



PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

PROJECT TYPE: MEDIUM-SIZED PROJECT
THE GEF TRUST FUND

Submission Date: 21 January 2008
Re-submission Date: 15 February 2008

PART I: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

GEFSEC PROJECT ID¹: To be assigned

GEF AGENCY PROJECT ID: To be assigned

COUNTRY(IES): Algeria, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, Yemen

PROJECT TITLE: Cross-cutting M&E functions and knowledge management for INRM within the MENARID programme framework

GEF AGENCY(IES): IFAD

GEF FOCAL AREA (S): Land Degradation with linkages to International Waters, Biodiversity and Climate Change

GEF-4 STRATEGIC PROGRAM(S): Mainly LD with linkages to IW, BD and CC

INDICATIVE CALENDAR	
Milestones	Expected Dates
Work Program (for FSP)	April 2008
CEO Endorsement/Approval	Feb 2009
GEF Agency Approval	Feb 2009
Implementation Start	April 2009
Mid-term Review (if planned)	Sept 2010
Implementation Completion	April 2013

NAME OF PARENT PROGRAM/UMBRELLA PROJECT: MENARID

A. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: The objectives of this MSP are to: (i) generate tools for systematic cross cutting and aligned M&E functions throughout the MENARID framework and (ii) develop a user-friendly knowledge management (KM) platform, information dissemination, harmonization, and dissemination mechanisms of INRM best practices throughout the MENARID portfolio linked to existing networks (e.g. IFAD network KARIANET²). The MSP will build on existing system to assure harmonized reporting functions and aggregate core indicators across projects in MENA region are communicated to the GEF in a timely manner.

Project Components	Indicate whether Investment, TA, or STA**	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Indicative GEF Financing*		Indicative Co-financing*		Total (m \$)
				(m \$)	%	(m \$)	%	
1. Tools and approaches for streamlined M&E functions for INRM within the MENARID framework	Inv. TA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coherent and systematic M&E performance and impacts of MENARID individual projects established Results-based system for project monitoring and evaluation developed and implemented. The quality of monitoring and evaluation practices is continuously improved across the MENARID projects portfolio. GEF impact is aggregated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring functions and indicators are aligned in one system and merged for consolidated impact All individual projects respect standard Programme wide M&E practices Collect and update accurate and reliable information on progress in the implementation of projects under MENARID collect and updated accurate data on MENARID impacts (desegregated by project and aggregated by 	0,227	36	0,400	64	0,627

¹ Project ID number will be assigned initially by GEFSEC.

² KariaNet is a multi-stakeholder partnership between the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and IFAD-funded projects in the Middle East and North Africa. It aims to enhance networking among IFAD-funded rural and agricultural development

			programme) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of individual MENARID portfolio components based on core indicators Report consolidated reports to the GEF M&E 					
2. INRM Knowledge Management Platform	Inv. TA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective mechanisms for knowledge management are included within MENARID's individual operations Lessons learnt captured and transferred across projects under MENARID umbrella and with other regions Development of collaborative practices across agencies and programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote knowledge sharing mechanisms on integrated NRM Increase in number and quality of project-to-project exchanges Establish linkages with existing knowledge networks addressing INRM in the MENA region (and beyond) Strengthen KM /information systems at individual projects Knowledge incubator and knowledge sharing platform Supportive tools for KM sharing based on existing systems and appropriate technologies (including web-based platforms and e-forums) 	0.227	27	0,600	73	0,827
3. Strategy for disseminating best and successful INRM practices in the MENA region	Inv. TA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dissemination strategy and replicability approaches defined by building on existing mechanisms Good practices are systematically disseminated Wider GEF impact is generated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One strategy to support the dissemination of best INRM practices Increase in the number of good practices replicated Increase cost-effectiveness of GEF operations 	0.146	27	0,400	73	0,546
4. Project management				0,067	25	0,200	75	0,267
Total project costs				0,667	29	1,600	71	2,267

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

** TA = Technical Assistance; STA = Scientific & technical analysis.

B. INDICATIVE FINANCING PLAN SUMMARY FOR THE PROJECT (\$)

	Project Preparation*	Project	Agency Fee	Total
GEF	60,000	667,270	72,730	800,000
Co-financing	160,000	1,600,000		1,760,000
Total	220,000	2,267,270	72,730	2,560,000

* Please include the previously approved PDFs and planned request for new PPG, if any. Indicate the amount already approved as footnote here and if the GEF funding is from GEF-3.

