

SFM IP DSL: List of Child Projects

Angola

Botswana

Burkina Faso

Kazakhstan

Kenya

Malawi

Mongolia

Mozambique

Namibia

Tanzania

Zimbabwe

Global

GEF-7 CHILD PROJECT CONCEPT

CHILD PROJECT TYPE: FULL-SIZE PROJECT

PROGRAM: IP SFM DRYLANDS

Child Project Title:	Land and natural resource degradation neutrality and community vulnerability reduction in selected Miombo and Mopane Ecoregions of Angola (Okavango and Cunene river basin).
Country:	Angola
Lead Agency	FAO
GEF Agency(ies):	FAO
Total project cost (GEF Grant):	\$ 5,359,633
Total Co-financing:	\$32,000,000

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Country Context

Describe the country's relevant environmental challenges and strategic positioning relative to the systems transformation proposed for the program, including relevant existing policies, commitments, and investment frameworks. How are these aligned with the proposed approach to foster impactful outcomes with global environmental benefits?

Angola is rich in forest-related biodiversity and has some 8,000 species of plants, of which 1,260 are endemic.¹ About 53 million hectares of land are considered to be forests, 45.4% forming the Miombo woodlands. Together with Mopane, Miombo is one of five key ecosystems among global biodiversity hotspots requiring conservation or restoration due to their irreplaceable endemism ([here](#)). The Miombo woodlands within the Okavango and Cunene basins support the livelihoods of an estimated 2.6 million inhabitants, e.g. small-scale farmers, pastoralists and small-scale fishermen, and provide a vast amount of NTFPs, fuel wood and construction materials.

Miombo woodlands are being depleted in Angola at a fast pace (see [Section a](#)). The main direct drivers for land degradation and the loss of related ecosystem services are the expansion of agriculture, charcoal production, overgrazing accelerated by population pressure and the associated demand for food and other services, and the expansion of settlements ([here](#)). IPCC scenarios have projected an increase of mean annual temperatures by 1.2 to 3.2°C by the 2060s, and climate models predict more extreme weather events, an expansion of semi-arid regions, seasonal shifts in rainfall and increased wildfires². According to the Angolan NAPA (2011) the major sectors identified as affected by climate change include agriculture and food security, forests and biodiversity, and water resources.

Angola's LDN strategy approved in 2018 ([here](#)) aims at aligning national efforts providing the foundation for the proposed intervention. Various sectoral policies promulgated will be leveraged, including the country's Land Law (09/04), Territorial Planning Law (03/04), Agrarian Development Law (15/05), Environmental Law (5/98), and Law on Forest (6/17). LDN 2030 targets, as compared to year 2015 baselines, propose to significantly reduce the degradation of farmland and ecosystems, and a significant reduction in the deforestation rate and GHG emissions from the 'LULUCF sector'. LDN targets, along

¹ FOSA Country Report (FAO)

² INDC, 2015

with the PDN policies, equally propose to bring SLM awareness and information to farmers, improve water availability and promote sustainable practices in related practices.

The intervention will support the government towards achieving the defined LDN targets and implementing the LDN strategy, and has therefore drawn political will, multi-sectoral interests and commitments. The strengthened national policy and capacity on LDN and the empowerment of stakeholders on SLM/SFM planning pursued by the intervention will have a positive impact beyond the target landscapes. The upscaling and mainstreaming of SLM/SFM investments in a coordinated fashion and the creation of transboundary synergies with Namibia (and other Miombo countries participating in the DSL IP) will have a positive long-term impact on a part of the country where LD is a critical issue. The direct contribution to the Great Green Wall Initiative and the SADC Sub Regional Action Programme to combat desertification will ensure an impact at larger ecosystem level.

Project Overview and Approach (maximum 1250 words)

- a) Provide a brief description of the geographical target(s), including details of systemic challenges, and the specific environmental threats and associated drivers that must be addressed;**

The project covers two landscapes in the south and centre of Angola: the Okavango and Cunene river basins that are partially shared with Namibia ([Map](#)). Miombo and Mopane woodlands comprise a total of 81% (205,223 km²) of the area. The Okavango landscape stretches across four Provinces (Huambo, Bié, Huila, Kuando, Kubango, Moxico) covering 213,123 km². It contains the source of the Okavango and Cunene rivers and is characterized by Central Zambebian Miombo woodlands (83%) which is experiencing increased pressure due to an expansion of crop and grasslands. The Cunene river basin landscape in the south (Cunene Province) is mainly covered by Mopane woodlands (82%) and stretches into northern Namibia. Arid grassland is the dominant land cover, primarily used by agro-pastoralists for grazing.

According to a detailed assessment conducted for the development of the DSL IP's Expression of Interest (EoI), a total of 717,274 ha of the original tree cover of 16,105,840 ha was lost between 2000 to 2017 and converted to cropland and pasture. Cropland increased by 5% from 1995 to 2015 mainly north west of the Okavango landscape (converted from forest land) and in the central and western part of the Cunene basin (converted from grassland) with an area of 741,092,283 ha. Additionally, the reduction of communal rangelands due to the expansion of private enclosures for livestock production and agriculture coupled with land degradation especially in the Cunene basin increases conflicts between farmers and livestock keepers ([Maps](#)).

The project will address the challenges for integrated landscape management and transformative change by: building institutional capacity for integrated landscape planning (across sectors and trans-frontier), enabling multi-stakeholder coordination (national level and across border) and through the empowerment & capacitation of stakeholders (SLM/SFM/IWRM) combined with conflict resolution (livestock keepers and farmers) and diversified livelihood opportunities.

b) Describe the existing or planned baseline investments, including current institutional framework and processes for stakeholder engagement, and gender integration;

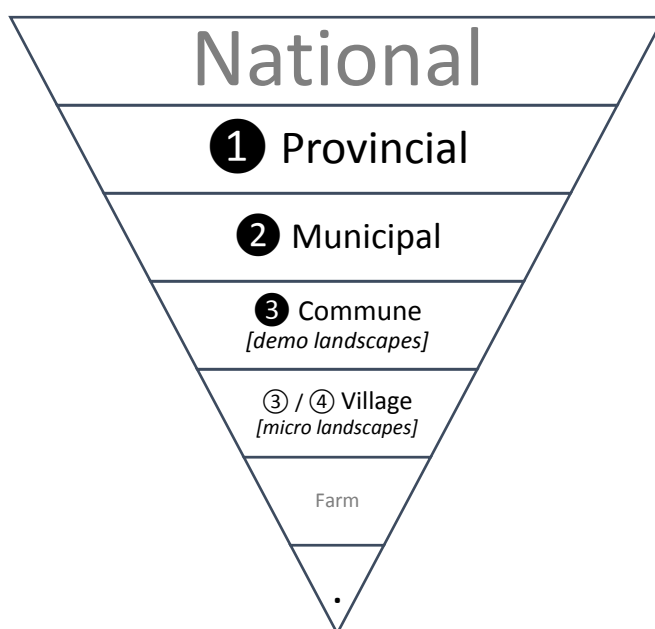
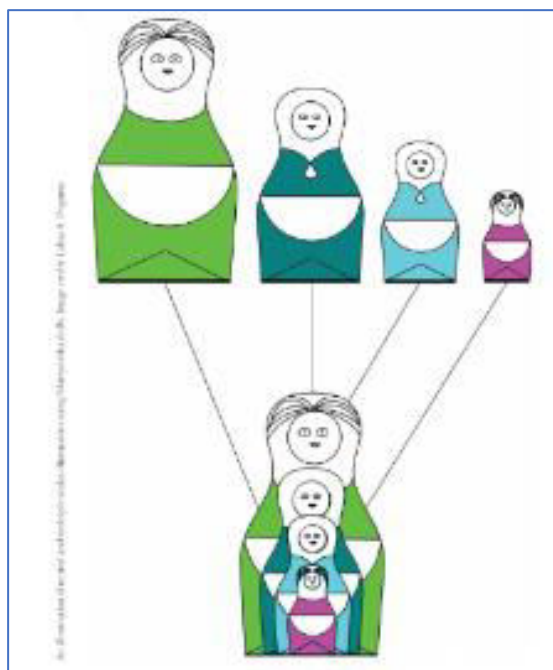
The project will draw on existing investments oriented to support small scale agriculture in the Miombo and Mopane ecoregions: The National Development Plan, including (i) Climate Change - combating desertification and promotion of SLM and SFM (US\$ 15M); (ii) Promotion of Agriculture Production (US\$5M); (iii) Sustainable Forest Management (US\$10M); and IFAD's Agriculture Recovery Project (US\$2M). Other planned investments that can provide sources of co-financing will be sought at PPG phase.

Various sectoral policies promulgated by the Angolan Government will be leveraged, including the Land Law (09/04), Territorial Planning Law (03/04), Agrarian Development Law (15/05), Environmental Law (5/98), Law on Forest (6/17), Presidential Decree on the Master Plan for the Cubango Basin Water Resources (27/16) and Cunene Generic Plan (2001), "Sustainable Environment Policy", and the "Production Promotion, Imports Substitution and Exports Diversification Policy" programmes.

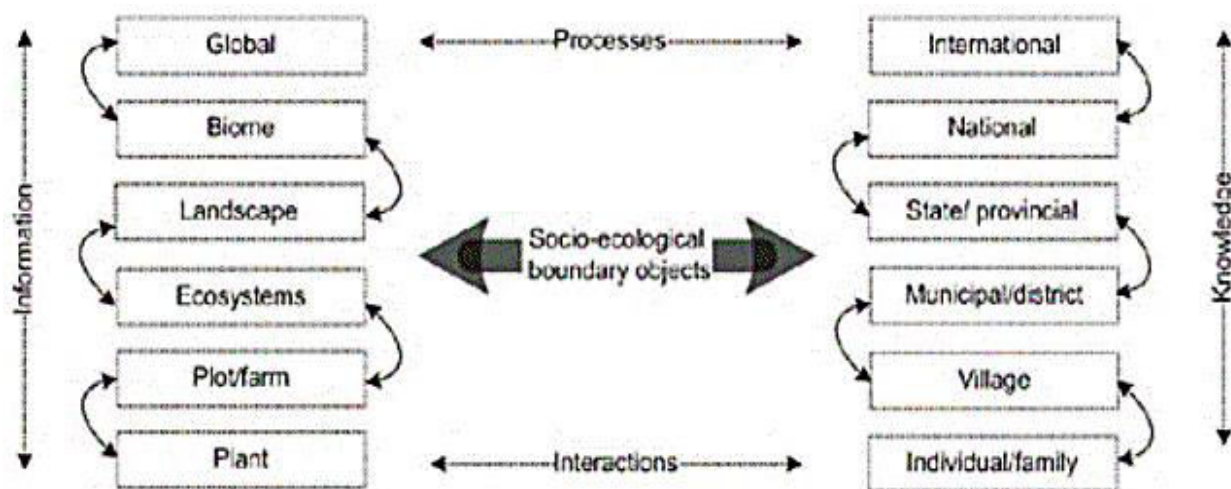
Project activities will be coordinated by the Climate Change Cabinet within the Ministry of Environment, the custodian of the LDN process and the leading agency for past experiences in SLM and spatial planning. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, and the Ministry of Energy and Water will be co-implementing partners. Technically, the Centre of Tropical Ecology and Climate Change (CETAC), under the Ministry of Environment (MINAMB) will provide a country-level hub in domain for integrated landscape planning and management. A 'nested approach' to landscape level management will ensure the effective engagement of relevant stakeholders at all the required levels as illustrated in Box 1 and 2 (below). The [Green Negotiated Territorial Development](#) will be applied to ensure the comprehensive involvement of all actors in the targeted landscape and to mitigate conflicts.

Box 1. The tiered nested approach to spatial planning and landscape-level management for SLM

The tree to four nested scales (or levels) that apply to the project, as follows:



Schematic illustration of interactions and interrelations among ecological and jurisdictional scales in a nested approach to landscape-level management



Source for the above figures (except for the inverted pyramid): Minang, P. A., Duguma, L. A., Alemagi, D., & van Noordwijk, M. (2015). Scale considerations in landscape approaches. In Minang, P. A., van Noordwijk, M., Freeman, O. E., Mbow, C., de Leeuw, J., & Catacutan, D. (Eds.) *Climate-Smart Landscapes: Multifunctionality in Practice*, 121-133. Nairobi, Kenya: World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF).

Box 2. Three tiers within the nested approach to landscape level management applied in the project



The PPG phase will further carry out a participatory stakeholder mapping, a capacity needs assessment, representative household surveys and focused group discussions. Gender analysis and gender-responsive project design and implementation will be key to the DSL IP's success. The project will address existing gaps regarding the limited access of women to productive forest resources and employment opportunities, investing in their technical and leadership skills so that they can better participate in decision-making and fully benefit from the project's interventions.

- c) Describe how the integrated approach proposed for the child project responds to and reflects the Program's Theory of Change, and as such is an appropriate and suitable option for tackling the systemic challenges, and to achieve the desired transformation with multiple global environmental benefits.**

The project will address the main barriers behind dryland degradation that are common to the countries sharing the Okavango and Cunene basins within the DSL/IP (three are highlighted)³: (i) poorly harmonized sectoral policies and land use plans in the basin countries (Angola and Namibia), particularly with respect to CC adaptation and the integration of poverty reduction and SNRM, and lack of enforcement due to weak institutional capacity and resources; (ii) weak trans-frontier cooperation for participatory planning, implementation and monitoring at the landscape level of sustainable and climate-resilient land uses and management systems; (iii) scarcity of technically specialized human resources and existing HR with limited access to knowhow on technical options to stop and reverse maladaptive practices leading to the degradation of land and forest resources.

³ A refined ToC will be prepared jointly with all relevant stakeholders during the PPG phase.

The project will strategically address these challenges by: (i) creating enabling conditions at local, national and regional scale by not only putting in place decision support systems geared towards sustainable land use management and cross-sectoral collaboration, but also by strengthening and harmonizing LDN related frameworks; (ii) supporting, including through improved extension services, the sustainable management of dryland landscapes containing mosaics of forests, rangelands and agricultural systems, in which viable and ecologically sustainable value chains can thrive, strengthening livelihoods and generating multiple benefits to communities, women and youth in particular; and (iii) ensuring transboundary cooperation through SADC for the above.

The project will lead to the achievement of the following GEB: (i) 546,500ha of multi-use landscapes (including forests, rangelands and croplands) come under improved management practices; and (ii) - 8.46 million tCO₂-e sequestered over twenty years. Local/national benefits: improved livelihoods for 18,000 beneficiaries in the target landscapes, of which 50% women.

d) Describe the project's incremental reasoning for GEF financing under the program, including the results framework and components.

The baseline scenario includes primarily a recurrent government investment channelled through the revolving National Development Plan (currently for 2018-2021 cycle to be renewed). Baseline investments also include interventions by development partners such as WB, IFAD, AfDB and EC. The Okavango and Cunene river basins harbour thriving agrarian communities, with potential for leveraging private sector investments (if not as co-financing, then as baseline).

The alternative scenario includes the GEF investment and it will both contribute to local development and address the combined SLM/SFM challenges, taking the transboundary aspect with Namibia into consideration. The project has three components:

Component 1 will strengthen the national capacity for decision-making at the landscape level. This will allow stakeholders to hold informed dialogues on spatial planning, investment options and resource allocation and management for sustainability. Opportunities for implementing and integrated landscape planning will be based on evidence from SLM, SFM and Agroecology practices, duly compiled and shared, including through collaborative transboundary platforms. The capacity of stakeholders will also be strengthened through targeted training of primarily governmental institutions in Southern Angola, CSOs and local communities.

