (AFDB): Rural livelihoods' adaptation to climate change in the Horn of Africa -Phase II (RLACC II)

The arid and semi-arid lands of East Africa are among the regions expected to be the most adversely affected by the effects of climate change. A continued temperature rise is likely to severely affect water resources, food security, natural resources, human health, settlements, and infrastructure, notably through a growing risk of drought and extreme events, and increasingly unpredictable rainfall patterns. The program will carry out investments in enhanced natural resources management, access to markets, and livelihood support. Without additional resources to strengthen the climate-resilience of its infrastructure investments and without targeted capacity building for climate change adaptation, DRSLP would risk falling short in the face of the projected, adverse effects of climate change.

The proposed program aims to enhance pastoralist livelihoods through climate-resilient infrastructure in arid and semi-arid rural areas across Sudan and Somalia. The program would help expand a previously approved program in Djibouti and Kenya. The program is structured around three principal components, aiming to (i) raise awareness of climate change -induced risks and appropriate adaptation measures, and integrated adaptation into local development planning processes; (ii) reduce the vulnerability of the livestock sector through targeted, small-scale infrastructure investments and diversified rural livelihood options; and (iii) promote learning and knowledge exchange. The project will also enhance the design and implementation of large-scale baseline investments across the region. As a result, the proposed project is well placed to achieve sustainable adaptation benefits for a large number of beneficiaries, with a viable pathway to scaling up.

5782 Gambia (FAO): Adapting Agriculture to Climate Change in the Gambia

Climate change in Gambia is expected to result in greater variability, decline in rainfall, shorter growing season, and increased inter-annual variability. These effects will adversely impact farmers, putting rural livelihoods at risk and undermining food security. The proposed project attempts to reduce vulnerability to the adverse impacts of climate change, and increase adaptive capacity to respond to the impacts of climate change, by promoting sustainable and diversified livelihood strategies for reducing the impacts of climate variability and change in agriculture and livestock sector.

It will do so through (i) strengthening institutional and technical capacity for adaptation to climate change in agriculture, (ii) dissemination of timely risk information to users at all levels, (iii) promoting diversification of livelihood strategies and intensification of agriculture production, processing and marketing, and (iv) improving livestock production and management practices for sustaining livelihoods of local communities.

6923 Eritrea (UNDP): Mainstreaming climate risk considerations in food security and IWRM in Tsilima Plain

Eritrea is highly vulnerable to climate-induced hazards such as droughts, which occur more frequently and with higher magnitude due to climate change. About 80% of the population is dependent on agriculture, livestock rearing and fishing, contributing less than 20% to GDP in 2012. This project aims to mainstream climate risk considerations into agricultural production to enhance food security in the Tsilima Plain. This will be achieved by: (i) integrating information on ecosystem vulnerability to climate change into key decision-making processes, including through enhanced research and extension service capacities; (ii) improving the security of tenure of over 9000 ha of plains; (iii) increasing water availability for irrigation by 30%; and (iv)

ensuring that at least 75% of farmers take up climate-smart technologies, increasing food production by 30%. The project is innovative in its approach to knowledge based adaptation planning for increasing water availability via increased groundwater infiltration; and it utilizes "soft" adaptation measures that provide a practical, locally appropriate and cost-effective solution to coping with the impacts of climate change.

Projects with Activities in Production Landscapes Approved under LDCF in FY2013 and FY2014

5685 Morocco (IFAD): Increasing Productivity and Adaptive Capacities in Mountain Areas of Morocco (IPAC-MAM)

In spite of relative stability and positive human development over recent years, Morocco remains highly reliant on agriculture for income and employment. At the same time, the country struggles with the combined, adverse effects of inefficient natural resources management practices, poor post-harvest processing and storage technologies and infrastructure, as well as environmental degradation. Agriculture is coming under increasing stress due to the effects of climate change. Morocco is expected to suffer from a considerable decline in rainfall, rising temperatures, and more frequent extreme events, such as heatwaves. Smallholder farmers are particularly vulnerable to these adverse trends. This proposed project will address in an integrated manner the factors that leave rural populations in Morocco's mountain areas vulnerable in the face of climate change, including through enhanced natural resources management, post-harvest storage and processing practices, and enhanced opportunities for rural enterprise development.