C. INDICATIVE CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT (including project preparation amount) BY SOURCE and BY NAME (in parenthesis) if available, (\$)

Sources of Co-financing	Type of Co-financing	Amount
Project Government Contribution	Cash & in Kind (TBC)	528,000
GEF Agency(ies)	Cash & in Kind (TBC)	880,000
Bilateral Aid Agency(ies)	Cash (TBC)	176,000
Multilateral Agency(ies)	Unknown at this stage	176,000
Private Sector	Unknown at this stage	
Others	TBC	
Total co-financing		1,760,000

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

GEF Agency	Focal Area	Country Name/ Global	(in \$)			
			Project Preparation	Project	Agency Fee	Total
IFAD	LD	Regional (MENA)	60,000	667,270	72,730	800,000

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

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

One of the significant challenges facing the MENA countries is how to stop drylands degradation and combat desertification while improving livelihoods and reducing poverty through better and sustainable management of natural resources, enabling the business environment for employment creation, and innovation. Past approaches and measures engaged by countries for reversing current trends of natural resources degradation had limited success. The major weakness in their implementation is due to the deficiency of integration and lack of appropriate across sectoral synergies and exchange of information and knowledge resulting from successes and failures at the regional and local levels. Weak and fragmented environmental monitoring systems continue to generate scattered data and are often inadequately updated.

Despite the fact that many INRM projects have been implemented in the region in recent decades, very little exchanges have been promoted throughout the region. Furthermore, several INRM projects within the region do not systematically capture and disseminate the good practices that they generate. Little cooperation and exchange of lessons is happening at both the national and the regional levels. There are often several gaps and barriers for effective mechanisms supporting knowledge generation and dissemination. INRM knowledge management often lacks adequate financing and enabling institutional environments to foster exchanges between projects within and beyond MENA countries.

The proposed MENARID Programme Framework provides overall guidance in identifying strategic priorities for GEF investments in integrated natural resource management (INRM) in the MENA region. It concerns promoting integrated NRM in the drylands of the region while improving the economic and social well-being of the targeted communities through the restoration and maintenance of ecosystem functions and productivity. These strategic priorities should maximize GEF's impacts in achieving global environmental benefits through selected investments supporting the GEF focal areas for land degradation, international waters, biodiversity, and climate change while simultaneously contributing to improving livelihoods and reducing poverty.

The MENARID reflects GEF-4's transition from single-project interventions to a more programmatic approach for GEF-supported activities. It allows GEF-4 to target its limited resources for priority issues of regional concern and to achieve higher visibility and greater impact by linking project interventions in a programmatic context. It also allows a shift towards an integrated and landscape approach to address processes that provide people with ecosystem goods and

services from local to wider scales of operations. The landscape approach will embrace ecosystem principles through multi-focal area interventions.

The proposed MSP underpins the long-term objectives of MENARID to achieve global environmental benefits through the implementation of multifocal area projects that integrate biodiversity conservation and the use of sound strategies for land and water resource management while contributing to better adaptation to climate change impacts. It will provide MENARID with tools to be catalytic in action to bring about the successful integration of improved land and water resource management practices on an area-wide basis.

The proposed cross-cutting MSP relates to component IV of MENARID dealing with knowledge management, sharing and upscaling of best practices. It is designed to ensure that MENARID operations are monitored and evaluated in a coherent and systematic manner. The key barriers and bottlenecks addressed in this MSP are related to knowledge management, institutional limitations, and sectoral (cross-sector integration). Assessing the impact of INRM measures and actions is challenging. The complexity of INRM interventions requires a more holistic approach to impact assessment, beyond the local levels and beyond traditional analysis of economic returns. Impact assessment for INRM combines the traditional "what" and "where" factors of economic and environmental priorities with newer "who" and "how" aspects of social actors and institutions.

Besides their direct application to the projects under MENARID umbrella, results from cross-cutting M&E system will also contribute to the growing global knowledge on INRM and land degradation and desertification processes. In particular, they will report on the costs of effectiveness of the institutional model for INRM, desertification control, and the requirements for upscaling these procedures to other countries in the MENA region.

The proposed MSP will build on existing M&E systems, platforms of knowledge management, and approaches of information dissemination used for natural resources management to aggregate impact indicators, streamlining the M&E functions across MENARID portfolio and disseminate good INRM practices in MENA region. The structure of the M&E systems to be developed should be flexible and easily adaptable for applying to a mix of interventions that might differ between projects to reflect national development objectives and stakeholders' priorities, including those of land users and local government. Harmonised M&E feedback allows the GEF to track progress in fulfilling its mission of delivering global environmental benefits in the concerned focal areas.