Component 2 will support: (i) participatory and innovative learning processes on NRM and value chain development, involving community groups, land users and extension agents, and stressing the agriculture-livestock-forestry linkages to prevent the combined negative impact of fire/overgrazing/firewood collection on the hydrology and land resources of the two basins; (ii) the upscaling of best practices on SLM/SFM for the sustainable intensification of productive land, making use of agro-ecological approaches, crop diversification, community-based forestry and sustainable rangeland management (building upon a network of FFS/APFS and FFF); and (iii) the establishment/strengthening of commodity value chains for the production, processing and marketing of climate-resilient diversified crops, charcoal and NTFPs to promote integrated livelihood systems based on economic diversification.

Component 3 will promote shared and reflective learning thanks to a comprehensive knowledge-sharing strategy benefitting from the Global Coordination Project structures and regional platforms (e.g. SADC GGWI, the Miombo Network as well as the Science and Policy Interface established by the GEF-6 Integrated Approach Pilot (IAP) Food Security Programme), which will facilitate the collection and dissemination of best practices. Special synergies will be created with the transboundary interventions in Namibia. The component will include a sound system for monitoring and assessment of landscape level impacts and reporting on GEBs and SDG15 targets.

Engagement with the Global / Regional Framework (maximum 500 words)

Describe how the project will align with the global / regional framework for the program to foster knowledge sharing, learning, and synthesis of experiences.

Being part of a joint submission from a coalition of six southern African countries⁴ ([Map](#)) the project will contribute to the SFM IP's overall vision to maintain the ecological integrity of the Miombo and Mopane woodlands (across borders). This will be achieved through DSL-IP interventions at country level that are well coordinated at the regional level. The child project's framework is therefore closely aligned with the DSL IP's global framework and ToC as well as harmonized with that of the other five Miombo/Mopane child projects. This will facilitate the sharing of evidence-based good practices and adaptive learning across the country initiatives, which will be done through the relevant global (e.g. Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems, of the Committee on Forestry, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, the Global Landscapes Forum, the Global Soils Partnership, and the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies) and regional (e.g. SADC GGWI, Miombo Network and the GEF-6 IAP Policy and Science Interface) knowledge and exchange structures. The Angola child project will actively "feed" and share knowledge to the global and regional platforms, while benefiting from recent scientific knowledge and global best practices provided by the platforms in return. Moreover, the child project will use part of the DSL IP incentive to "access" additional services provided by the global project on demand and adaptive basis (e.g. in the form of technical assistance) to support the child project(s) in achieving the anticipated impact at (ecosystem) scale. For that purpose, common management challenges across the DSL IP's three components that lead to the degradation of the Miombo and Mopane ecosystem will be jointly identified and prioritized by Angola and the other countries in this region. The process will be facilitated by SADC in alignment with relevant regional strategies and frameworks, on-going as well as planned investments. The regional hub will further provide opportunities for effective knowledge sharing between the countries (e.g. through study tours and exchange visits for peer to peer learning), aligning tools and approaches for ecosystem-level impact monitoring as well as sustainable and innovative financial mechanisms and market opportunities for scaling-up INRM/SLM/SFM approaches.

Effective knowledge exchange at the country level will primarily be facilitated through the network of Agroecological Centers (AECs) in tandem with CETAC. The AECs will channel the spatial (LDN) planning products provided by CETAC to the FFS/APFS and FFF network (local level) while collecting evidence based good practices (SLM/SFM) back to CETAC for a refined spatial planning and decision making (policy level). The FFS and APFS will further be connected to the global and regional network which will facilitate the sharing of evidence based good practices tailored to the specific needs.

⁴ Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Malawi, Angola (note: discussions with the World Bank and the government of Mozambique about the strategic inclusion of the DSL IP Mozambique child project in the Miombo/Mopane cluster under SADC will be carried out during the PPG).

GEF-7 CHILD PROJECT CONCEPT

CHILD PROJECT TYPE: FULL-SIZE PROJECT

PROGRAM: IP SFM DRYLANDS

Child Project Title:	Integrated sustainable and adaptive management of natural resources to support land degradation neutrality and livelihoods in the Miombo-Mopane landscapes of North-east Botswana
Country:	Botswana
Lead Agency	FAO
GEF Agency(ies):	FAO
Total project cost (GEF Grant):	\$ 5,354,587
Total Co-financing:	\$ 67,114,640

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Country Context

Describe the country's relevant environmental challenges and strategic positioning relative to the systems transformation proposed for the program, including relevant existing policies, commitments, and investment frameworks. How are these aligned with the proposed approach to foster impactful outcomes with global environmental benefits?

The Mopane-Miombo ecoregion of northern Botswana comprise a mosaic of woodlands and rangelands that fulfil various eco-system services, maintaining higher carbon stocks and soil fertility, controlling soil erosion, supporting hydrological cycles and farming systems. Further, the region hosts globally significant protected areas and biodiversity, resulting in eco-tourism being one of the most important sources of revenue of Botswana. These woodlands are also the part of the country where most of forest and land degradation occur, mainly due to the expansion of crop land, the unsustainable growth of livestock, the overharvesting of NTFP, the expansion of settlements, and uncontrolled fires. Forest cover in Botswana has declined from 23.6 % in 1990 to 19.7 % in 2010¹. The main identified drivers of degradation are the increase in population and the widespread economic inequity and poverty of rural communities, which will likely be exacerbated by the negative impact of climate change –increased drought, heat waves and decreased annual rainfall.

The Government of Botswana sees this project as a strategic opportunity to achieve an impact at scale by: (i) mainstreaming LDN in its policy and strategic framework; (ii) developing LDN, SLM, SFM capacity across sectors, and (iii) scaling up sustainable dryland management practices through integrated landscape plans. The project will be part of a wider regional program implemented in six southern African countries² to maintain the ecological cross-boundary integrity of the Miombo and Mopane woodlands ecoregion, one of the most extensive (2.7 million km²) and threatened forest formations in Africa ([Map](#)).

The proposed intervention will directly contribute to various national development strategies, including: National Development Plan 11 (2017-2023); Vision 2026; Climate Smart Agriculture Program (2015-2025); Forest Conservation Strategy (2013-2020) Policy; NDC; Community Based Natural Resource

¹ 2013 Botswana Environment Statistics

² Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Malawi, Angola

Management Policy, NBSAP (2016). It will strategically mainstream CC adaptation in the integrated landscape management approach.

The integrated landscape management approach will involve the sustainable intensification of production systems and restoration of natural resources in two target landscapes so as to guarantee vital ecosystem services and tackle key externalities. The project will also create a conducive environment for SLM/SFM by supporting the development of a sound LD framework at the central level. The envisaged sustainable management of the landscapes - including the safeguarding of the ecosystem services they depend on-will increase the resilience and livelihoods of communities including the land tenure rights and issues, while decreasing the pressure on biodiversity and ecosystem integrity in the protected areas close to the productive lands.

The improvement of the policy and governance system at multiple levels and the development of knowledge management and monitoring schemes embedded in the wider regional framework will have a positive impact beyond the target landscapes. The implementation of integrated management plans will inspire similar future exercises in the country. The linkage with GGWI/SADC will ensure impact at a larger ecosystem level.

Project Overview and Approach (maximum 1250 words)

- a) Provide a brief description of the geographical target(s), including details of systemic challenges, and the specific environmental threats and associated drivers that must be addressed;**

The project area covers two landscapes ([Map 1](#)) in the Miombo/Mopane belts of Botswana ([Map 2](#)): (i) The Chobe landscape lies within the Okavango Basin, bordering Namibia and Zimbabwe, with a surface of 14,262 km² and a population of 18,791, including Chobe NP and six forest reserves of global conservation significance. The Makgadikgadi landscape bordering Zimbabwe has a surface of 69,360 km² and a population of 244,894. The area is located in the Makgadikgadi Wetland System, surrounded by the Makgadikgadi/Nxai NP.

In the Chobe landscape, the rural economy revolves around small-scale farming, with a cattle population of 8,000 and 2,118 ha of crop production, collection of veld products, and revenues from the tourism sector and commercial farming. In the Makgadikgadi Landscape, livestock rearing is practiced by 222 holdings (254,784 cattle, goats and sheep). Crop production (maize, sorghum, beans) is practiced by 7,748 smallholder farms, accounting for 27,283 hectares³. Natural resource harvesting - NWFP in season for food and medicinal use - contributes to a third of the disposable income in the selected areas.

Based on a detailed assessment of land degradation in the targeted landscapes ([Maps](#)), a total of 852,758 ha of tree cover was converted to cropland and pasture (2000 to 2017). The cropland area increased by 9% (1995 to 2015) of which 267,630 ha is mosaic cropland and 470,464 ha rainfed. A total of 17% of the area (1,455,125 ha) is affected by declining productivity. The identified direct causes for degradation are: expansion of crop land, overstocking/overgrazing, overharvesting (NWFP) and uncontrolled fires. In the Chobe landscape the expansion of settlements is an additional driver for degradation. The increase in population and effects of CC are expected to aggravate land degradation

³ Botswana Agricultural Census Report 2015

(Table). The likely impacts of climate change could increase drought conditions by between 10 and 28 days annually.

The project will address the challenges for integrated landscape management to enable a system change: enhanced trans-frontier cooperation through the KAZA trans-frontier conservation initiative; improved/enforced policies, effective governance mechanism and institutional capacity for integrated LU planning, multi-stakeholder coordination (across border); empowerment & capacitation of stakeholders for the adoption of SLM/SFM systems and technologies; and the provision of investments to restore/sustainable manage the landscape and diversify livelihoods.

b) Describe the existing or planned baseline investments, including current institutional framework and processes for stakeholder engagement, and gender integration;

The project will draw on existing and planned investments within the agriculture and land degradation sectors, supporting key dryland commodity value chains.

Baseline investments: (i) Zambezi Agro-Commercial Development Program (ZADP) (MoA, 2017-2023, budget \$39,500,000); (ii) National Land Degradation Assessment, Monitoring and Restoration Project (MENT, 2017-2023 budget \$1,000,000); (iii) Operationalization of the SADC Regional Agricultural Policy (RAP) funded by the European Commission with a budget of \$7,050,640; (iv) Ka-Za Phase III (€15,5M commitment by the German Government through KfW to SADC); (v) Wildlife Borehole Drilling and Water Reticulation project (WBDWR) (MENT, 2017-2023, budget \$1,170,000); (vi) Assistance in promoting the Savanna Fire Management in Botswana (MENT, 2019-2022 budget \$2,885,000).

During EOI design, governmental counterparts confirmed that the level of investments of the mentioned governmental funding schemes will be maintained in the following funding cycles.

At the policy level, Botswana is committed to LDN TSP and produced a LDN [country profile](#) in 2018. The government has requested the UNCCD Global Mechanism (GM) and FAO to support in the finalization of the LDN target setting and has allocated 1 M USD from the national budget for this process. The project will leverage on this development as well as the country's commitment to the SADC's Action Plan to Combat Desertification, which will promote joint actions on trans-boundary natural resources protection. The Department of Environmental Affairs, the custodian of the LDN, has established necessary cross-sectoral coordination mechanism which will be enhanced and strengthened through the DSL IP.

The PPG phase will carry out a detailed stakeholder mapping, a capacity needs assessment, and will engage the target communities through household surveys and focused group discussions. Gender dimensions will be duly addressed by the project through a comprehensive gender analysis and by ensuring full representation and participation of women in capacity development, landscape management planning, value chain development and income diversification.

c) Describe how the integrated approach proposed for the child project responds to and reflects the Program's Theory of Change, and as such is an appropriate and suitable option for tackling the systemic challenges, and to achieve the desired transformation with multiple global environmental benefits.

The project will address key barriers that prevent achieving socio-ecological resilient conditions in the target landscapes (the following are highlighted⁴): (i) Ineffective policies, enforcement and governance mechanisms to prevent the process of land degradation at the landscape level, in particular as it relates to limiting overgrazing and wildlife-human conflicts in communal areas; (ii) Inadequate conditions for upscaling SNRM practices in project sites, including for leveraging investment in technical and financial capacities for managing drylands sustainably; (iii) Inadequate knowledge and capacities for adopting SNRM and livelihood support systems, including within the wider transboundary landscape.

Overall, the project will address the need for support and investment opportunities to community groups to improve/diversify gender-sensitive, human-wildlife compatible livelihood returns and productivity which is heavily dependent on maladaptive agriculture, overgrazing and overharvesting of veld resources.

The project will lead to the achievement of the following GEB: (i) land restored increased by 3,000 ha; (ii) area under improved management in the two target landscapes increased by 577,000 ha, from which 250,000 ha of forestland under SFM; (iii) 150,000 ha of rainfed mixed crops under conservation agriculture practices, and 150,000 ha of rangeland under sustainable NRM; and (iv) -9.8 million tCO₂-e sequestered in the two target landscapes. Local/national benefits: improved livelihoods for 26,350 beneficiaries in the target landscapes, of which 55% women.

d) Describe the project's incremental reasoning for GEF financing under the program, including the results framework and components.

The baseline scenario includes primarily recurrent government investments and donor-financed initiatives, including a contribution for SADAC which supports the Regional Agricultural Policy.

Beyond the baseline, the GEF project will deliver an alternative scenario, which leverages the GEF investment and will contribute both to local development and to addressing global environmental challenges linked to the management of multi-purpose transboundary landscapes. Three components are foreseen:

Component 1 will enable/empower all concerned actors to establish effective coordination and collaboration on trans-frontier dryland management, strengthen/enforce/harmonize sectoral policies supporting SNRM, climate risk reduction, gender equity, green employment and community businesses. It will also support the development of holistic, participatory landscape management plans, supporting cross-sectoral and multilevel decision support systems to adopt climate-smart land uses and practices in the two landscapes.

Component 2 will create the enabling conditions under integrated landscape management principles for community groups to adopt/upscale best practices on climate-smart agriculture and livestock

⁴ A refined ToC will be prepared jointly with all relevant stakeholders during the PPG phase.

production, fire management in forest/rangeland, NTFP harvesting, and water harvesting to reduce wildlife-human conflicts. The component will also support the development of green value chains promoting the diversification of agroecological food production systems linked to existing/new tourism business, through effective and equitable public-private partnerships. This will allow to increase the ecological, socio-economic and cultural resilience of the target landscapes in an integrated manner, responding to the LDN objectives of Botswana.

Component 3 will take advantage of the Global Coordination Project structures and regional knowledge hubs (e.g. SADC GGWI, Miombo Network as well as the Science and Policy Interface established by the GEF-6 Integrated Approach Pilot (IAP) Food Security Programme) to setup a knowledge management strategy (KMS) to share and disseminate the resulting best practices and facilitate the access and effective use of holistic approaches to combating land degradation in Miombo & Mopane landscape, including: (i) a continuous exchange of knowledge at different levels - local, national, and among the countries of the Miombo initiative; (ii) the use of analytical tools and methodologies on FLR, SLM, SFM, IWM, developed by FAO, IUCN and other international organizations; (iii) and the application of a monitoring system of landscape level impacts harmonized at the regional scale through SADC GGWI.

The project's incremental reasoning is thus summarized: *Without GEF support*, the maximization of productivity and water usage expected from agricultural development projects (ZADP and SADC/RAP) might fail to incorporate sustainability and may not sufficiently seek resource conservation (soil, carbon and water) or strengthen people's and ecosystems resilience (climatic included). This will lead to further over-exploitation of natural resources and degradation of landscapes. Additionally, the KAZA TFCA trans-frontier conservation initiative, WBDWR and the Savanna Fire Management action will require harmonized planning of biodiversity conservation and local development actions, in line with the priorities defined in the governmental commitments to the Rio conventions. *With GEF investment*, this situation can be turned around. The project will complement and increment the financing of the baseline with additional resources to ensure: (i) the mainstreaming of climatic resilience and SNRM into the RAP objectives of technology development and transfer, food security improvement, harmonization of policies, and gender and youth empowerment; (ii) the development of suitable models for water use in agriculture – as well as soil-and-water combined approaches – will be enhanced, following an integrated watershed management approach which is compatible with both wildlife and human needs (reducing the inherent conflict); (iii) the support to investments that upscale/outscale best practices in NRM and the use of climate-proof agro-forestry productive technologies and climate-adaptive species and genetic varieties; (iv) the support to investments in green value chains with gender and youth inclusion, diversification of livelihoods, public-private partnerships, and contribution to the resolution of human-wildlife conflicts mainly the pastoralism which provides many examples and opportunities for sustainable consumption and production, and the development of an inclusive green economy for the targeted landscapes. Finally, the GEF investment will also enable the regional and global components to make an additional contribution through learning, exchanges and KM.