The project aims to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable rural communities in the provinces of Sefrou and Azilal by promoting climate-resilient agricultural value chains and livelihood options; including more efficient use of agricultural inputs and natural resources, reduced post-harvest losses, and more diverse rural livelihoods and agricultural production systems. The project is structured around three principal components, aiming to (i) empower natural resource users' associations and cooperatives to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change; (ii) optimize the use of land and water resources and restore vital ecosystem services; and (iii) promote the transfer and adoption of technologies and practices for more resilient, diversified agricultural value chains and rural livelihoods.

6927 Egypt (IFAD): Integrated Management and Innovation in Rural Settlements

Egypt is highly dependent on agriculture, representing 15% of GDP and directly employing 32% of the population. The main source of water supply is the Nile. Climate change is already impacting the agricultural sector and future trends reflect a further decrease in wheat and maize yields, threatening food security.

This project will enhance the resilience of poor and vulnerable households in Egypt, including women and men farmers, by supporting investments relating to water scarcity, soil and water salinity, increasing temperature, decreasing rainfall and other climate change impacts on the agriculture sector. The project's three main components include: (i) mainstreaming adaptive strategic planning into Egypt's land reclamation strategies; (ii) ensuring efficient irrigation

technology and accessible energy at the farm level; and (iii) climate-proofing of the value chains and diversification of livelihoods at local levels. Tailor-made solutions will ensure that vulnerability of on-farm irrigation in agricultural regions is decreased by adapting to climate change specific to local conditions. The project is innovative as it ensures the full integration of private sector and cooperatives in supporting climate resilient and diversified agriculture.

6945 Costa Rica (UNDP): Strengthening Capacities of Rural Aqueduct Associations' (ASADAS) to Address Climate Change Risks in Water Stressed Communities of Northern Costa Rica

This project aims to improve water supply and promote sustainable water practices of end-users and productive sectors by advancing community-based and ecosystem-based measures in rural aqueduct associations (ASADAS) to address projected climate-related hydrological vulnerability in Northern Costa Rica.

This will be done through building community-based infrastructure and technical capacities to address projected changes in water availability and mainstreaming of ecosystem-based adaptation in to public and private sector policy and investments in the targeted area, including the development of a national model of Ecosystem-based Water Security Plans. In addition the project aims to change the purchasing and credit policies of at least 20 agricultural and livestock trading companies, and 5 financial institutions operating in the target region, so that they promote the adoption of practices that help maintain ecosystem resilience to climate change.

6960 Turkmenistan (UNDP): Supporting Climate Resilient Livelihoods in Agricultural Communities in Drought-prone Areas

Turkmenistan is an agriculture-dependent and highly water scarce country with over 80 percent of its population living in poverty. Climate models indicate that over future years, temperatures will rise and rainfall will decline, exacerbating water shortages. This project aims at increasing water use efficiency by providing vulnerable small farmers with drip irrigation kits, treadle pumps, greenhouses, well, and rainwater harvesting systems.

The project will also build capacity on adaptation issues, create enabling conditions for iterative adaptation planning, and support the government in the integration of climate resilient policies and measures in the water and agriculture sectors. This is proposed through (i) the development of legal, structural and institutional capabilities; (ii) the inclusion of adaptation considerations in sector strategies and plans; and (iii) adjustments in sectoral infrastructure investments. Additionally, the project will address critical water scarcity issues in Turkmenistan, providing adaptation benefits to smallholder farmers in particular, who might not be able to avail of the improvements to irrigation infrastructure improvements undertaken through baseline investments.

Guatemala (UNDP): Climate change resilient productive landscapes and socio-economic networks advanced in Guatemala

The Project aims to increase climate resilience of production landscapes and socio-economic systems in the target municipalities threatened by the impacts of climate change and climatic variability, in particular hydro meteorological events that are increasing in frequency and intensity. The Project achieves this through achievement of a set of key outcomes that range from enhancement of institutional capabilities to support for building more resilient local economies, and increasing the adaptive capacity of communities.