GEF projects are more likely to capitalize on their innovative and catalytic role when they are fully integrated with results-based management and where management activities are based on feedback from systematic monitoring and evaluation findings. Monitoring and evaluation processes can help strengthen partnerships, participation, and ownership around GEF projects and concerns, which are essential principles of GEF operations and policies. Consequently, the GEF will emphasize the quality of monitoring and evaluation systems and ensure that their findings are disseminated widely.

The MSP has four interlinked components responding to a combination of GEF 4 under the LD Focal Area strategic thrusts and the main needs. The descriptive types of activities will facilitate the preparation process for developing a system wide approach to addressing transversal monitoring and evaluation across activities of INRM projects conducted under MENARID programme.

Component 1. Tools and approaches for streamlined M&E functions for INRM within the MENARID framework: This component will capitalise on existing systems to generate harmonised monitoring and evaluation procedures across the MENARID programme. It will build on the existing indicators in these systems to suggest ways for harmonisation and identify a core set of indicators including, in addition to those of the GEF, other relevant existing criteria that will be chosen and agreed upon during project design and implementation.

This programme-wide M&E system will be developed in accordance and harmony with established GEF procedures. This will be provided by a structure to be implemented by IFAD with support from sister agencies and from GEF. Performance and impact indicators will be defined for project implementation along with their corresponding means of verification. The MSP will synergize with existing M&E systems, particularly through linking with the national

systems, particularly M&E tools and maps developed for North African countries and supported by the European Union (e.g. the SCIDE³ project).

The aligned cross-cutting M&E system will provide common guidelines to assist all projects in the MENARID portfolio for systematic assessment of their performance and impact based on common and standard basis, with a view to maximizing them and aggregating data. The system will provide common principles for continuous and periodic review and a feedback loop for operations to report on progress toward regional program results.

One of the main expected benefits from this cross-cutting programme-wide M&E, is to reduce transaction costs for M&E functions across the GEF portfolio in the region. In addition, the MSP will offer opportunities for systematic mutual learning, knowledge building, and dissemination, which will drive replication in a variety of contexts, at both the regional and country level (*Component 2*).

Component 2. INRM Knowledge Management Platform: Knowledge, along with commitment and capacity, is one of the three pillars of sustainable natural resource management. Access to good information and knowledge is paramount to the success of processes at regional and global levels. Supporting learning, innovation, and application of what is already known, is fundamental to progress towards more sustainable management of land, water, biodiversity resources and climate change adaptation. Barriers to knowledge exchange in the area of INRM in MENA include fragmentation of information, overwhelming volume of information, access to information, relevance, not enough information sharing, lack of opportunity for two-way flow of information. The project will investigate and test ways to improve knowledge connections (in all directions) among MENARID projects and between these projects and national programmes. Hence, a Knowledge Management (KM) platform should be tied to organisational objectives and is intended to achieve specific outcomes. All GEF-funded projects and activities under MENARID should contribute to the INRM Knowledgebase. The knowledgebase comprises: (i) expertise, skills, and research results; (ii) facts and information, reports on programme impacts and activities, and other data; (iii) awareness or familiarity gained by experience of a fact or situation; acquired through individual INRM projects within MENARID and elsewhere.

The proposed KM platform will be designed as an interactive system for sharing information and knowledge about participatory INRM and its sustainability in the MENA region. It should provide relevant documents and case studies as well as information such as contact database of projects and organisations, news and announcements of events, relevant web links, a gallery of useful resource materials, a forum for online discussions, and a free Web hosting service.

Knowledge and information are intertwined. Effectively managing information includes making use of the results and knowledge generated in individual projects elsewhere in the region. Hence, an important aspect of Knowledge Management is the knowledge transfer (KT). Mechanisms for translating existing and new knowledge into practice should be a key strategic objective of the platform. The platform should establish a more coordinated approach to knowledge management on INRM.

The platform will be fundamentally based on strong and dynamic cooperation through linkages among GEF agencies and through exchanges and synergies among countries and projects. This component will support the following activities: (i) Create Knowledge Management (KM) platform including a range of practices to identify, create, represent, and distribute knowledge for INRM. (ii) Investigate information technology to support the regional knowledge system and sharing mechanisms to facilitate the transfer and information exchange. Developing a supportive knowledge-sharing and learning infrastructure will include among others, web sites and e-forums to support and strengthen knowledge sharing, learning processes and promote innovation networks based on participatory/community-driven and iterative approaches. This will support knowledge sharing among projects partners and GEF agencies within and outside the region, as well as with other players working on natural resources management and degradation issues. It will identify the knowledge holders across projects and motivate them to share by fostering partnerships for broader knowledge sharing and learning and by supporting capacity building for accessing and applying knowledge. The proposed KM platform will build on existing systems such as KARIANET.