Engagement with the Global / Regional Framework (maximum 500 words)

Describe how the project will align with the global / regional framework for the program to foster knowledge sharing, learning, and synthesis of experiences.

Being part of a joint submission from a coalition of six southern African countries⁵ ([Map](#)) the project will contribute to the SFM IP's overall vision to maintain the ecological integrity of the Miombo and Mopane woodlands (across borders). This will be achieved through DSL-IP interventions at country level that are well coordinated at the regional level. The child project's framework is therefore closely aligned with the DSL IP's global framework and ToC as well as harmonized (as much as possible) with that of the other five Miombo/Mopane child projects. This will facilitate the sharing of evidence-based good practices and adaptive learning across the country initiatives, which will be done through the relevant global (e.g. Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems, of the Committee on Forestry, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, the Global Landscapes Forum, the Global Soils Partnership, and the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies) and regional (e.g. SADC GGWI, Miombo Network and the GEF-6 IAP Policy and Science Interface) knowledge and exchange structures. The Botswana child project will actively "feed" and share knowledge to the global and regional platforms, while benefiting from recent scientific knowledge and global best practices provided by the platforms in return. Moreover, the child project will use part of the DSL IP incentive to "access" additional services provided by the global project on demand and adaptive basis (e.g. in the form of technical assistance) to support the child project(s) in achieving the anticipated impact at (ecosystem) scale. For that purpose, common management challenges across the DSL IP's three components that lead to the degradation of the Miombo and Mopane ecosystem will be jointly identified and prioritized by Botswana and the other countries in this region. The process will be facilitated by SADC in alignment with relevant regional strategies and frameworks, on-going as well as planned investments. The regional hub will further provide opportunities for effective knowledge sharing between the countries (e.g. through study tours and exchange visits for peer to peer learning), aligning tools and approaches for ecosystem-level impact monitoring as well as sustainable and innovative financial mechanisms and market opportunities for scaling-up INRM/SLM/SFM approaches.

The improvement of the policy and governance system at multiple levels (national, district, community) and the development of knowledge management and monitoring schemes embedded in the wider regional framework spearheaded by the GEF-7 initiative will have a positive impact beyond the target landscapes, developing capacity among a broad range of stakeholders. The implementation of integrated management plans will also have a long-term impact on the landscapes, inspiring similar future exercises in other parts of the country. Finally, the linkage with GGWI/SADC and other transboundary schemes like KAZA will ensure an impact at a larger ecosystem level through effective knowledge management.

⁵ Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Malawi, Angola (note: discussions with the World Bank and the government of Mozambique about the strategic inclusion of the DSL IP Mozambique child project in the Miombo/Mopane cluster under SADC will be carried out during the PPG).

GEF-7 CHILD PROJECT CONCEPT

CHILD PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Child Project

PROGRAM: IP SFM Drylands

Child Project Title:	Sustainable Management of Drylands Landscapes in Burkina Faso
Country:	Burkina Faso
Lead Agency	IUCN
GEF Agency(ies):	IUCN
Total project cost (GEF Grant):	\$ 6,680,734
Total Co-financing:	\$ 33,600,000

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Country Context

Describe the country's relevant environmental challenges and strategic positioning relative to the systems transformation proposed for the program, including relevant existing policies, commitments, and investment frameworks. How are these aligned with the proposed approach to foster impactful outcomes with global environmental benefits?

The major environmental problems facing Burkina Faso are (i) the recurrent floods, droughts, strong winds, increased temperature and high variability in the duration of the rainy and dry seasons. and (ii) the advance of the northern desert into the savannah. This trend toward desertification has been increased by overgrazing of pasture, slash-and-burn agriculture, and overcutting of wood for fuel. The proposed project intends to use participatory and multi-sectoral approaches to assist central and decentralised governments and local communities (farmers, pastoralists) with improved knowledge about the landscape perspective of dryland management, strong attitude about the interrelationship between living and non-living components of the landscape and best practices of using ecosystem services. This innovative process has a potential for system transformation as it helps stakeholders to think and apply dryland restoration with a landscape lens, rather than the stand-alone sites restoration actions put in place until now.

The proposed approach is consistent with the existing policy. In fact, Burkina Faso has put in place several policies and strategies (<http://www.onedd-burkina.info/index.php/textes-officiels>) which are supportive to the restoration and participatory sustainable management of land, including forest and dryland. These include the National Plan for Social and Economic Development (PNDES), the National Programme for Rural Sector (PNSR II), the Forest and Environment codes, the Codes of Local Authorities, the Law on Agrarian and Land Reorganization, the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), the INDC and LDN targets and national strategy for eco-villages. Burkina Faso also adopted strategic investment framework for the sustainable land management. This investment framework is receiving support from GEF and other partners in order to reverse the long-term trends of rural land degradation in Burkina Faso.

All these policies and investment framework emphasise the need to increase agropastoral production and population wellbeing while maintaining and/or restoring the ecosystems structures and functions, particularly for dryland. They are well aligned to the proposed proposed approaches to foster impactful outcomes with global environmental benefit. In fact, this project approaches include:

- (i) **Participation** which requires that decision-makers (central and local governments), the project providers (executing agencies, field staff and contractors), beneficiaries (men and women within local community) and private actors share roles and relationships in information flow, resources control and decision making, delivery mechanisms and accountability.
- (ii) **Multiple sectors:** agropastoral, planning, finance (micro) and mobile phone sectors will be integrated at landscape level to ensure that land planning and use for agropastoral activities are improved by the provision of environmental smart loans (finance) and climate and market information (mobile phone).

(iii) **Market-based** which requires that stakeholders for dryland landscape management take into consideration the market prices into the promotion of the agropastoral value chains and ensure that this leads to restoring the productive land and avoiding degradation.

(iv) **Gender-sensitive** which requires that both men and women, and marginalised members of community contribute to sustainable management of dryland and equitably share the benefits derived from.

(v) **Ecosystem-based** which will ensure that the use and/or value of a specific ecosystem service (e.g. agropastoral products for example) does not full deplete other services (e.g. soil formation).

Project Overview and Approach (*maximum 1250 words*)

- a) Provide a brief description of the geographical target(s), including details of systemic challenges, and the specific environmental threats and associated drivers that must be addressed;

In Burkina Faso, drylands cover over 70% of the country size and are used by crop and livestock farmers for their livelihood. Despite their importance, drylands are degraded by a complex combination of climatic stresses (decreased rainfall, increased temperature and high water evaporation) and man-made through unsustainable agriculture techniques, mining and overgrazing. All thirteen administrative regions of Burkina Faso share the same drivers of land degradation, which are more prominent in the dryer regions. In particular, three administrative regions of Burkina Faso (42,463 km²), namely the Northern, Central and the Central-West. The northern region is one of the least forested out of the thirteen administrative regions in Burkina Faso. On the other hand, the central and Central-west regions are relatively endowed in forests than the northern, but these forests are threatened by immigration mostly from Northern region. With erratic rainfall ranging from 400 to 900 mm, these regions share the following features (World Bank, 2010): low soils sustainability, erratic rainfall (from 400 to 900 mm), cold and heat stresses, high densities of human and animal populations, transhumant pastoral farming and sedentary village breeding and agropastoral zones with agricultural dominance, and increasure pressure on natural resources.

In each target region, one landscape is selected (Annex B) to include three types of ecosystems (gropastoral ecosystems, inland water ecosystems and community forests). These ecosystems are known for their importance in delivering several categories of ecosystem services, including supporting services (soil formation, primary production, nutrient cycling, etc.), provisioning services (foods, fresh water, fuel-wood, feed, medicinal plants, etc.) and regulating services (pollination, air and water pollution control, control of erosion, flood control and strong wind, carbon sink, ...). The livelihoods of the populations in the three regions are dominated by crops (millet, sorghum, sesame, market gardening and maize), livestock (cattle, sheep and goat), forests and wildlife. The average land size is estimated at 0,5 ha/person, which make it difficult for these smallholders to improve their livelihoods while maintaining and conserving the ecosystems they rely on. The value chains to be considered are (i) crop (sesame, sorghum and maize) and (2) livestock (cattle and sheep), along with the ecosystems restoration and landscape planning and governance. These value chains players include smallholder agro pastoral producers and private offtakers which are not always operating to support sustainable land management practices which could lead to sustainable value agricultural value chains. This situation creates market-driven land degradation factors.

Overall, the environmental threats to be addressed in the three regions are the unsustainable productive land management planning and practices, the disconnection between the agro pastoral value chains and the ecosystems they are derived from, and erratic climatic conditions. Major drivers of these environmental threats are the increasing vulnerability of the population and ecosystems, the loss of biodiversity, the low income, market driven decision making processes and the lack of landscape perspective in sustainable land management in the target regions of Burkina Faso.

- b) Describe the existing or planned baseline investments, including current institutional framework and processes for stakeholder engagement and gender integration;

Several baseline investments relevant to the proposed project concept are in place. Burkina Faso is participating to the global Forest Investment Programme (FIP) led by the World Bank. The objective of the

FIP is to fight poverty by reducing deforestation and forest degradation and by enhancing their carbon sequestration capacity. The PIF focuses on communication, dissemination of good practices that contribute to reducing pressure on forest resources and enhancing the potential for carbon sequestration through sustainable forest management. It is executed by the International union for conservation of nature (IUCN) and the government of Burkina Faso through the FIE (Environmental Investment Funds), running from 2015-2020. IUCN is also implementing a Sida-funded project (2016-2019) aiming at strengthening the resilience of community depending on forest through capacity development and establishment of forest governance structures, and piloting agro pastoral land and water bodies restoration activities. The government of Burkina Faso through the Directorate General of Water and Forest recently launched a Luxembourg-funded programme on forest management (2018-2021). This programme aims to contribute to the protection and sustainable development of forest and wildlife resources by ensuring a healthy environment for the population through three technical components: (i) sustainable management of forest and wildlife, (ii) environmental governance and sustainable development, and (iii) green economy and climate change. The government of Burkina Faso, with support from several donors, including IFAD, AfDB, JICA, BOAD, World Bank and FAO, is also implementing projects targeting natural resources management, agricultural and livestock sector development to alleviate rural poverty. They also include land restoration and livelihood improvement activities and represent good baseline for this project. In term of institutional frameworks which this project will built on, is the national coordination of the Great Green Wall Initiative (GGWI), whose objective is to strengthen the institutional and organisational capacities for reversing land degradation, strengthening resilience to climate change and conserving biodiversity with a view of greening the national economy. The national gender strategy is a adequate process for stakeholder engagement and gender integration in this project.

- c) Describe how the integrated approach proposed for the child project responds to and reflects the Program's Theory of Change, and as such is an appropriate and suitable option for tackling the systemic challenges, and to achieve the desired transformation with multiple global environmental benefits; and

The project's development objective is to achieve large-scale restoration of dryland landscapes and sustainable livelihoods in Burkina Faso through adoption of sustainable land management practices by rural communities. To do this, This project will support multi-sectoral dialogue and stakeholders' capacity development for landscape planning, management and governance mechanisms. It will work in three landscapes (1 per region) to map and participatory assess the restoration opportunities and strengthen the resource use and managements agreements, including local conventions. It will take into account the interconnectedness of the ecosystems within a landscape and the value chains of the ecosystems services. The proposed project will support the implementation of priority sustainable land management and restoration actions in target landscapes for both individual and community lands/resources. This will be achieved through participatory validation of the SLM and restoration actions, actions to avoid degradation, the integration of value chains with strong interaction with land use and planning processes, the provision of training and social learning actions to land users in sustainable land management and landscape approach to restoration, and the establishment of land degradation baseline and restoration motoring systems. To ensure autonomous and sustainable financing of the landscape restoration approach, the project will closely work with private sector, namely the micro-finance (Réseau Caisses Populaires du Burkina Faso), insurances and offtakers of agricultural products, to include sustainable land management criteria into their financing decision making and their operations. Finally, it will promote eco-villages in the two landscapes.

The combination of participatory and multi-stakeholder techniques will support the identification and implementation of priority sustainable land management at plots and landscape levels for both individual and community lands/resources. This integrated approach of the project is strongly linked to the program's theory of change. In fact, the adoption of sustainable land management practices by rural communities will contribute to increased capacities of dryland stakeholders and institutions in order to achieve to large-scale restoration of dryland landscapes and sustainable livelihoods. The deployment of market- and ecosystem-based approaches will contribute to conditions for innovative and integrated approaches to dryland management, including intersectoral coordination and collaboration, comprehensive land planning and

decision-making, strengthening participation, governance, access and tenure mechanism. Collaborative agreements between multiple stakeholders, namely smallholders and private sector (offtakers, microfinance and insurance), will increase technical and financial capacities for scaling up actions for sustainable land management, resilience to climate change and biodiversity conservation.

- d) Describe the project's incremental reasoning for GEF financing under the program, including the results framework and components.

Without the GEF: Without the GEF: In the absence of GEF funding, activities under the ongoing programmes identified in the baseline scenario will produce predominantly local/national benefits, in the form of sustainable local development and use of natural resources. Their implementation will result in: (a) rural poverty reduction, (b) enhancing empowerment of rural communities to better access and use productive resources; (c) increased agricultural and livestock productions; (d) improved soil and water conservation at farm level; (e) reforestation of degraded agricultural and (f) improved land and water management practices. Although the existing baseline projects will generate significant socio-economic benefits and, to a certain extent, contributes towards an improved perspective of the dryland's environmental problems in Burkina Faso, they do not ensure effective prevention and control of degradation and desertification of these lands. Specifically, the baseline investments would not support market- and ecosystem-based approaches to planning and management of dryland landscape which are needed to sustainably address land degradation, climate change negative impacts and biodiversity loss in drylands.

With the GEF: Building on the existing baseline projects, the proposed project intends to strongly use an integrated and ecosystem-based approach to dryland landscape planning, use and governance. Thus, the GEF will finance the integration of ecosystem restoration actions and actions to avoid degradation into financial and agricultural markets to ensure that market drivers of dryland degradation are incorporated into the complex challenge of managing dryland landscapes to provide multiple benefits to society at local and global levels. It will also address institutional gaps for integrated and sustainable landscape management, including cross-sectoral planning and compliance as well as local level governance of land and land-based resources by rural communities. The rationale of this project is to build on the existing knowledge base, using a landscape and integrated ecosystem management approach as an integrating framework to identify and scale-up relevant sustainable land management technologies and practices in response to specific local landscape degradation issues and characteristics. The project will contribute to implement existing policies and complement ongoing baseline activities in the three administrative regions (Northern, Central and Central-West). In particular, it will provide a system approach for pursuing adoption and upscaling of sustainable land management practices and inclusive governance mechanisms at the local (community), landscape and national and regional levels.

- e) Engagement with the Global / Regional Framework (*maximum 500 words*)

Describe how the project will align with the global / regional framework for the program to foster knowledge sharing, learning, and synthesis of experiences. How will the proposed approach scale-up from the local and national level to maximize engagement by all relevant stakeholders and/or actors?

The proposed project will develop a joint knowledge and learning management systems. Merging knowledge and learning management systems will be key to achieve large-scale sustainable dryland landscape management. Inputs for developing knowledge will be derived from the project result-based M&E and specific studies. A project specific M&E plan will be developed based on the GEF-7 architecture and programming frameworks for each of the target focal areas, and directly related to relevant GEF-7 Core and Sub Indicators and gender-sensitive. Knowledge generated will serve as inputs to developing learning and its management.