Rwanda (Ministry of Natural Resources – MINIRENA): Reducing Vulnerability to Climate Change in North West Rwanda through Community Based Adaptation

The objective of the project is to increase the adaptive capacity of natural systems and rural communities living in exposed areas of North Western Rwanda to climate change impacts. The strategy of the project is to manage the risks and effects from recurring floods, landslides and erosion through an integrated natural resource management and alternative livelihoods programme in one of the most climate sensitive and vulnerable areas of Rwanda. The project addresses factors that exacerbate the effects of intense rainfall and lead to flooding and landslides. These include erosion and unsustainable farming practices linked to demographic pressure on natural resources. By introducing erosion and flood control measures, building the capacity of farmers to adapt to climate variability and supporting the development of off-farm livelihoods to reduce the pressure on natural resources, the project restores the ecosystem functions necessary to reduce the incidence and severity of flooding and landslides on local communities and resources. For example, the absorption capacity of local watersheds are being increased by improved farming practices, restoration and protection of steep slopes through improved flood control, soil, land and water management measures.

Uzbekistan (UNDP): Developing climate resilience of farming communities in the drought prone parts of Uzbekistan

This project aims to develop climate resilience in farming and pastoral communities in the drought-prone Karakalpakstan region of Uzbekistan. The project will develop institutional and technical capacity for drought management and early warning, establish climate resilient farming practices on subsistence Dekhkan farms, effect landscape level adaptation measures for soil conservation and moisture retention, and widely foster knowledge of climate resilient agricultural and pastoral production systems in arid lands. The project will improve climate resilience of more than an estimated 1,000,000 ha of land.

The frequent occurrence of drought, an overall trend of desertification of Uzbekistan's poorest region, Karakalpakstan, places serious strain on water availability, and is causing a decline in land productivity and thus the ability of rural poor to withstand the current and future impacts of climate change. There have been considerable infrastructure investments in the agricultural sector and progressive reforms socially, but vulnerable farmers and pastoralists who reside in arid and marginal lands don't benefit directly from these improvements. This project is designed to propel positive reform processes in climate adaptation, while also reaching out to the poorest and most marginal to provide urgent adaptation solutions.

Seychelles (UNDP): Ecosystem Based Adaptation to Climate Change in Seychelles

Today, much of the precipitation in the Seychelles is falling in sharp bursts, creating heavy flooding in the wet season, while imposing extended period of drought during the dry season. As the country does not have a large water storage capacity, and the topography of the islands constrains such infrastructure, water supplies are heavily dependent on rainfall. Furthermore, the coastal zone is vulnerable to flooding as a consequence of rising sea surface levels, and increased storm surges from cyclonic activity in the Western Indian Ocean. The project will reduce these vulnerabilities by spearheading ecosystem-based adaptation as climate change risk management—restoring ecosystem functionality, and enhancing ecosystem resilience and sustaining watershed and coastal processes in order to secure critical water provisioning and flood attenuation ecosystem services from watersheds and coastal areas. This project seeks to reduce the vulnerability of the Seychelles to climate change, focusing on two key issues—water scarcity and flooding. The climate change projections in the Seychelles show that rainfall, while increasing in overall terms, will become even more irregular.

Myanmar (UNDP): Addressing Climate Change Risks on Water and Food Security in the Dry Zone of Myanmar

This project seeks to minimize the increasing impacts of climate change on agricultural and livestock production cycles in the Myanmar Dry Zone. From increasing temperature and water evaporation, to declining water availability, more frequent droughts, and intensifying weather events especially flash floods and cyclones, the local economies of this region are expected to be impacted by climate change. Analysis of drought occurrence over the past few decades has confirmed that the Dry Zone has turned into the most food insecure region in the country. The adaptation activities of this UNDP project will be implemented in five townships in the Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions –Shwebo and Moneywa townships in the Sagaing region, Myingyan and Nyaung Oo townships in the Mandalay Region, and Chauk Township in the Magway Region.