³ Système de Circulation de l'information sur la Désertification et l'Environnement

Component 3. Strategy for disseminating best and successful INRM practices in the MENA region

The challenge for INRM projects is sustainability. How can people continue to make use of the natural resources and conserve them at the same time? The costs, implications, and commitments required to maintain that balance may vary for each situation, but lessons learned and knowledge and experience gained from other INRM projects can help avoid missteps in crucial areas. Through this component, the proposed MSP will generate mechanisms for spotlighting success stories and develop solutions that should be trialled in other MENARID projects. Application of cross cutting M&E system and KM exchanges addressed in component 1 and 2 will facilitate the identification of lessons and good practices. By developing a dissemination strategy and a replicability approaches, it will facilitate the transfer of experiences, lessons learnt and best practices, thus promoting their replication both at regional and country levels.

Hence, it will devise approaches and methods to comprehensively, monitor, document, scale-up, and replicate innovative cases from proven success stories, effective pilot initiatives and experiences, and best practices identified in the MENARID projects to be managed and promoted under a diversity of situations. This will include strategies to reach out through innovative communications, and promote advocacy strategies to influence policy on key INRM issues with emphasis on addressing the multi-sectoral dimensions of interventions. Furthermore, this component will highlight more understanding regarding the issues related to scaling out and scaling up best INRM practices.

This component includes the following activities: (i) Design canvas for compiling pertinent and best practices and case studies to be up-scaled. (ii) Generate approaches for interventions and solutions for improving sustainable use and integrated management of NR that can inform the policy-making process and (iii) Develop regional dissemination and technology transfer and diffusion strategies for lessons and best practices by linking with other agencies and national established systems such as those developed for NAPCCD.

The global environmental benefits that will be yielded through this MSP are mostly related to its contribution to knowledge capturing, knowledge management and knowledge dissemination with regard to Integrated Natural Resources approaches and investments that generate global benefits while contributing to livelihoods improvement. This MSP will increase cost-effectiveness of GE operations and reduce M&E transaction costs while contributing to better cooperation between GEF projects in the region and beyond.

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

The first benefit of the proposed MSP is reduced transaction costs for M&E functions across the GEF portfolio in the region through avoiding duplications and promoting synergies. The proposed MSP will contribute to improved governance and enhance the effectiveness of public sector organisations and institutions. The system will provide reliable information on the implementation of programmes, facilitate analysis of projects performance, and improve M&E practices. Through the collection and collation, analysis and dissemination and the application of information on the progress and impact of projects and programmes, the system will ensure transparency and accountability; promote service delivery improvement and compliance with statutory and other requirements and a learning culture in the public sector.

By disseminating results through the envisaged KM platform and by linking to other appropriate communication channels (such as the the CoP and CRIC of the UNCCD), the MSP will also contribute to emerging a shared vision and the harmonization of the use of consolidated monitoring and evaluation based on standard indicators in sustainable INRM initiatives at the country level. In such way, the GEF can play an important role in the implementation of the UNCCD. As a result, countries will be able to make better decisions on a strategic and technically sound basis on national efforts for sustainable natural resources management, and particularly for combating land degradation and desertification. In this regard, the proposed shared KM platform and crosscutting M&E system will also provide valuable basic approaches for country Parties to fulfil their obligations under the UNCCD, through efficient implementation and evaluation of NAPCCD and other relevant environmental conventions according to standards and set of commonly recognised criteria. It will also provide an added-value for the countries through improving the quality of the pertinence of technical reporting, as well as adequately evaluating the reporting process and products in order to

extract lessons learnt. It responds to several needs expressed by countries in their NAPCCD, NAPAs and other documents regarding south-south cooperation and exchanges of lessons between stakeholders in the region.

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

The results-based cross-cutting M&E system will provide timely, useful information on progress being made on INRM across MENARID projects portfolio. This information will be channelled to key decision-makers involved in individual projects, the overall MENARID programme, and the broader INRM agenda. The results-based M&E system provides a tool that will generate bases for investment and programme improvement, mutual learning, accountability purposes, and will enhance stakeholder participation.