The project will develop and implement social learning approach which value the multiple ways that an individual can learn. On the underlying hypothesis that behavior can be changed when an individual has complete control over a situation and when they can realise certain outcomes, social learning theory identifies three groups of factors that determine human behavior: (i) cognitive (knowledge, expectations and attitude); (ii) environmental (social norms, access in community, influence on others) and (iii) behavioral (skills, practice, self-efficiency). In addition to traditional learning process based on training and sensitisation, the project will support learning processes that influence these three groups of behavioral change factors, building of the endogenous learning groups that exist in most local communities in the project intervention regions. Working on these learning processes will support the scaling out of the best practices of sustainable dryland management practices and governance, climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation. The project will also develop a scaling up plan in connection with the national coordination of the Great Green Wall Initiative in Burkina Faso to ensure that lessons derived from this project feed national sustainable land management for climate resilience and biodiversity conservation.

Connexion with the global/regional framework will be done through three components of the global coordination of the Sustainable Dryland Impact program. The project will seek for methodological guidance from the global programmatic coordination and adapt global methods to country project specificities. It will also link up with the programmatic monitoring, information and knowledge management to ensure that project M&E system fits, the information and knowledge generated feed in the global management system and vice-versa. The project outreach and communication plan will be developed and implemented in conjunction with the global outreach and communication of the dryland impact program.

GEF-7 CHILD PROJECT CONCEPT

CHILD PROJECT TYPE: FULL-SIZED CHILD PROJECT

PROGRAM: IP SFM DRYLANDS

Child Project Title:	Kazakhstan Resilient Agroforestry and Rangeland Project
Country:	Republic of Kazakhstan
Lead Agency	WB
GEF Agency(ies):	FAO
Total project cost (GEF Grant):	\$ 6,284,404
Total Co-financing:	\$ 200,000,000

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Country Context

1. **The country's relevant environmental challenges.** According to the Kazakhstan Ministry of Agriculture, 70 percent of the country is considered degraded, including the dried Aral Seabed. Most degraded territories are arid zones with saxaul forests, steppes and agricultural dryland. The forest ecosystem's fragility dictates a cautious policy in the management of this resource. The government is looking to considerably expand the livestock sector on the one hand, and to expand forests and resilient restoration of forest landscapes on the other hand. The proposed project is a timely platform for supporting the government to achieve these multi-sectoral objectives in a coordinated manner.

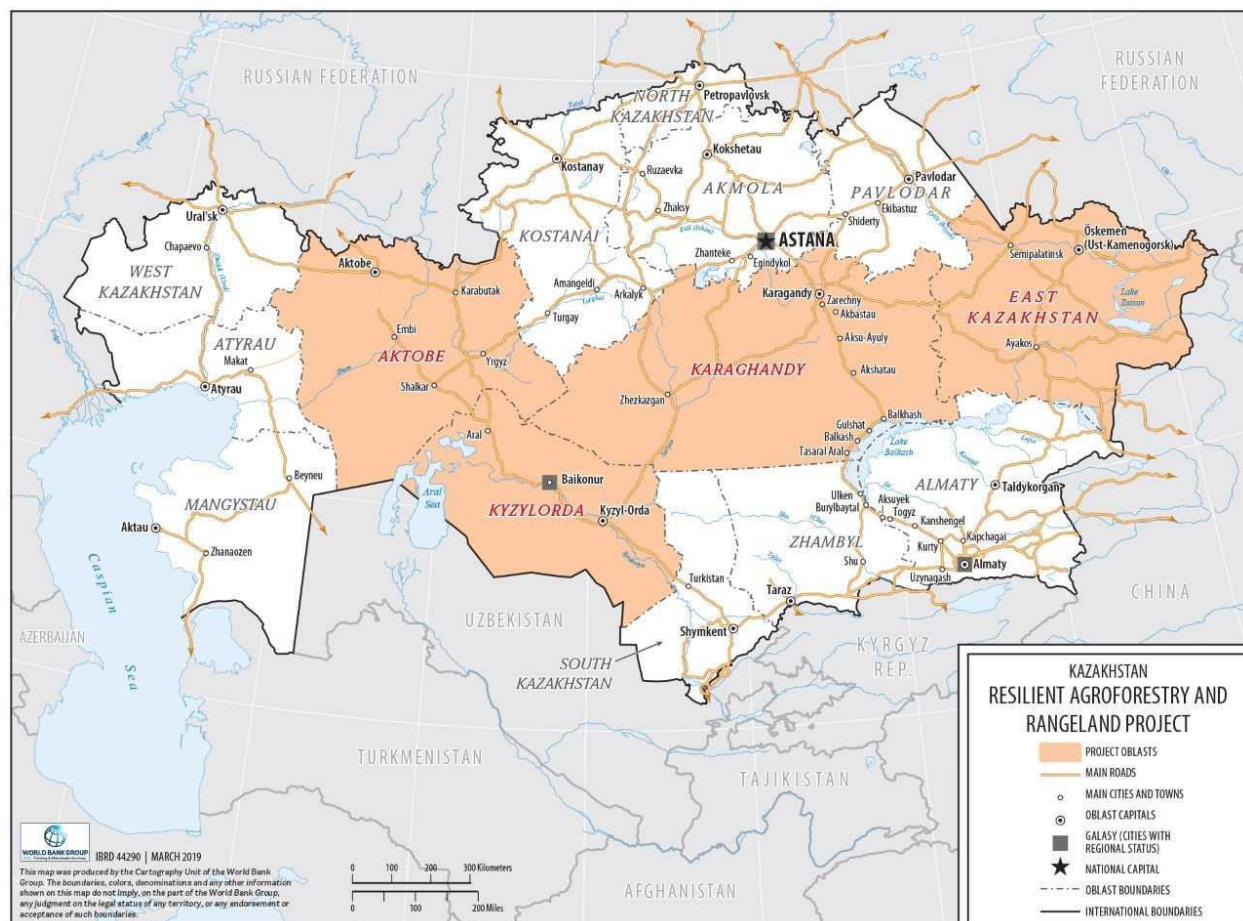
2. **Strategic positioning relative to the systems transformation proposed.** The Concept for Conservation and Sustainable Use of the Biological Diversity of the Republic of Kazakhstan by 2030 looks to increase forest cover from 4.7 to 5 percent of the country's total area by 2030 through reforestation and afforestation; plantations of fast-growing trees; creation of green belts around cities; and planting of 10,000 ha of shelterbelts. In 2017, the "On pastures" Law was introduced with the aim to generate an enabling environment for the development of sustainable pasture managements. These strategies and legislative tools will inform the design of the project and support its delivery. Other key national instruments that will support the implementation of the project are: (a) the "Program for the Development of the Forestry Sector until 2020"; (b) the Strategic Plan of the Ministry of Agriculture for 2018-2021; (c) the national livestock program for 2018-2028; (d) the "Green Bridge" initiative introduced at the Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development, which represents a framework for a shift to a sustainable green energy economy; and (e) the 2050 Strategy on water resource management as a key component of the country's "green revolution".

3. **Kazakhstan is in the process of setting LDN targets.** Two workstreams of the LDN TSP process have been established and are operational, looking at: 1) establishment of an LDN base level; and 2) including LDN targets is selected national policies and commitments. In addition, in 2018 under the Bonn Challenge, Kazakhstan committed to restoring 1.5 million ha of forests by 2030. At the Astana Ministerial Conference in June 2018, Kazakhstan also announced that by 2021 the "green belt" surrounding Astana will exceed 100,000 ha. Under its INDC, the country committed to reducing emissions by 15 percent from 1990 levels. Finally, Kazakhstan's NAP's goals are, *inter alia*, to integrate desertification combating measures into economic and social development, combat and prevent lands from desertification, and maintain their enabling and sustainable condition. Increasing the forest cover

through climate resilient forest and pasture management will play a pivotal role in achieving these targets.

Project Overview and Approach

- a) Provide a brief description of the geographical target(s), including details of systemic challenges, and the specific environmental threats and associated drivers that must be addressed;
4. The project will focus on several of Kazakhstan's dryland areas, mainly in Balkhash in the province of Karaghandy and in the province of Kyzylorda within the Aral Sea basin. Preliminary areas for rangeland activities include Aktope, Karaghandy and East Kazakhstan. The exact sites will be selected based on their degree of degradation, economic potential, capacity of local authorities/communities to carry out activities and accept new tools, biome's diversity and land use type, and avoiding duplication with other initiatives.



5. These areas have undergone widespread conversions from natural steppe and fallow land to agricultural and industrial use since the 1950s with high pressure on conifer and sauxal forests. This has led to a reduced quality of forestry stock and land productivity. Over 48 million hectares of land have become degraded, and up to 36 percent of forests. This has resulted in as much as a 30-60 percent decrease in soil fertility from wind and water erosion, as well as severe dust storms that have covered

up to nine million hectares in some years. The shrinking of the Aral Sea is considered one of the most dramatic examples of a natural area destroyed by human activities: for almost 30 years the use of water for irrigation of the cotton monoculture and heavy application of insecticides, pesticides, herbicides and defoliants have brought not only ecological, economic and social insecurity to the resident population, but also created a critical situation for human health. Pastures have been degraded due to overgrazing and inefficient pasture management.

- b) Describe the existing or planned baseline investments, including current institutional framework and processes for stakeholder engagement and gender integration

6. **Planned baseline investments** are the World Bank-financed Aral Sea Development and Revitalization Project and a Sustainable Livestock Development Project. The Aral Sea Development and Revitalization Project will restore water and environmental functions in the North Aral Sea and delta and catalyze revitalization of economic activities, while the Sustainable Livestock Development Project will enhance the Government's program to facilitate safe, sustainable and inclusive livestock sector by improving the quality of public services, increasing the sustainably managed pasture area and developing the sector along the value chain. The GEF project will be implemented in parallel to these investments and allow an integrated solution that addresses both poverty and global environment dimensions of land degradation. In addition, the baseline comprises parallel financing of GIZ-financed feasibility studies for afforestation pilots of fast-growing plantation as tools to support decision making on afforestation activities in Kazakhstan, and climate risk assessments carried out by the GIZ to inform sub-national adaptation planning.

7. **The institutional framework of the project** comprises the Forestry and Wildlife Committee (FWC) under the Ministry of Agriculture, which will be the project's implementing agency, with key stakeholders being the Ministry of Energy, Ministry of National Economy, the LDN workstreams, other departments of the Ministry of Agriculture and local government offices. The project will support the establishment of an inter-ministerial republic committee, which will synthesize the capacities and priorities of different ministries for an effective, unified approach to meet the goal of land degradation neutrality as laid out by the UNCCD. Private sector involvement will be sought to improve and add value to productive activities, create stable revenues with dryland products and tourism services, and introduce sustainable supply chains through green bonds and private resources (banks, impact investors and philanthropists) mobilized under the future World Bank Central Asia RESILAND and ECA30x30 Initiative. Kazakhstan has expressed interest in bringing transformative projects to the LDN Fund: the proposed project will look at private investments facilitated by the LDN Fund to help achieve the country's voluntary LDN targets. The project may also involve the local and regional banking sector, including micro-lending institutions, to provide financial support to smallholders and pastoralists in carrying out SLM/SFM interventions.

8. **The project will ensure effective and equitable stakeholder participation**, tailored to the sociocultural conditions and needs of the beneficiary communities. It will strengthen mechanisms for participation of diverse stakeholders, especially the more marginalized, in planning and decision-making regarding the management of dryland landscapes. Wherever possible this will involve working with existing social structures while providing them with information and orienting their discussion and decision-making processes. The project will identify the gender gap in the forest and livestock sector,

finance activities which seek to narrow the identified gaps and assign specific indicators in the results framework to monitoring the project's impact in this regard.

- c) Describe how the integrated approach proposed for the child project responds to and reflects the Program's Theory of Change, and as such is an appropriate and suitable option for tackling the systemic challenges, and to achieve the desired transformation with multiple global environmental benefits

9. The Kazakhstan Resilient Agroforestry and Rangeland Project is a child project of the Sustainable Forest Management Impact Program on Dryland Sustainable Landscapes. It follows one of the central characteristics of the program, i.e., a landscape approach, which is particularly necessary in drylands given the importance of landscape-wide social, productive, environmental and biological dynamics that determine ecosystem sustainability and the condition of global environmental values. The project's Theory of Change is aligned with that of the program: its objective and key outcomes are concurrent with the program's objective of avoiding, reducing, and reversing further degradation, desertification, and deforestation of land and ecosystems in drylands through the sustainable management of production landscapes. The key instruments for achieving this objective, i.e., component 1 and 2 below, follow the instruments for achieving the program's 'situation sought' of integrated landscape management and diversified agro-ecological food production systems. The achievement of the project and other child projects' objectives are expected to result in the GEBs and socioeconomic co-benefits as described in the program's Theory of Change of: (i) sustainable management of dryland landscapes and production systems; (ii) land-based and value chain GHG mitigation; (iii) sustainable access of dryland communities to agro-ecosystems and forest ecosystem goods and services; (iv) reduced vulnerability of communities to economic and environmental shocks; and (v) reduced level of migration and conflict related to environmental degradation.

- d) Describe the project's incremental reasoning for GEF financing under the program, including the results framework and components.

10. **The baseline scenario** includes the abovementioned baseline investments, the World Bank/GEF investment in SLM/SFM - the Forest Protection and Reforestation Project, which closed in 2015 and the ongoing GEF-financed and FAO-supported Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management (CACILM-II)¹, which scales up integrated natural resources management in drought-prone and salt-affected agricultural production landscapes in the Central Asian countries and Turkey. These projects set a strong baseline of (a) feasibility and risk assessments which will be used by the project to modify existing legislation and plan afforestation and agroforestry activities, (b) government capacity in livestock management and reforestation methods, (c) experience of the government and local communities in seed production and planting, (d) policy and legislative changes that incorporate community institutions and resource use rights, (e) and 107,000 ha of rehabilitated degraded lands primarily in Ormandar and 168,000 ha of improved management in the saxaul and adjoining rangelands.

11. **The alternative scenario** includes these investments alongside GEF-financed activities which will generate global environment benefits and socioeconomic co-benefits as above with focus on dryland areas. Activities will promote LDN and achieve transformational change by tackling gaps in national policies, laws, regulations and sectoral plans; increasing awareness of stakeholders at the national and

¹ See <http://www.fao.org/in-action/cacilm-2/en/>

local levels of the importance of SLM and SFM in dryland areas; conducting land use planning; increasing the government's knowledge base on dryland forests and their economic significance and relevant capacities; conducting afforestation and agroforestry activities in the most degraded drylands; and investing in knowledge generation and piloting of sustainable pasture management practices. Project-financed activities will be divided into the following three components:

Component 1: Strengthening the enabling environment for the sustainable management of drylands

12. The project will support the designation of the saxaul forests of Balkhash as specially protected natural territories or reserves and seek to extend the areas under protection nationwide. Given the vast size of the saxaul forests, establishing protected status will go a long way towards conserving the value of land across Kazakhstan. Stakeholder's awareness of the concept of ecosystem services will be raised, and they will be formally introduced into legislation in order to value, protect, and exploit them sustainably. This activity will include an expansion of existing economic assessments of ecosystem services to all relevant regions and ecosystems of Kazakhstan through scientific and technical capacity building within research institutes and universities, including incorporation into university curriculae.

13. The project will help develop strategies to empower the FWC through training to undertake decision-making related to the determination, implementation and regulation of optimal scenarios for the conservation, sustainability, and economic and environmental benefits for the country as a whole and for local populations. An inventory of unrecorded dryland forests will be financed for their inclusion in the National Forest Fund, and primary data collection will be automated in forest management units.² Finally, the project will work with the existing LDN workstreams and help establish additional ones as needed to support the development of an LDN strategy and targets for Kazakhstan.