Projects Approved under the AF in FY2014 and FY2015

South Africa (South African National Biodiversity Institute - SANBI): Building Resilience in the Greater uMngeni Catchment

The majority of the population in the province of KwaZulu-Natal lives in rural or peri-urban areas, often in informal settlements; UMDM has a population of one million people, with a high percentage of poverty, HIV/AIDS prevalence and a very high proportion of female-headed households.

This project aims to reduce climate vulnerability and increase the resilience and adaptive capacity in rural and peri-urban settlements and small-scale farmers in productive landscapes in the uMgungundlovu District Municipality (UMDM), KwaZulu Natal Province, South Africa, that are threatened by climate variability and change, through an integrated adaptation approach. Areas of interventions include the: early warning and ward-based disaster response systems; ecological and engineering infrastructure solutions specifically focused on vulnerable

communities, including women; integrating the use of climate-resilient crops and climate-smart techniques into new and existing farming systems; and disseminating adaptation lessons learned and policy recommendations, to facilitate scaling up and replication.

Kenya (National Environment Management Authority-NEMA): Integrated Programme To Build Resilience To Climate Change & Adaptive Capacity Of Vulnerable Communities

Kenya comprises 83% of arid and semi-arid land and has an economy and livelihoods that are heavily reliable on rain-fed agriculture, which is in turn vulnerable to extreme droughts exacerbated by climate change and variability. This programme seeks to enhance resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change for selected communities in various Counties in Kenya in order to increase food security and environmental management. Hence, the programme develops and implements integrated adaptive mechanisms to increase community livelihood resilience to climate change.

Specifically, the programme addresses the following objectives: enhancing Climate resilient agricultural, agro-forestry, pastoral and agro-pastoral production systems to improve food security in selected Counties in Kenya; improving climate resilient water management systems to enhance food security in selected Counties in Kenya; increasing resilience to the effects of rise in sea level and shoreline changes through Integrated Shoreline and Mangrove Ecosystem Management at Vanga and Gazi in the Coastal region of Kenya; disaster risk reduction among targeted vulnerable communities for climate related risks in Kenya; and strengthening institutional capacity, knowledge management, awareness raising and promotion of adaptation mechanisms to improve resilience on climate change to selected vulnerable communities in Kenya

Costa-Rica (Fundecooperación para el Desarrollo Sostenible): Reducing the vulnerability by focusing on critical sectors (agriculture, water resources, and coastlines) in order to reduce the negative impacts of climate change and improve the resilience of these sectors

Costa Rica is experiencing the effects of increasing temperatures and intensity of extreme rainfall. These effects, due to climate change, are increasing the vulnerability of the water resources of the country, threatening the sustainable production of agricultural resources that promote food security and livelihoods, as well as negatively affecting mangroves and coral reefs, which serve as protective barriers to coastal communities.

The objective of this programme is to reduce climate vulnerability by focusing on critical sectors (agriculture, water resources, and coastal zones) in order to reduce the negative impacts of climate change, and improve the resilience of those populations. This program will seek to increase climate resilience by working directly with local stakeholders and anticipated beneficiaries through the implementation of adaptation projects in each of the geographical areas selected. Projects submitted by local organizations have been screened and the preselected proposals went through an in-depth assessment of their potential for the enhancement of climate resilience, which involves an analysis of the actions' appropriateness, based on the local biophysical and socioeconomic context. The support will consist of investment in interventions, technical assistance, and training related to this plan.

India (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development – NABARD): Enhancing Adaptive Capacity and Increasing Resilience of Small and Marginal Farmers in Purulia and Bankura Districts of West Bengal

The proposed project aims at developing climate adaptive and resilient livelihood systems through diversification, technology adoption and natural resource management for rural small and marginal farmers associated with agriculture and allied sector in Lateritic Zone of West Bengal, India. Specifically, it would seek to enhance adaptive capacity of vulnerable farm families in semi-arid regions of Purulia and Bankura districts of West Bengal by introducing measures to tide over the adverse impacts of climate change on their food and livelihood security.