Results from the proposed project will contribute to the Focal Area Strategies by demonstrating the added-value of MENARID for system wide change, successful up-scaling practices, improved knowledge on INRM. They will also provide additional tools and bases for MENARID to be open to promote cross-focal area synergies. By targeting sustainable integrated management of natural resources as whole, the MSP will contribute to cross-focal area strategies and particularly facilitate linkages between SLM, integrated water resource management biodiversity and climate change.

The proposed cross-cutting MSP relates to component IV of MENARID dealing with knowledge management, sharing and up scaling of best practices. It is designed to ensure that MENARID operations are monitored and evaluated in a coherent and systematic manner. The key barriers and bottlenecks addressed in this MSP are related to knowledge management, institutional limitations, and sectoral (cross sector integration).

In addition to, their direct application to the projects under MENARID umbrella, results from the cross-cutting M&E system will also contribute to the growing global knowledge on INRM, land degradation and desertification processes. In particular, they will report on the costs and effectiveness of the institutional model for INRM, desertification control, and the requirements for up-scaling these procedures to other countries in the MENA region and beyond.

The structure of the systems to be developed need to be flexible and easily adaptable for applying to a mix of interventions that might differ between projects to reflect national development objectives and stakeholders' priorities, including those of land users and local government.

Harmonised M&E feedback allows the GEF to track progress in fulfilling its mission of delivering global environmental benefits in the concerned focal areas. GEF projects are more likely to capitalize on their innovative and catalytic role when they are fully integrated with results-based management and where management activities are based on feedback from systematic monitoring and evaluation findings. Monitoring and evaluation processes can help strengthen partnerships, participation, and ownership around GEF projects and concerns, which are essential principles of GEF operations and policies. Consequently, the GEF will emphasize the quality of monitoring and evaluation systems and ensure that their findings are disseminated widely.

C. OUTLINE THE COORDINATION WITH OTHER RELATED INITIATIVES:

The MSP will build on experiences and lessons learned from similar completed and ongoing (GEF and non-GEF) initiatives within and outside the region. It will capitalise on the ongoing global KM: Land project, a multi-agency effort led by the GEF/UNDP to develop indicators to demonstrate the benefits derived from actions on SLM, and that is intended to lay the foundations for a comprehensive system to track progress across the focal area. It will equally build on national systems in place and those being established for different areas and components of natural resources management, particularly under NAPCCD. The MSP will link to regional networks, platforms and processes (such as KARIANET). The proposed M&E and KM systems will also build on GE agency systems to avoid duplication, promote flexibility and enhance synergies and compatibility of systems.

The approaches of cross-cutting M&E system and KM platform will be shared by all GEF agencies and made available to affected countries and all relevant stakeholders who are interested in linkages with MENARID strategy. Conversely, the knowledgebase on INRM will be continuously updated and enriched through experiences and information gained from agencies and partners.

The consolidate M&E and KM platform to be developed by the proposed MSP will encourage individual projects under MENARID umbrella to build on their interventions with the ongoing work throughout the MENA region. This MSP will allow MENARID to recommend stronger linkages with ongoing efforts to support coordination and establishing donor-country platforms for financing UNCCD, CBD and UNFCCC implementation.

Because the linkages that occur in NRM systems create the need to integrate across spatial and temporal scales, the proposed project will necessary adopt multi-scale approaches to capture this inter-connectivity and off-site effects. Nevertheless, so far there has been insufficient exchange of experiences on strategies and delivery mechanisms among stakeholders. Projects in different countries have followed different approaches towards promoting sustainable INRM, arresting land degradation, combating desertification, and mainstreaming SLM, as a function of their agro-ecological, economic, social, and political environments. By looking at the issues in an integrated way, the MSP will come closer to the partner stakeholders' perspective of their livelihood and their environment. The sharing of experiences is important to enhance the efficiency and scope of INRM investments.

The implementation of the proposed MSP project will involve cooperating and interacting with national institutions, GEF agencies, and other partners. This will facilitate harmonization and alignment of monitoring and evaluation approaches and methods and KM and dissemination in terms of INRM across international programmes and national sustainable INRM priorities. Knowledge will have to flow freely in all directions between MENARID projects partners, and beyond these limits to reach NR managers and policy makers in the MENA region.