Component 2: Investment in scaling up sustainable dryland management

Sub-component 2.1: Dryland agroforestry and landscape restoration

14. The main activity of this investment component will be afforestation of areas in the dry Aral Seabed using innovative and efficient technologies for planting drought resistant trees, such as drones and the use of integrated mapping solutions (from data to satellite images, to planting). The afforestation activities will be accompanied by the establishment of drought-resistant seed banks for nurseries for further afforestation operations, and a plant gene bank to ensure these efforts' sustainability. In addition, the project will support the establishment of fastgrowing plantations of nut trees and their planting on degraded lands implementation of agroforeand shelterbelts to help to meet wood demand, generate income from timber and non-timber products, and help restore soil functions and mitigate continued soil erosion. This will involve: (i) knowledge dissemination to farmers, farmers' associations, private companies and the national and local administration about the practice and its benefits; (ii) developing markets and rewarding farmers for start-up time; (iii) conducting suitability assessments to identify the areas suitable for agroforestry, the tree species to be used, and the

² See policy recommendations for Kazakhstan in Quillérou, E., Thomas, R.J., Guchgeldiyev, O., Ettling, S., Etter, H., & Stewart, N. (2016). Economics of Land Degradation (ELD) Initiative: Broadening options for improved economic sustainability in Central Asia. Synthesis report. Report for the ELD Initiative from the Dryland Systems Program of CGIAR c/o ICARDA, Amman, Jordan. Available from www.eld-initiative.org.

conditions under which agroforestry should be implemented; and (iv) providing policy and institutional support, including national and local incentives, for example payment for environmental services.³

Sub-component 2.2: Sustainable pasture management (executed by FAO)

15. This component will support efforts to improve pasture management, support the development of the livestock sector and improve food security. First, the project will work with local stakeholders to design and implement a capacity building program on sustainable pasture management practices. This will build on efforts from CACILM-II on supporting integrated crop-livestock production systems and empowering rural women. Activities will be site-specific but could include pasture management (rotation, fencing, weeding, fertilization and irrigation), harvesting and storing pasture seeds, improving harvesting practices, silage making and hay conservation, and non-traditional sources of feed.

16. In addition, this component will build on work by the multi-stakeholder Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance Partnership (LEAP)⁴ in supporting the livestock sector's resilience to climate change and to reduce its impact by increasing carbon sequestration and improving the agricultural productivity of the rehabilitated land. This includes activities that improve productivity in order to reduce emission intensities from the livestock sector, such as improving feed quality and availability (alternative feed resources, feed processing and locally available supplements), improving animal health and husbandry and improving genetic resources and breeding. The activities will result in investment plans/options to be upscaled by the upcoming Sustainable Livestock Development Project. Finally, the project will build the government's capacity for GHG accounting and economic assessments in the livestock sector.

Component 3: Project coordination and monitoring

17. A Project Coordination Unit, comprising FWC staff and hired consultants, will coordinate the implementation of the project by managing, monitoring and evaluating the implementation of project work plans; ensuring collaboration among stakeholders at national and local levels; reporting implementation progress and financial management performance to the inter-ministerial republic committee (acting as the project's steering committee) and the World Bank; ensuring timely external auditing of project accounts and the appropriateness of procurement and financial management tasks; and ensuring adherence to and implementation of safeguard instruments. The Project Coordination Unit will also be responsible to produce communication material for any program-level meetings and knowledge exchange visits and mobilize the participation of Kazakh representatives in such events.

18. Incremental reasoning. The alternative scenario is expected to support Kazakhstan in advancing its LDN process and implementing the convention's guidance. Afforestation, especially in the dry Aral Seabed, will reverse environmental degradation and will also help thousands of families return to the region and restart economic activities. It is expected to reduce wind erosion, fix moving sand dunes, minimize the process of deflation, disengage oxygen, increase absorption of carbon dioxide and

³ See agroforestry establishment steps for Central Asia countries in Djanibekov, U.; Dzhakypbekova, K.; Chamberlain, J.; Weyerhaeuser, H.; Zomer, R.J.; Villamor, G.; Xu, J. 2015. Agroforestry for landscape restoration and livelihood development in Central Asia. ICRAF Working Paper 186. World Agroforestry Centre East and Central Asia, Kunming, China. 41 pp.

⁴ See <http://www.fao.org/partnerships/leap/en/>

accumulation of dust by trees and shrubs, and restore local fauna and flora. Shelterbelts along the roads will help to protect from erosion, wind, rain and snow, and create green corridors. Restored dryland pastures and sustainable land management will increase agricultural productivity, reduce rural poverty, and make these areas less vulnerable to external factors such as climate change. Converting abandoned pastures into livestock production systems while introducing sustainable pasture management and prevention and reversal of degradation processes will contribute to ecosystem integrity and improve productivity of livestock and food security. The IP SFM Drylands allocation of US\$2,138,500 will particularly finance investments that ensure that the sustainable management of drylands is effectively prioritized by the government under Component 1, and support of the sustainable management of drylands under Component 1; and information and knowledge management, outreach and enhancement of country and local communities' ownership of results under Component 3. The ratio of financing proposed is 1:28 with a baseline of US\$200,000,000 IBRD resources.

Results framework

Project Development Objective (PDO): Restore land productivity in targeted degraded landscapes in the Republic of Kazakhstan							
PDO Level Results Indicators	Core	Unit of Measure	Baseline	Target	Frequency	Data Source/ Meth.	Resp. for Data Collection
Indicator One: Land area under sustainable landscape management practices	X	Ha	0	800,000	Annually	Ministry of Agriculture	FWC
Description: The indicator measures, in hectares, the land area for which new and/or improved sustainable landscape management practices have been introduced. Land is the terrestrial biologically productive system comprising soil, vegetation, and the associated ecological and hydrological processes; Adoption refers to change of practice or change in the use of a technology promoted or introduced by the project; Sustainable landscape management (SLM) practices refers to a combination of at least two technologies and approaches to increase land quality and restore degraded lands for example, agronomic, vegetative, structural, and management measures that, applied as a combination, increase the connectivity between protected areas, forest land, rangeland, and agriculture land.							
Indicator Two: Net greenhouse gas emissions	X	MT	0	- 1,000,000	Annually	A study	FWC
Description: The time period is 20 years.							
Share of targeted community members with rating 'Satisfied' or	X	Percentage	0	70	Annually	Perception Survey	FWC

above on project interventions							
Share of targeted community members with rating 'Satisfied' or above on project interventions (women)	X	Percentage	0	70	Annually	Perception Survey	FWC
Description: Corporately required citizen engagement and gender indicator. It reflects demand-side social accountability using a feed-back loop, and through disaggregation by sex, specifically captures the perception by women of interventions on land restoration, jobs and livelihoods.							
INTERMEDIATE RESULTS							
Intermediate Result (Component One): Strengthening the enabling environment for the sustainable management of drylands							
Intermediate Results Indicators	Core	Unit of Measure	Base line	Target	Frequency	Data Source/ Meth.	Resp. for Data Coll.
Intermediate Result Indicator One: LDN Strategy and targets submitted for government approval		Yes/No	No	Yes	Semi-annually	LDN work groups	FWC
Description: The strategy and targets will focus on land use change, net primary production and carbon balance							
Intermediate Result Indicator Two: Saxaul forests of Balkhash designated as a protected reserve		Yes/No	No	Yes	Semi-annually	Ministry of Agriculture	FWC
Intermediate Result Indicator Three: Revised legislation		Yes/No	No	Yes	Semi-annually	Ministry of Agriculture	FWC

which incorporates ecosystem services submitted for approval							
Intermediate Result Indicator Four: New Land use plans prepared and submitted for approval		Number	0	3	Annually	Ministry of Agriculture	FWC
Intermediate Result Indicator Five: An inventory of unrecorded dryland forests available		Yes/No	No	Yes	Semi-annually	Ministry of Agriculture	FWC
Intermediate Result (Component Two): Investment in scaling up sustainable dryland management							
Intermediate Results Indicators	Core	Unit of Measure	Base line	Target	Frequency	Data Source/ Meth.	Resp. for Data Collection
Intermediate Result Indicator One: New area of the dry Aral Seabed planted		Ha	0	66,000	Semi-annually	Contracted entities	FWC
Description: inclusive of 10,000 ha of agroforestry area as measured under IRI 3.							
Intermediate Result Indicator Two: Seed banks and a plant gene bank established		Number	TBD	TBD	Semi-annually	Ministry of Agriculture	FWC
Intermediate Result Indicator Three: New area of		Ha	0	10,000	Semi-annually	Ministry of Agriculture	FWC

managed nut tree orchards and shelterbelts							
Intermediate Result Indicator Four: New area of pastures restored or rehabilitated		Ha	0	4,000	Annually	Ministry of Agriculture	FWC
Intermediate Result Indicator Five: Farmers adopting improved agricultural technology	X	Number	0	20,000	Annually	Ministry of Agriculture	FWC
Description: Technology includes a change in practices compared to currently used practices or technologies (seed preparation, planting time, feeding schedule, feeding ingredients, postharvest storage/ processing, etc.). If the project introduces or promotes a technology package in which the benefit depends on the application of the entire package (e.g., a combination of inputs such as a new variety and advice on agronomic practices such as soil preparation, changes in seeding time, fertilizer schedule, plant protection, etc.), this counts as one technology. Farmers are people engaged in farming of agricultural products or members of an agriculture-related business (disaggregated by men and women) targeted by the project.							
Intermediate Result Indicator Six: Improved livestock productivity, by type of product		Percentage	0	10	Annually	Ministry of Agriculture from project beneficiaries' reports	FWC

Engagement with the Global / Regional Framework

19. The project will engage with the Dryland Program through its Global Coordination Project and the Program Steering Committee, in which the World Bank will participate. It will take part in the various knowledge exchange mechanisms, global initiatives and platforms the Program will make available to the child projects, and disseminate its own acquired and generated knowledge products, tools and lessons learned. In addition, the World Bank is committed to assisting the countries to implement the 2018 Astana Resolution by developing a program, the Central Asia RESILAND, with a mix of IDA, IBRD, GEF, WAVES, PROFOR, SDG TF and private sector funds. RESILAND will begin with a World Bank-financed Programmatic TA which will to strengthen the capacity of a select number of Central Asia countries,

Kazakhstan among them, to reduce the vulnerability of their drylands and mountains and to promote climate resilient integrated landscape management. The TA will support projects' activities by generating relevant data, conducting sectoral and economic analyses and supporting the national and regional policy dialogues to promote the adoption of resilient, sustainable and integrated landscape restoration practices in the drylands and mountains of Central Asia. Finally, the World Bank will support the launch of the ECA30x30 Initiative in support of increasing even more the targets of the Astana Resolution. The participation of Kazakhstan in the Sustainable Forest Management Impact Program on Dryland Sustainable Landscapes is a first step toward RESILAND/ ECA30x30.

GEF-7 CHILD PROJECT CONCEPT

CHILD PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Child Project

PROGRAM: IP SFM Drylands

Child Project Title:	Strengthening forest management for improved biodiversity conservation and climate resilience in the Southern rangelands of Kenya
Country:	Kenya
Lead Agency	IUCN
GEF Agency(ies):	IUCN
Total project cost (GEF Grant):	\$ 5,354,587
Total Co-financing:	\$ 13,000,000

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. Country Context (*maximum 500 words*)

Describe the country's relevant environmental challenges and strategic positioning relative to the systems transformation proposed for the program, including relevant existing policies, commitments, and investment frameworks. How are these aligned with the proposed approach to foster impactful outcomes with global environmental benefits?

Drylands of Kenya are 84% of Kenya's total land surface, support 9.9 million Kenyans (approximately 34% of the country's population), account for more than 80% of the country's eco-tourism interests, 60% of the nation's livestock, and 75% of its wildlife populations. They support the pillars of Vision 2030 and Kenya's big four agenda on agriculture, livestock, energy, wildlife, water, tourism, trade and industry that contribute 33%-39 % of GDP. Kenya has 3.47 million ha of forests including indigenous forest, open woodlands and plantations. The demand for forest products is projected to increase by 43.2%, poles (58.2%), firewood by (16.1%) and charcoal (17.8%) by 2022. The supply and demand projections clearly indicate that the country will face acute shortages of forest products in the near future, hence the need to intensify productivity that depends on access to available open rangelands for restoration as high potential areas struggle from intense cultivated agricultural production, reduced land sizes and population pressure. 84% of Kenyans rely on forest biomass for their domestic energy. There are approximately 350,000 charcoal producers in Kenya. Over 100 plant species are used, though Acacia (6 species) is preferred for ease of availability and for its quality charcoal. Kenya's 2015 GHG emissions were 85m tCO₂e, the majority coming from land-use, agriculture and forestry. While 60% of the national livestock is concentrated in 31 Districts of the drylands, and provide over 67% of the red meat consumed in the country, the returns remain low resulting in low off-take and highly unplanned grazing systems. In these drylands, water resources are dwindling. Only 40% of the population have access to potable water. Loss of forest resources, general land degradation and desertification result, brought about by unsustainable land management practices such as over-cultivation, over-grazing, deforestation and poor irrigation practices. Environmental, economic and social losses result further in household poverty, poaching, sub-division and selling off of customary land, forced migration and conflict over dwindling drylands resources. Kenya's NDC includes actions to adapt to climate change and realize its abatement potential through implementation of the NCCAP (2013-2017), and subsequent action plans beyond this period including increasing tree cover, climate smart agriculture, drought management and other actions. Kenya targets i) The Bonn Challenge with AFR100 commitments, to 100 million hectares of land in Africa into restoration by 2030 with Kenya committing to restore 5.1million hectares ii) The East Africa Community Protocol on Environment and Natural Resources Management that provides aspiration in support SLM/SFM; iii) As signatory to the IGAD regional

Biodiversity Protocol the country has committed to implement biodiversity conservation through SLM/SFM. This project investment on land degradation neutrality (LDN) provides an opportunity for realization of Kenya's Vision 2030, Big Four Agenda, Medium Term Plan (MTP) 3 and SDGs 2, 14, 15. Kajiado and Narok counties comprise some of the dryland counties that present relatively low forest cover and have experienced high land degradation. Further, the project will also align with Kenya's specific intervention framework for drought.

1. Project Overview and Approach (*maximum 1250 words*)

- a) Provide a brief description of the geographical target(s), including details of systemic challenges, and the specific environmental threats and associated drivers that must be addressed;

The Southern Kenya rangeland ecosystem comprises six contiguous sub-ecosystems covering an 7000km², stretching from Tanzania to Mt. Suswa, Ewaso Ng'iro and Maasai Mara. Two-thirds of the ecosystem is semi-arid; average annual rainfall in the last 55 years is 620 mm annually. The most severe droughts were experienced in 1965 (345mm), 1984 (358mm), 2000 (280mm) and 2009 which received 188 mm of rainfall. The ecosystem links two of Kenya most important parks, Maasai Mara National Park and Amboseli National Park (50% of Kenya's ecotourism returns and 36% of the livestock population). Dryland woodlands forest system (Namanga, Loita, Suswa, Nairagie and Olkirmatian) are a major component of the southern rangelands covering 1/3 of the land surface, key to rural livelihoods, for grazing and forest products. 50% of the landscape is degraded, 40% heavily eroded, characterized by hard pans, bare ground and encroachment of unpalatable species. Invasive species are prevalent. Wildlife is declining while livestock is on an increasing trend. By 2016, the total number of livestock is almost 13 times wild animals. The region is inhabited by the pastoral Maasai community and has a combined population of approximately 1.5 million people with an average growth rate of 3.2% per annum (higher than the national average of 2.9%). More than 53% of the population living below the poverty line. Firewood is the cooking fuel. The area is characterized by increasing land degradation. Upper catchments' degradation from agricultural activities, contributes to runoff into Lake Magadi. As land productivity has declined, projections indicate that agricultural land will expand. Dry forests and woodlands in this system have been the most affected by agricultural expansion. Parts of the South Rift region, such as the southern Ewaso Ng'iro River and the Engare Ng'iro swamp in Shompole, which are critical for wildlife and livestock, are under increasing pressure from human settlements, land sub-division, agriculture, and water extraction especially around water sources. Marginal landscapes are overrun by overstocking and associated degradation. Food and livelihood systems are unsustainable. Due to low, unpredictable returns and poor prices, households resort to unsustainable exploitation of rangeland resources, through activities such as woodland clearing for charcoal and timber, poaching, and sand extraction from dry river beds, or even selling parts of their land to speculators. Climate change is exacerbating the stress on livestock, wildlife and agricultural production areas, leading to human-wildlife conflicts.