The project would focus on 5,000 households covering about 22,596 beneficiaries who belong to vulnerable small and marginal farming communities and communities dependent on natural resources as livelihood option. The project would be executed by Development Research Communication and Services Centre (DRCSC), which has been operating in the semi-arid region of West Bengal for the last 15 years. It would build on earlier work done by DRCSC such as the project “Diversifying livelihood options through integrated production system for climate change adaptation and food & livelihood security of the small and marginal farmers in water logged flood plain of West Bengal (CCA IFS)” supported by GIZ and the Indian Ministry of Environment and Forests, and the project “Collective Action to Reduce Climate Disaster Risks and enhancing Resilience of Vulnerable Coastal Communities around the Sundarbans in Bangladesh and India”, supported by the European Union.

Ghana (UNDP): Increased resilience to climate change in Northern Ghana through the management of water resources and diversification of livelihoods

Water is highly relevant to the thematic priorities and cross-cutting issues of Ghana’s Development agenda and rural livelihood activities. An integrated management of water resources that takes into consideration climate change, especially in river basin and other sources of water supply for rural communities is therefore a pre-requisite for any water-related intervention in addressing climate change impacts and vulnerability of communities. Therefore, cross-sectoral and inter-community coordination is highly essential in addressing climate impacts on multiple sectors and sections of Ghana society and to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of water capture and distribution and reduce losses and wastefulness of water.

The main objective of the programme is to enhance the resilience and adaptive capacity of rural livelihoods to climate impacts and risks on water resources in the northern region of Ghana. The objective will be achieved through key results centered on the improvement of water access and also increase institutional capacity and coordination for integrated water management to support other uses of water resources especially for the diversification of livelihoods by rural communities.

Mali (UNDP): Programme Support for Climate Change Adaptation in the vulnerable regions of Mopti and Timbuktu

The main objective of the programme is to increase the resilience of vulnerable communities and their adaptive capacity to climate change in the regions of Mopti and Timbuktu including the Faguibine system zone. This programme is framed around the key national priorities identified by the National Policy, Strategy and Action Plan for Climate Change in Mali. This AF financed

programme is designed as a holistic approach to climate change adaptation in the Mopti and Timbuktu regions including the Faguibine System. The programme is focusing on the implementation of on-the ground adaptation measures at the community level, integrated with sustainable development processes and supported through enhanced national institutional and knowledge management capacities.

Jordan (Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation – MOPIC): Increasing the resilience of poor and vulnerable communities to climate change impacts in Jordan through Implementing Innovative projects in water and agriculture in support of adaptation to climate change

Studies suggest that climate change will exacerbate current aridity and conditions of water shortage in Jordan. This will directly impact food security, where around 67% of all water withdrawals are for agriculture. Introducing affordable technologies will definitely assist the agriculture sector in reducing water losses which may also benefit from technologies that recycle, harvest and conserve water, thus reliving the saved water for industrial and municipal consumers. Farmers should be encouraged to plant higher-value (cash crops) crops and adopt simple changes in operation and maintenance of on-farm irrigation systems to reduce water consumption. The overall objective of the proposed programme is to adapt the agricultural sector in Jordan to climate change induced water shortages and stresses on food security through piloting innovative technology transfer, policy support linked to community livelihoods and resilience. The programme presents six projects divided under two main components, with component 1 presenting four projects related to concrete adaptation solutions to address water scarcity and agriculture in vulnerable regions in Jordan, and component 2 presenting two projects related to policy reforms, training and knowledge management.

Morocco (Agence pour le Développement Agricole – ADA): Climate changes adaptation project in oasis zones – PACC-ZO

Moroccan oases experience degradation due in particular to climate change, compounded by population and urban pressure. This deterioration, in recent years, has taken alarming proportions and is leading to an increasingly threatening desertification. A dozen of southern Morocco Oases has already lost more than 40% of their crop area: 208 ha of agricultural land were silted in Errachidia area. The gradual disappearance of favorable farming conditions of oases, led to the decline in the income of the population, which is a big issue for the majority of the southernmost oasis societies.

The objective of the proposed project is to help reduce the vulnerability of people and oasis agro ecosystems in Morocco to climate change by increasing the adaptive capacity of local actors, increasing the resilience of the target ecosystem and by disseminating knowledge management. Actions will include improved management of soil and water resources, as well as the use of resistant varieties of palm trees and training sessions for the stakeholders.