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

Without GEF

Barriers to knowledge exchange in the area of INRM include fragmentation of information, overwhelming volume of information, access to information, relevance, not enough information sharing, lack of opportunity for two-way flow of information. MENARID will contribute to ongoing efforts that seek INRM with its major focus on investments on the ground. Designed as such MENARID is likely to generate significant amounts of data and knowledge that will continue like in many other project in the region) to be fragmented and unshared. Individual projects may contribute to knowledge sharing but will need a driver for a wider dissemination across the region and beyond its borders. Furthermore, without this cross-cutting GEF MSP, GEF operations will continue to generate fragmented indicators and data leading to difficulties in aggregating impact and evaluating GE reach and cost-effectiveness of its operations. Without this project, the region will continue to lack necessary incentives, tools and financing for INRM knowledge capturing and dissemination.

With GEF

By offering a coherent approach to knowledge management and sharing of good practices across the region, the proposed project responds to the gap identified during MENARID preparation and provides harmonized M&E system and shared common KM platform. This will ensure a benefit for better interactions, an added-value for consolidated impact monitoring and reporting. By putting emphasis on portfolio-level results, common success indicators, and aligned M&E reporting, the proposed MSP will improve considerably the chances for effectively mainstreaming and scaling up INRM best practices throughout MENA. Through a well-articulated strategic partnership, GEF-supported investments will provide models and actions to be considered by decision makers for up-scaling throughout MENA region.

The MSP scale-up strategy will also delineates the mechanisms for via which sustainable NRM investments will be scaled-up. Result-based M&E data and knowledgebase platform will be valuable bases for a prioritization process through which the MSP will identify the investments that will have the greatest potential for replication and scale-up and therefore ensure efficiency and pertinence of investments. Ultimately, this MSP will significantly lead to increased GE impact and increased impact by GE dollar through wider replication of good practices.

E. INDICATE RISKS, INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS, THAT MIGHT PREVENT THE PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S) FROM BEING ACHIEVED, AND IF POSSIBLE INCLUDING RISK MEASURES THAT WILL BE TAKEN:

Risk	Risk rating	Risk mitigation measure
Insufficient mobilization of resources because of countries and some partners cannot sufficiently secure co-financing in line with the GEF required ratio for the MENARID portfolio	Low	IAs and EAs will stimulate partnerships to maximize co-financing opportunities, and individual MENARID projects will leverage the required resources to co-finance their individual M&E systems
Stakeholders are not sufficiently active in sharing information and are not motivated to be involved in project-level M&E reporting	Low	Capacities will be built for regional management and cooperation at various levels through regional exchanges, forums, workshops, and targeted training within MENARID individual projects. Furthermore stakeholders sensitization information, and participation will be promoted through web-based forums and user friendly
Inadequate technical capacity devoted to information gathering and management	Medium	Linkages will be established with existing experiences dealing with institutional strengthening. Individual MNEARID project will ensure that adequate training on M&E modalities is provided when needed

F. DESCRIBE, IF POSSIBLE, THE EXPECTED COST-EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROJECT:

The first benefit of the MSP arises from the strategic regional portfolio approach to investing in MENA in INRM under the MENARID, a GEF strategic partnership framework. The primary underlying principle of MENARID programming framework is looking at cost-effective options that would lead to a maximum impact on the global environment per each GEF dollar. The proposed MSP will support MENARID to provide options that are firstly cost-effective, that do not generate high transactions costs and that do minimize overlaps and duplications of activities and interventions.

Coordinated M&E functions will improve efficiency of individual projects. Through harmonised M&E and efficient knowledge sharing and scaling up of success stories, cost-effectiveness MENARID programme will identify ways and means to maximize the impact of GEF interventions on both people and ecosystems in a targeted manner. Individual projects will systematically ensure that their operations are cost-effective and impact-oriented.

The MSP will provide the vehicles to transfer the coherent body of knowledge and processes built through MENARID portfolio across borders and to decision makers, allowing for cross-country and sub-regional comparison. The MSP provides a strong mechanism for cooperating with a wider array of potential types of partners while helping align their efforts around a common goal, and across sectors. The main expected benefit from the harmonised programme-wide M&E and KM platform is reduced transaction costs for M&E functions across the GEF portfolio in the region. A regional approach allows best cost savings such as through reduced transaction costs for countries and GEF agencies, as expectations and goals become more transparent, economies of scale that can be harnessed as replication of successful models ramps up.

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

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S):
(Please attach the [country endorsement letter\(s\)](#) or [regional endorsement letter\(s\)](#) with this template).

Not Applicable	
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B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for project identification and preparation.	
Khalida Bouzar GEF Coordinator, PMD IFAD 	Naoufel Telahigue Project Contact Person, PMD IFAD
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