- b) Describe the existing or planned baseline investments, including current institutional framework and processes for stakeholder engagement and gender integration;

Several baseline investments have been started in the counties of Kajiado and Narok. The county governments through their respective Ministries of Environment and Agriculture have some natural resource management initiatives and further investments are expected as they rollout the County

Integrated Development Plans. The other ongoing initiatives to address the deteriorating dryland forest and rangeland conditions in the counties include promotion of holistic management and planned grazing among the community conservancies by African Conservation Center, South Rift Land Owners Association (SORALO) and other development agencies; livestock commercialization and Fodder Development project by the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) supporting Keekonyokie cooperative to develop a 100-acre livestock fattening area and putting 80 acres of land under Rhodes grass; and the rangeland improvement program by SORALO that is supporting range rehabilitation by the community ranches while setting structures to promote peaceful coexistence among communities in the utilization of range resources.

Programmes and projects on sustainable management of natural resources include National Agricultural and Livestock Extension Programme (NALEP) and Desert Margins Programme (DMP), provide a basis for consolidating local community participation approaches in the sustainable management of their natural resources, and use of indigenous knowledge and technologies in project implementation under the GEF SLM project. There have also been initiatives to have functional ground system to assess the rate of resource degradation that include establishment of a ground station at Kiboko- Kibwezi by KARLO with support from Long-Term Ecological Observation Network (ROSELT), a programme set up by Sahara-Sahel Observatory (OSS), and Meteorological Transition in Africa Project (MTAP) under the framework of ROSELT.

Due to their large urban populations, Nairobi and Mombasa are the major red meat terminal markets in the country. Investments by the county governments and development actors in development of livestock markets especially in infrastructure and strengthening market governance will significantly contribute to more vibrant interiors markets. The USAID funded REGAL-AG, SNV Kenya, FHI international among others have supported construction of livestock markets and setting up of Livestock Marketing Associations in some of the livestock markets.

IUCN is supporting the Government of Kenya to mobilize Green Climate Fund financing for a natural resource management project at Kajiado county while NEMA, jointly with public and private stakeholders through the Adaptation Fund, have plans to invest in some natural resource management project. However, the proposed GEF IP investment will present a new approach and high impact paradigm shift to sustainable land management in the target areas.

- c) Describe how the integrated approach proposed for the child project responds to and reflects the Program's Theory of Change, and as such is an appropriate and suitable option for tackling the systemic challenges, and to achieve the desired transformation with multiple global environmental benefits; and

The project priority focus is on application of sustainable land management and landscape restoration for strengthening livestock and food production value chains, diversification of livelihoods and mainstreaming. The transformative paradigm proposed by IUCN is focused on scaling up and integrating local level projects through a comprehensive landscape-wide approach to bring the best skills available to provide lasting solutions that remove barriers and challenges and ultimately reduce the threats to the integrity of the drylands forest system in Southern Kenya. The project's fundamental challenge in the next phase is to transition from an externally donor-driven project to locally-led, private sector engaged and locally-owned initiatives that sustain themselves and are scaled up.

The goal will be delivered through the following objectives: i) Improved adoption of sustainable forest landscape restoration actions; ii) Strengthening the capacity for natural resources governance; iii) Institutionalization of a multi-stakeholder platform for integrated management, iv) Implementation of economic incentives for sustainable food systems and livelihood options.

The theory of change is that SFM will be achieved if: 1) natural resource governance are improved at a landscape scale; 2) economic benefits from priority value-chains are sustainable; 3) new technologies and approaches for SLM are adopted, and 4) natural resource management institutions are coordinated and strengthened. This will contribute to implementation of Kenya's domestic priorities as well as international commitments, including Kenya's NDC which includes actions to adapt to climate change and realize its abatement potential through implementation of the NCCAP by increasing tree cover, climate smart agriculture, drought management and other actions.

GEF financing will:

1: *Improve governance and management capacity for sustainable land management.* The project will strengthen institutional capacity of service delivery institutions including counties, conservancies and ranches to better discharge their duties and become more transparent and accountable in natural resource management. The project will also endeavor to integrate planning and budgeting processes in order to ensure that local needs are considered and funded. The project will apply the Natural Resources Governance framework (NRGF) Index to assess and improve natural resource governance. It also improves organizational effectiveness, which is interpreted as the ability of target institutions to formulate and implement sound practices as a foundation for improved planning and management of livelihoods and conservation interventions. The NRGF Index scores will reflect performance on 18 different indicators, among them, leadership, institutional capacity, financial management and partnership development. The changes in these categories of indicators will be tracked over time for effective targeting of interventions and to improve support to the rangeland governance entities. The project will identify and deliver a series of organizational needs development that respond to the gaps in community needs, based on the data collected through the organizational capacity assessments and priorities identified in the capacity improvement action plans. It is anticipated that the organizational development framework will focus on among others, leadership, succession, cross-village dialogue, strategic management, community-government relations, financial management, resource mobilization, and human resource development. The project will deploy the use of Social Accountability Monitoring (SAM) tools – specifically Community Score Cards (CSC) and Budget Tracking Tool to foster accountability of local and county level leaders to influence better service delivery for SLM and SFM. Each community conservancy manager will facilitate communication, prepares budgets, be responsible for coordination of land use management committees as well as the management of AGMs.

2 *Implement restoration actions for sustainable land management .* To secure long-term viability of southern dryland landscape and economy, the project will focus on protecting connectivity across forest and migratory routes (wildlife and livestock) in the landscape. Connectivity will be enhanced and aligned with community livelihood interests through the up-scaling of integrated plans to cover key community grazing areas for livestock, thereby preventing agricultural fragmentation. All priority landscape restoration actions will be informed by gender-responsive forest landscape restoration opportunity assessment mapping (ROAM) from where participatory

forest landscape restoration investment action plans are developed and the identified interventions and rangeland rehabilitation and management techniques/actions are implemented. New management practices that increase mobility and flexibility in land use willingly adopted by pastoralists will be piloted and upscaled. Detailed grazing plans will be developed for each village/ranch integrating the use of biomass on degraded areas, as well as rotational grazing, bunching of livestock herds, and establishment of wet and dry season grazing blocks. Harvesting of perennial grass seeds from the reseeded areas will take place at the end of the dry season. These grass seeds will then be used to re-seed additional treatment areas where clearing of invasive species (*Acacia reficiens* and *Ipomoea spp.*) is identified as a priority in the grazing plans. Manual clearing of invasive species will be piloted in target sites. In areas marked by severe erosion, Training of Trainers (ToT) specifically on gully-healing methods will be carried out as part of the wet season grazing plans. Reforestation will be undertaken through a combination of systematic tree planting as well as demonstration enclosures that will help to generate knowledge and understanding of the process and appropriate treatments for dryland forest restoration. Soil carbon storage that results from this improved grassland management is expected to result in significant removal of CO₂ from the atmosphere. Improved livestock grazing and cash payments for carbon credits earned through the VCS methodology are expected to result in a number of social benefits. Restoring perennial grasses as a consequence of rotational grazing will provide grass banks and a lower likelihood of catastrophic livestock loss during drought, sustained meat and milk production through the dry season. Improved soil organic matter should help increase rainfall infiltration and lengthen the time surface water is available for people and livestock. The ecological vegetation (indigenous dryland tree species and grasses) and soil changes from the implementation of the project shall enhance the landscape's role as a High Conservation Area for key endangered species, such as black rhino (*Dicornis bicerus*) and African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) plus other endemic bird and ungulate species in the project area's biogeographical position connecting species from the Rift Valley to the south.

3. *Design and implement sustainable livelihoods incentives and value chains.* To improve rangeland management, an innovative participatory grazing and land management plan will be designed to reduce the landscape degradation. The grazing strategy will hinge on the following three priority actions including: a) increasing grazing and livestock fattening efficiency in the existing conservancies and future grazing contracts to achieve at least 2 fattening/finishing cycles per year; b) Unlocking the markets for the Mara beef limited to increase turn over from the current (400-800) to 1500 cattle per month and eventually 3000 to create more grazing space in the ranches and regeneration; and c) leverage community conservancies grazing plans to reduce grazing needs with more cattle going direct to the market. Increasing grazing and livestock finishing efficiency in the target areas will be achieved through implementation of specific grazing plans that will allow cattle to be finished within the shortest time possible and therefore increase the stocking rate per unit time. The project will provide incentives for the community to improve the range condition through reward systems. Within the project community will be reoriented to use bonuses paid to conservancies by Mara Beef Limited in the rehabilitation of the rangelands for instance in clearing of invasive species, rangeland reseeded in degradation hot spots, and application of holistic management among others. By modelling sustainable land management fund, the benefits to the landowners will be increased. Financial support to scale up disaster risk and exposure reduction mechanisms (insurance programme) will be established among vulnerable communities. To underpin the related climate risk, the project will innovatively link livestock production to insurance programme. As the community

embark in improving the breeds of their livestock and keeping fewer livestock, it is important they are linked to insurance services to minimize the risks associated with drought. The Index Based Livestock Insurance developed by ILRI has been piloted in counties like Marsabit, where pastoralists have received pay outs, after weather conditions reach a threshold that warrant payments. The project will engage with the current livestock insurance providers including UAP Insurance to establish the most appropriate packages for southern rangelands and thereafter link the conservancies with the providers. The Index Based Livestock Insurance developed by ILRI has been piloted in counties like Marsabit, where pastoralists have received pay outs, after weather conditions reach a threshold that warrant payments. The project will engage with the current livestock insurance providers including UAP and Takaful insurance to establish the most appropriate packages for southern rangelands and thereafter link the conservancies with the providers. Investments will be made to boost community/household income from nature-based tourism opportunities, clean energy and on-farm restoration efforts to curtail illegal logging to boost forest conservation.

4. *Knowledge management, learning and coordination.* The project will put in place and institutionalize robust and integrated monitoring systems to determine the status of land degradation, climate change trends, forest cover change and connectivity, the status of wildlife populations, and the socio-economic status of the people that use the landscape. This will include Trends.Earth and the Bonn Challenge Barometer. Key enabling conditions include having a data sharing agreements in place, addressing security concerns so that sensitive information about wildlife habitats are adequately protected, establishing the systems to store and manage the data, and getting funding and staff to execute the tasks. This system will improve the potential for shared regional understanding of critical biodiversity areas and real time understanding of how the status of rangeland, forest and ecosystem restoration are changing over time. This will in turn inform conservation planning efforts and lead to improved conservation strategies at all levels. The project will use The Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation method (<http://cmp-openstandards.org/>) that are well known among the international NGOs and the government agencies. This science-based methodology is widely recommended for large-scale and collaborative planning processes and will involve a series of workshops and coordination throughout the Southern drylands landscape. The project will develop a draft data collection protocol to collect social and scientific information using the Before After Control and Initiative (BACI) monitoring framework. Additionally, land use type boundary data collection instructions will be provided in detail. Together, the teams will revise and update the protocols throughout the session in response to lessons learned. Based on the results and best practices from the implementation of the project actions in other components, this project component aims to inform SFM and more specifically SLM and FLR related national policies and processes. The project will also revitalize the NEMA Green Point at Kajiado to serve as a resource Centre for knowledge management and create another resource centre at Narok County for serving Narok County with knowledge management and information dissemination

- d) Describe the project's incremental reasoning for GEF financing under the program, including the results framework and components.

To build on the baseline situation to an alternative proposed scenario, the project will address the main barriers related to data gaps; institutional capacity gaps; knowledge and institutional

coordination weaknesses; natural resource governance challenges; and access to finance and markets. These gaps are addressed through 4 interrelated project components

- Sustainable livelihoods incentives and value chains
- Governance and community capacity for sustainable land management
- Restoration actions for sustainable land management
- Coordination, learning and knowledge management

Without GEF Investments - Dryland forest loss and land degradation in general will continue to affect southern rangelands of Kenya, like in other areas and may accelerate with increased pressure from agriculture and human population. Weak governance and institutional capability will continue to drive forest loss and land degradation, leading to lowered capability of land to sustain livestock and other livelihood strategies. Forest and rangeland degradation will contribute to water and food insecurity, increased vulnerability to drought, loss of biodiversity and greenhouse gasses emissions. This will negatively impact on rural livelihoods in the project areas. The GEF incremental financing will strengthen the capacity of local and national institutions (including county government and local institutions) to equitably coordinate natural resource management and improve response to recurrent pressure of dryland forest. In absence of effective institutional coordination and meaningful engagement in landscape planning, there is a risk that investments will contribute to further rangeland degradation with its attendant costs. In the absence of sound data to guide planning, decision making cannot be optimal. The absence of effective coordination, investments will not address priorities and will overlook cross-sectoral actions that respond to the complexity of the rangelands.

With the GEF investment - Sustainable dryland management will be adopted across dryland forest landscapes, with institutional capabilities strengthened to ensure SFM (SLM and FLR) is extended to rangelands resulting in avoidance, arresting and reversal of degradation. SFM will be supported by improved monitoring of degradation and restoration processes. This will include, among others, assessing restoration opportunities, validation of SFM/SLM/FLR approaches that are adapted to the communal areas. Local institutions and service delivery agents will have stronger capacity to implement sustainable land management and forest landscape restoration, based on salutary restoration techniques. Communities will implement restoration and SLM actions to localize existing good practices and to develop experience through exposure.

Natural governance mechanisms will be strengthened at different levels. At the county level, mechanisms will be established and strengthened for landscape planning, embedding participatory approaches into planning to improve the prioritization of rangeland management actions. At community level, the capacity for natural resource governance institutions will be built through targeted organizational support to land management groups and through the application of appropriate governance framework such as Natural Resource Governance Framework (NRGF). Lessons from land restoration actions, strengthening governance mechanisms (including bylaws, natural resource conventions, communal land use agreements etc., depending on legally acceptable opportunities), will be shared at national and county forums and related policy events to exchange and share transferable lessons for effective land management.

By the 4th year, 1.2 million hectares will be under SLM and/or brought under restoration. The project will directly benefit 25,000 households. Two county Environment Committees will be operational to spearhead environmental conservation in Kajiado and Narok counties. Some of the notable high level outcomes would also include: Increased state managed forests on account improved management of 400,000 hectares of additional drylands forests areas; Development of 20 integrated Forest Management plans under on-going implementation for Sustainable Forest Management; rehabilitation and protected 3500ha in Enosupukia Water Tower and Magadi Basin; mapping of all livestock-wildlife corridors/ routes and securing them; strengthening of wildlife Conservancies Association; development of participatory Weather Scenario Planning (CPSP) for climate change adaptation; Development of county forest Programme and Strategy to develop and sustainably manage, conserve, restore and utilize forests and allied resources for socio-economic growth and climate resilience. Strengthening county environment resource centres at NEMA Green points.

2. Engagement with the Global / Regional Framework (*maximum 500 words*)

Describe how the project will align with the global / regional framework for the program to foster knowledge sharing, learning, and synthesis of experiences. How will the proposed approach scale-up from the local and national level to maximize engagement by all relevant stakeholders and/or actors?

The Kenya child project expects to achieve greater impact through cooperative efforts, planning, policies and partnership with other SFM Drylands program countries. This will include participation of a Kenyan government representative on a Program Steering Committee, as well as dedicated Kenya child project resources for participation in knowledge sharing and learning events, capture and development of knowledge products for contribution to SFM Drylands program partners and the wider community, and participation in relevant communities of practice.

In addition, the Kenya child project expects to benefit from relevant technical and capacity development support provided by the global child project, again, through active engagement and participation of project members. To support scale up of progress, the project will work to integrate, publicize, and promote progress and best practices, both that of the Kenya child project and SFM Drylands program partners. This includes work in related to integrated and improved SLM and FLR land use planning, policies, and management. Tailored briefs and other informational products for policymakers and stakeholders will be produced and disseminated through workshops and other means so that SFM Drylands program progress can serve as a model for replication and scale up in other landscapes in Kenya and beyond.

The project is supportive of a harmonized approach to M&E that will allow for efficient tracking of results in a comparable way across projects, and that allows for adaptive management as needed.

Lastly, the project intends to leverage participation in the program to enhance outreach and communications, identifying and capturing opportunities for engagement at relevant regional and international forums (with support of program partners).

GEF-7 CHILD PROJECT CONCEPT

CHILD PROJECT TYPE: FULL-SIZED CHILD PROJECT

PROGRAM: IP SFM DRYLANDS

Child Project Title:	Transforming landscapes and livelihoods: A cross-sector approach to accelerate restoration of Malawi's Miombo and Mopane woodlands for sustainable forest and biodiversity management
Country:	Malawi
Lead Agency	FAO
GEF Agency(ies):	FAO
Total project cost (GEF Grant):	\$ 6,350,459
Total Co-financing:	\$ 40,000,000

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Country Context

Describe the country's relevant environmental challenges and strategic positioning relative to the systems transformation proposed for the program, including relevant existing policies, commitments, and investment frameworks. How are these aligned with the proposed approach to foster impactful outcomes with global environmental benefits?

The Miombo and Mopane woodlands in the Balaka, Ntcheu, and Mangochi districts contain threatened dryland systems – including the last remaining Miombo forests – that deliver vital ecosystem services that underpin food and water provision, bio-energy provision, commercial timber and non-timber forest product production, and biodiversity. However, this area is one of the most densely populated areas of Malawi, and this population relies heavily on forest and agricultural resources for their livelihoods. Poor land management and unsustainable practices – deforestation for firewood or charcoal, and land clearing and fire for agricultural expansion – are causing soil, vegetation loss and soil erosion. This results in the sedimentation of rivers, reduced crop yields, food and fish production, and revenue from ecotourism, fishing and hunting. Climate change through increased temperature and erratic rainfalls accentuate these negative impacts, including through the reduction of crop yields of grain and biomass¹. In addition, ecosystem degradation is leading to increased pollution, higher risk of invasion by alien species and biodiversity loss².

The Government of Malawi is a global leader in the fight against land degradation and has released the world's first cross-sector national land restoration strategy in 2017. Malawi's AFR100/Bonn Challenge commitment is to restore 4.5 million hectares of degraded land by 2030. It is the second AFR100 partner country to allocate domestic budget for restoration.

Malawi's national target to achieve LDN is no net loss by 2030 and an additional 2% gain as compared to 2015. In addition, Malawi's sub-national LDN targets in highland areas are the Rift Valley escarpment area, the Plateau ecological zone, and Shire River Basin. The project will also directly contribute to many other regional and global processes that Malawi has joined such as CBD, multiple SDGs (e.g. SDG 15.3), UNCCD and Pan-African Action Agenda on Ecosystem Restoration for Increased Resilience. The project is also fully aligned with Malawi's Vision 2020 and the Malawi Growth and Development Strategies II and

¹ Minister of Natural Resources, Energy and Environment, 2011. The Second National Communication of the Republic of Malawi.

² Minister of Natural Resources, Energy and Mining, 2015. NBSAP II (2015-2025)

III (MGDS II & III) (i.e. the leading documents for national development), the National Charcoal Strategy (2017), National Forest Landscape Restoration Strategy (2017) and NBSAP 2015-2025.

The integrated approach of the project – including capacity building for SLM and SFM, cross-sectoral land-use planning, strengthened policy enforcement, scaling up SLM and SFM practices, support upscaling of good practices through increased financing, and impact monitoring – will facilitate improved management of productive areas and restore ecological and economic health in Shire River Basin. The development of sustainable sources of income from alternative forest-based enterprises, and sustainable intensification of agricultural and aquatic systems, will decrease pressure on forest and soil resources thereby increasing availability of agro-ecosystem and forest ecosystem goods and services, and supporting biodiversity.

Project Overview and Approach (maximum 1250 words)

- **Provide a brief description of the geographical target(s), including details of systemic challenges, and the specific environmental threats and associated drivers that must be addressed;**

The project will focus on LD hotspots in the Shire River Basin in Balaka, Ntcheu, and Mangochi districts which is home to Mopane and Miombo woodlands, and indigenous forest reserves. Direct drivers of degradation in the Shire Basin include unsustainable harvesting for firewood and charcoal production, commercial timber production, agricultural expansion into forest land, urban expansion, brick and tobacco production, and overgrazing. Degradation is accelerated by climate change, rapid urbanization, and increased demand for services (including water, food and energy supply). Each District also suffers from demand for illegal charcoal, particularly from expanding industrial centres and government buildings (schools, prisons, etc.) ([Map](#) assessment).

The sustainable management of land and forest resources in Malawi is prevented by the following barriers: (i) too few institutions have adopted and implemented conventions for integrated planning and decision-making on cross-sectoral issues; (ii) the potential of sustainable land and forest management to advance Malawi's development is not widely understood or prioritized; (iii) widespread land pressure and poverty; (iv) unsustainable harvest of wood for energy cannot be simply addressed through enforcement but must be addressed through an integrated approach; (v) local governments and communities do not have access to robust models, knowledge, and sources of funding to enable them to improve land management practices; (vi) the framework for monitoring, knowledge management, and communication of practices on SLM and SFM at the national and regional level cannot meet the burgeoning challenges caused by land degradation in Malawi.

- **Describe the existing or planned baseline investments, including current institutional framework and processes for stakeholder engagement and gender integration;**

The project will complement numerous investments—both from the Government of Malawi and from bilateral donors—that aim to increase adoption of sustainable land management practices, reverse deforestation and land degradation, and increase agricultural productivity. Baseline investments include: (i) “Malawi Youth Forest Restoration Programme” (MYFRP) funded with domestic budget by the Government of Malawi. MYFRP, launched in 2018, pays youth participants a daily wage to plant trees, maintain firebreaks, and practice sustainable land management techniques; (ii) BMU funded “Enhancing food security and rural development outcomes through the AFR100” program, works in 5 African

countries including Malawi to scale up FLR on the ground to boost food security and household income; (iii) USAID-funded “Modern Cooking for Healthy Forests” program which works exclusively in Malawi to promote sustainable forest management and promote sustainable energy in Malawi to maintain forest cover and reduce land-based emissions; (iv) USAID-funded NJIRA Sustainable Land Management Program which works in Malawi to spur economic growth through SLM; (v) Irish Aid and DFID-funded “Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Change” project which works in Malawi to strengthen the resilience of poor households to withstand current and projected weather and climate-related shocks and stresses; (vi) the Emergency response to Mpira/Balaka Rural water supply crisis, that aims at increasing the capacity of the Mpira Dam; and (vii) and district-level budgets.

At the policy level, Malawi has a strong national policy framework to support cross-sector planning and land management. Sustainable forest management and land restoration feature in Vision 2020—Malawi’s national development perspective—and the Malawi Growth and Development Strategies II and III. The Government of Malawi has demonstrated strong political will for restoration as a way to promote integrated landscape management and achieve LDN. It released the world’s first cross-sector national land restoration strategy in 2017, calling for collaboration across ministries and private sector and civil society engagement. Malawi’s restoration efforts are integrated into numerous sectors’ strategies and policies including the LDN process and NBSAP.

The project will address gender-mainstreaming gaps through gender-responsive project design. Gender will be mainstreamed in policy development and land use planning processes, and special attention will be paid to identify - equal opportunities for men and women in forest and energy sector jobs, and promote women’s access to, ownership and control of productive resources including land, water, and farm inputs. The project will promote agricultural education and technical training for women and facilitate access to finance for women in agriculture and forestry.

- **Describe how the integrated approach proposed for the child project responds to and reflects the Program’s Theory of Change, and as such is an appropriate and suitable option for tackling the systemic challenges, and to achieve the desired transformation with multiple global environmental benefits.**

The project is designed in full alignment with the program’s Theory of Change and will contribute to achieving each of the program’s outcomes. Under Component 1, the capacity of all sectors involved in the management of natural resources to work together for SLM and SFM planning, implementation and monitoring will be strengthened at the national level in Malawi and in the three-targeted districts. This will contribute towards achieving Outcomes 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4 of the SFM IP. Under Component 2, SLM and SFM interventions will be out scaled across 1,210,527 ha of Miombo landscape and financial resources to upscale SLM and SFM practices including the development of forest-based value chains. The financial capacity to upscale good practices across Malawian’s Miombo ecosystems will be increased. These interventions will contribute to Outcomes 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 of the program. Under Component 3, government capacity to monitor the progress towards achieving national targets and international commitments will be increased, and will be disseminated at the national, regional and international scale, thereby increasing international collaboration. This is fully aligned with Outcomes 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 of the program. Knowledge sharing at the regional scale will also promote collaboration for transboundary ecosystem management across the Miombo and Mopane woodlands, therefore contributing to Outcome 1.5 of SFM IP.

The project will lead to the achievement of the following GEBs: (i) 66,267 ha of forest protected areas under improved management for conservation and sustainable use; (ii) 13,099 ha of degraded land directly restored including agricultural, forest and natural grassland; (iii) 1,210,527ha under improved management; (iv) improved livelihoods for 2,246,000 beneficiaries in target landscapes, of which 50% women. Co-benefits include the sequestration of about -1.82 million tCO₂-e over 20-years (5 years implementation + 15 years of capitalization phase) which is about -6.9 tCO₂-e per hectare per year.

- **Describe the project's incremental reasoning for GEF financing under the program, including the results framework and components.**

The GEF incremental finance will build upon the national baseline and programmes to support the country in shifting from unsustainable forest and agricultural exploitation practices towards SLM and SFM practices emphasizing on agro-biodiversity. This will be done by implementing a cross-sector approach following the LDN impact pathway to address land degradation in a comprehensive manner by:

(1) Effective governance support on SLM and SFM. Leveraging on structures and government commitments for the country's LDN target setting process, the incremental finance will support aligning the country's efforts to address land degradation and national investments with the LDN impact pathway. It will increase understanding of the government regarding the multidimensional benefits of SLM and SFM, support the identification of priority SLM and SFM interventions including land rehabilitation and land restoration interventions, and increase capacity for cross sectoral planning, monitoring and law enforcement.

(2) Scaling up SLM and SFM best practices at landscape level. The availability of good approaches and practices to serve as models will be increased. Rehabilitation and restoration interventions including improved forest management, soil and water conservation, and community woodlots and forests will be implemented in focal districts to increase the productivity of land and its capacity to deliver food, water, and livelihoods for local populations. The upscaling of successful approaches and practices at the landscape and transboundary ecosystem scales will be supported. The project will also build on existing efforts by the Government of Malawi and WRI to identify private investors active in relevant sectors (forestry, sustainable agriculture) and businesses that restore land as core part of their business model (See Annex 1). A subset of these businesses is ready to absorb private investment and has been connected with investors at "matchmaking" events, including at the Malawi Trade and Investment Forum and at the world's first Land Accelerator (see Annex 2). Two Malawian businesses are poised to attract \$3.2 million in private investment, and more will receive business development support and technical assistance. "Restoration businesses" will be profiled to the Global Impact Investors Network (GIIN), AFR100 financial partners, and on an online Restoration Marketplace.

(3) Effective monitoring, knowledge management and evaluation. The incremental finance will enable the harmonisation of M&A tools and approaches, effective knowledge management, alignment of LDN efforts and the replication of evidence based best practices at national and regional (e.g. through SADC GGWI, AFR100, the Miombo Network as well as the Science and Policy Interface established by the GEF-6 Integrated Approach Pilot (IAP) Food Security Programme). The project will therefore have an impact across the integrity of the entire Miombo & Mopane ecosystem.

The project's incremental reasoning follows a two-pronged approach: (i) Add value to ongoing efforts towards the strengthening/expansion of both ecological restoration of degraded land and climate-

resilient agriculture embedded in baseline initiatives; (ii) Enable conditions for sustainable investments in ecosystem management. Without GEF support, baseline interventions would lack the landscape-level planning layer needed to identify vulnerable areas, restoration priorities emphasizing the sustainable use and conservation of agro biodiversity, and appropriate SLM/SFM-related measures/technologies. This would increase the environmental and social risks potentially embedded in agricultural development drivers, aggravating pressures on dryland resources. With GEF funding, the project will complement baseline interventions with: (i) additional resources to capacitate key stakeholders for an integrated planning and implementation of sustainable landscape-level interventions and for mainstreaming biodiversity and LDN into relevant policies and practices, enabling the upscaling/outscaling of SLM and SFM; (ii) enhancing agricultural know-how and leveraging investments for sustainable value chains with focus on gender and youth inclusion, diversification of production, and restoration via tree planting, soil and water conservation; and finally (iv) fine-tuning technologies and management systems through regional and global collaboration.

- **Engagement with the Global / Regional Framework (*maximum 500 words*)**

Describe how the project will align with the global / regional framework for the program to foster knowledge sharing, learning, and synthesis of experiences. How will the proposed approach scale-up from the local and national level to maximize engagement by all relevant stakeholders and/or actors?

Being part of a joint submission from a coalition of six southern African countries³ ([Map](#)) the project will contribute to the SFM IP's overall vision to maintain the ecological integrity of the Miombo and Mopane woodlands (across borders). This will be achieved through DSL-IP interventions at country level that are well coordinated at the regional level. The child project's framework is therefore closely aligned with the DSL IP's global framework and ToC as well as harmonized with that of the other five Miombo/Mopane child projects. This will facilitate the sharing of evidence-based good practices across initiatives, which will be done through the relevant global (e.g. working groups on drylands) and regional (SADC GGWI) knowledge and exchange structures.

The effective collection and sharing of knowledge (bottom up) will already start during the PPG phase in which all six Miombo and Mopane countries that are supported by FAO will engage in a holistic resilience assessment based on resource user's priorities and knowledge. Besides providing a household resilience score, the assessment will provide comprehensive information on a range of socio-economic, environmental and agronomic variables at household level, including information on food security, nutrition, agro-biodiversity and practiced SLM and SFM approaches. The data collected will be used to guide the design, monitor and evaluate all activities aiming at reinforcing smallholders' resilience based on the actual field situation and farmers' stated priorities. The assessment results will be paired with remote sensing assessments (landscape level) and then discussed during targeted Focus Group Discussions to identify most suitable and socially accepted project interventions (aligned with the project's overall framework) which will aim to increase resilience on farm/forest/rangeland and community levels (taking SDG 15.3.1 indicators into account). Additional participatory and "bottom up" knowledge generation, capturing and sharing of information and practices will continue during the project implementation through the Farmer Field School (FFS).

³ Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Malawi, Angola (note: discussions with the World Bank and the government of Mozambique about the strategic inclusion of the DSL IP Mozambique child project in the Miombo/Mopane cluster under SADC will be carried out during the PPG).

The knowledge exchange at the global level facilitated by the global child project through the working groups on drylands will take place in two ways: The Malawi child project will actively “feed” and share knowledge to the global platform while benefiting from recent scientific knowledge and evidence based good practices provided by the global project in return. Moreover, the child project will use part of the DSL IP incentive to “access” additional services provided by the global project on demand and adaptive basis in order to support the child project in achieving its overall objective. The Miombo/Mopane countries will further benefit from a regional knowledge exchange “hub” by leveraging on SADC’s GGWI. The hub will provide opportunities for effective knowledge sharing between the countries and the identification of evidence based good practices on regional specific issues (Miombo and Mopane landscape). At the project level, the dissemination and scaling up of proven good SLM/SFM practices will be facilitated through participatory rural advisory mechanisms (in particular FFS).

The project will strengthen the monitoring and reporting frameworks existing in the country and share information on progress, results and lessons learned on existing knowledge-sharing platforms such as the one afforded by the AFR100 and SADC networks. These networks will also give access to a pool of technical resources for the implementation of the project. The project also builds on the Great Green Wall Initiative (GGWI) that will help SADC countries mobilize resources to combat desertification, LD and droughts in the Miombo drylands, and achieve SDG 15.3 on LDN through the implementation of the Sub-Regional Action Programme to combat desertification.

The project will build on Malawi’s national restoration monitoring framework to apply innovative rehabilitation and restoration monitoring techniques at district level and build capacity of District Development Officers and M&E Officers. These techniques will create a blueprint to apply across Malawi’s 28 Districts, and results will be customized for private investors to provide unbiased information on the effectiveness of their investments. The project will replicate the innovative Land Accelerator to reach more entrepreneurs with information on how to build profitable restoration businesses. New financial mechanisms, including blended finance and crowdfunding platforms, will be adopted to facilitate finance flows to local level thereby supporting upscaling of SLM and SFM interventions.

GEF-7 CHILD PROJECT CONCEPT

CHILD PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Child Project

PROGRAM: IP SFM Drylands

Child Project Title:	Promoting Dryland Sustainable Landscapes and Biodiversity Conservation in the Eastern Steppe of Mongolia
Country:	Mongolia
Lead Agency	FAO
GEF Agency(ies):	FAO WWF-US
Total project cost (GEF Grant):	\$ 5,354,586
Total Co-financing:	\$ 41,000,000

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. Country Context

Describe the country's relevant environmental challenges and strategic positioning relative to the systems transformation proposed for the program, including relevant existing policies, commitments, and investment frameworks. How are these aligned with the proposed approach to foster impactful outcomes with global environmental benefits?

Approximately 90% of Mongolia is highly prone to desertification¹. 57% of Mongolia's grasslands are degraded to some degree², and the annual cost of land degradation is estimated at \$2.1billion.³ The Mongolian Eastern Steppe, covering 27.3 million hectares, is one of the world's largest remaining grassland ecosystems and hosts critical ecosystem of global environment importance. Land degradation severely influences livelihoods in the steppes, limiting availability of vital functioning ecosystem services and driving local poverty, migration and user conflict. A biodiversity gap analysis⁴ of the area identified five major threats, with human and livestock footprints as the most pressing drivers. Livestock overstocking, increasing impacts from mining operations, and climate change pose pronounced threats to Eastern Steppe.

Existing laws and policies (in particular, Mongolia's Law on Soil Conservation and Desertification Prevention, its Draft Pasture Law, Sustainable Livestock Action Plan, National Agriculture Development Policy) and international commitments (in particular, LDN targets, NDC, NBSAP, and Bonn Challenge) provide a strong enabling framework for this project targeting the Eastern region in SLM/SFM, productive sectors, biodiversity conservation, and reversal/avoidance of land degradation. Provinces and counties have immediate and growing roles in NRM, land-use, access/tenure, and finance following the decentralized governance practices. However, both government and stakeholders require improved institutional capacities and incentives to exercise their mandate in sustainable socio-economic development and NRM.

The project will support the transformation of Mongolia's Eastern Steppe ecosystems to a resilient landscape that enhances biodiversity conservation and sustainable utilization, restores soil fertility, and reduces GHG emissions. To achieve transformational change, the project will employ an integrated and inclusive approach to secure GEBs, build landscape and livelihood resilience, and restore land quality and living standards. This will require: i) effective governance and policy responses; ii) sustainable land use by productive sectors and communities; iii) PPP finance, market access, and incentive support; iv) knowledge sharing; and v) conservation and restoration of critical ecosystems. Existing Forest User Groups (FUGs) and Pasture User Groups (PUGs) lay the foundation for positive

¹ National LDN Targets, Measures (Oct 2018); including Voluntary Target Setting to Achieve LDN (Sept 2018).

² National Report on the Rangeland Health of Mongolia: Second Assessment. Green Gold-Animal health project, SDC; Mongolian National Federation of PUGs. Ulaanbaatar.

³ UNCCD Global Mechanism. "Mongolia: Investing in LDN, Making the Case." 2018, p. 3. \$US 2.1 billion, equivalent to 43% of national GDP.

⁴ 2010. WWF/TNC. 'Biodiversity Gap Analysis of the Grasslands and Forest Steppe of Central and Eastern Mongolia'.

land-use changes contributing to GEBs. Four major impacts will be achieved in: dryland governance, reversing land degradation, conservation of biodiversity and resilience to climate change.

The project aims to generate best practices that will be scaled up. The project builds important national level impacts and implications, as well, will generate important lessons to be shared with other dryland communities.

2. Project Overview and Approach (*maximum 1250 words*)

a) Provide a brief description of the geographical target(s), including details of systemic challenges, and the specific environmental threats and associated drivers that must be addressed;

The three target provinces, Dornod, Khentii and Sukhbaatar, lie within the Mongolian Eastern Steppe consisting of 27.3 million hectares. Within the Eurasian Steppe⁵, the Eastern Steppe is exceptional for its intactness, diverse micro-ecosystems, and living human and environment heritage. This dynamic ecosystem incorporates adjacent Taiga Forest and the Gobi Desert flows, vast grasslands, three rivers forming headwaters of the Amur-Heilongjiang⁶, and natural reserves. Flora and fauna of Central Asia are found here, alongside those of Manchuria. The project area includes three RAMSAR sites, 15 Important Birds Areas, and critical breeding habitat for East Asian-Australasian and Central Asian Flyways.⁷ The Steppe, dominated by *stipa* grasses, was shaped over millennia by nomadic pastoralists and migrating wildlife.⁸ The target area provides critical habitat and ecosystem services supporting household well-being as well as regional and national economy.

The target area includes nine counties (*Soums*) covering a total **6.86 million ha dryland**, inclusive of:

- 5.96 million hectares Mongolia-Manchurian Grassland Ecoregion (Sukhbaatar, Dornod provinces), and;
- 897,748 hectares Daurian Forest Steppe Ecoregion (Khentii) supporting dryland biodiversity hotspots and LD priority areas.

The Steppe is under an increasing human footprint. A burgeoning mining industry⁹ and overgrazing by livestock diminish the integrity of this critical dryland biome. National rangeland can sustainably support 25 million head of livestock; in 2018, this was exceeded 2.7 times.¹⁰ As a result, Mongolia is experiencing severe soil and grassland degradation. Compounding and exacerbating this drying landscape are highly pronounced climatic trends.¹¹ Mongolian LDN targets identified three areas “*needing long-term action to avoid the risk of land degradation.*” Two of these three areas are located within the Eastern Steppe.¹² The overconcentration of livestock around small rivers and lakes, especially during the summer time, further results in heavy organic loads that are causing

⁵ The Eurasian Steppe stretches from Bulgaria through Russia, Kazakhstan, and Mongolia to Manchuria, with one major exclave (the Pannonian steppe) located in Hungary, Serbia and Croatia.

⁶ The Amur-Heilongjiang river runs 4,444 km and is the tenth largest in the world.

⁷ E.g. including six globally endangered crane species. The Dauria alone supports more than 3 million migrating birds. Over 130 flora species, 25 species of mammal, 174 species of birds including the rare great bustard (*Otis tarda*) and white-naped crane (*Antigone vipio*), 2 species of amphibians, and 5 species of reptiles are recorded in the Steppe.

⁸ E.g. the Mongolian gazelle (*Procapra gutturosa*) and Brandt's vole are inseparable elements of the ecosystem, have helped shape this landscape.

⁹ In Eastern Mongolia licenses for exploration and exploitation cover roughly 2% of the territory. However, the infrastructure required for mining in Eastern Mongolia poses a risk to the migratory ungulates. Railroads traditionally surrounded by fences cut off inherited migration routes between grazing areas while absence of paved roads in steppe and desert areas causes off-road “multi-tracking” causing soil erosion in most productive lands near the settlements.

¹⁰ 2018 Mongolian Livestock Census. A total of more than 66.5 m head of livestock.

¹¹ Mongolia's climate is increasingly characterized by high extremes in temperature and precipitation. The MARCC 2009, highlighted annual mean temperature increasing 2.14 degrees Celsius over the last 70 years; increased seasonal thawing and the reduction of permafrost (by 5%) and glacial areas (by 30%); marked changes in vegetative patterns, typography and water resources; a decrease in precipitation (except in the western part of the country) leading to increased frequency and duration of droughts; and a tripling in the intensity and frequency of other extreme weather events including harsh winters (Dzud), snow and dust storms.

¹² I.e. Eastern Mongolia Plain, and Onon River basin. (P. 27, National LDN Targets and Measures, Mongolia. Oct 2018).

eutrophication of these open water sources. The main threats to Protected Areas in Eastern Mongolia are associated with land use, illegal hunting and overuse of natural resources, along with livestock pressure.

Root causes and major drivers of the land degradation requiring focused interventions, reported with consistency¹³ include: i) weak governance, ad hoc development planning and capacity constraints; ii) absence of financial incentives for sustainable land management; iii) limited understanding of the complex dynamics of ecosystems, their values and the multiple demands placed upon them; (iv) unsustainable production practices due to reduced mobility and increased livestock; and iv) a ‘free for all’¹⁴ attitude resulting in a vicious cycle of environmental degradation and increased poverty.

In Eastern Mongolia, the number of herder households has increased in recent years. There are ca. 20,500 herder households in the Steppe (or 100,000 people), of which 44% are poor on average (Sukhbaatar has 47%).¹⁵ The monthly average income per household here is the lowest of Mongolia’s five regions.¹⁶

Transboundary sand and dust storms fuelled by the Eastern Steppe desertification have intensified.¹⁷ This represents loss of soil organic matter/resources from Mongolia’s dryland ecosystems, and a cost to neighbouring countries (Japan, Korea and China).

b) Describe the existing or planned baseline investments, including current institutional framework and processes for stakeholder engagement and gender integration;

In the baseline, several agencies and stakeholders support efforts for sustainable development and land use at the national level and in Eastern Mongolia. The National Development Authority (NDA) establishes multi-sector land use policy, strategy, and financial incentives. MOET and MoFALI inform local-national policy and planning with regard to environment, livestock and agriculture, and implement national and sub-national development budgets. MOET supports four Eastern Steppe Protected Area and River Basin Administrations¹⁸. MoCUP is the line ministry responsible for national and local land-use planning. Land use plans are developed annually at the *soum* level.

The Swiss-funded Green Gold Project (2004-2020, US\$ 27m) has promoted the sustainable use of rangeland resources and improved economic opportunities through the establishment of PUGs and rangeland use agreements with local government. A national rangeland health monitoring system has been developed involving the Administration of Land Affairs, Geodesy and Cartography (ALAGAC) and the National Agency for Meteorology and Environmental Monitoring (NAMEM). A National Federation of Pasture User Groups has been set up.

The project will also build on WWF’s ongoing program in the Amur-Heilong Ecoregion Complex to conserve biodiversity and enhance sustainable NRM in Eastern Mongolia (EUR 200k/year). It will build on the FAO/EU project on “Employment Creation in Agriculture Value Chains”, supporting the development of value chains in meat, milk, vegetable, cashmere/wool and hides/skin, as well as FAO’s “Piloting the Climate-Smart approach in livestock production systems” project (2018-2020), which supports national food security and development goals through adopting climate-smart approaches to increase the productivity of dual-purpose cattle, sheep and goats.

¹³ E.g. As recently recorded in 16 January 2019 stakeholder consultation with representatives of the National Development Agency, MET, MoFALI, UNDP, ADB, SDC, IFAD, GIZ, TNC, WCS and local NGOs.

¹⁴ Shift to the market economy, urban-rural migration, ad hoc development planning underpinned by weak regulatory frameworks have caused significant disruption of traditional knowledge and customary user rights, truly, a “tragedy of the commons.”

¹⁵ National Statistical Office. <https://www.1212.mn/> 44% of E Mongolia’s population (90,541 persons) live in poverty

¹⁶ Ca. USD 300 per month in E Steppes, compared with USD 450 in Ulaanbaatar.

¹⁷ Feasibility study of Joint Demonstration Project for the Prevention and Control of Dust and Sandstorms Source Areas, 2013.

¹⁸ In accordance with Mongolian Law on Protected Areas, only Strictly Protected Area and National Parks receive state financing, while management responsibility of Nature Reserve and Local Protected Area are delegated to the Provincial and county government which have neither capacity nor funding dedicated to these areas.

The private bank XacBank, a GCF Accredited Entity, is a pioneer in green finance such as renewable energy projects. In collaboration with Mercy Corps, XacBank is implementing a pilot project on pasture restoration and herder livelihoods in Bayan-Ovoo *soum*, Khentii Province, deploying a new eco-loan product that provides lower rates for herders who meet “pasture friendly” criteria. Options for upscaling of this mechanism in the target area will be explored. In addition, World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) members are supporting work on ‘Sustainable Protein’. TNC and WCS are in discussions with herder cooperatives and the Sustainable Fibre Alliance¹⁹ on SLM. Collaboration will be sought with these initiatives.

The following projects are currently being developed and synergies will be explored further during the detailed project preparation phase:

- A UNDP/GCF project on “Improving Adaptive Capacity and Risk Management of Rural Communities in Mongolia”, aiming to enhance livelihood, water and land resilience²⁰.
- World Bank pipeline project on policy, animal health, commercialization of the livestock sector.
- ADB pipeline project on “Vegetable Production/Irrigated Agriculture/Sustainable Tourism”.

While not part of the project baseline, the project will also be coordinated with ongoing GEF projects, in particular FAO’s Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation, SFM and Carbon Sink Enhancement Into Mongolia’s Productive Forest Landscapes (2014-2020) and UNDP’s Ensuring Sustainability and Resilience (ENSURE) of Green Landscapes in Mongolia (2019-2026)²¹. It will incorporate lessons learned of the following projects:

- IFAD’s “Project for Market and Pasture Management Development” (2011-2021) aims to improve livelihoods of poor herder households.
- KfW’s project “Biodiversity and Adaptation to Climate Change” (2015-2020) supports four Eastern Mongolia Protected Area administrations. Under this project, some equipment was provided to Toson Khulstai and Khar Yamaat Nature Reserves.
- UNCCD project on ‘Prevention/Mitigation of Dryland Dust Storms’ in Southern Gobi (2018-2021).
- UN-REDD Programme in Mongolia.

Consultations with national and provincial stakeholders were held during the project concept development. Further consultations will be held with local and national stakeholders, in particular local communities, during the project preparation phase. In addition to the stakeholders mentioned above, the following stakeholders will be engaged in the project preparation and implementation:

- Ministry of Construction and Urban Planning (MoCUP)
- National Statistics Office of Mongolia
- Center for Policy Research, a non-governmental policy research institution
- Onon River’s Association of CBOs
- Eastern Mongolian Local Community Association for Conservation
- Institute for Social-Ecological Research
- Mongolian University of Life Science
- Primary and secondary cooperatives and SMEs
- National mobile phone service carriers²²

¹⁹ The Sustainable Fibre Alliance is a non-profit international organisation working with the extended cashmere supply chain, from herders to retailers. It promotes a global sustainability standard for cashmere production in order to preserve and restore grasslands, ensure animal welfare and secure livelihoods.

²⁰ Target area includes Dornod and Sukhbaatar provinces.

²¹ The ENSURE project aims to enhance ecosystem services in multiple landscapes of the Sayan and Khangai mountains and southern Gobi by reducing rangeland and forest degradation and conserving biodiversity through sustainable livelihoods.

²² Access to communication technologies (e.g. solar powered mobile phones) and relevant applications will be promoted by the project. Examples of using innovative technologies include financial technology solutions through mobile phone-based transactions and reporting on environmental data (livestock and wild animal/bird count, status of grassland).

The project proposes to develop a comprehensive stakeholder engagement plan that would be a road map for engagement with the above stated stakeholders during preparation, which would include Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) for those activities to be executed with indigenous or ethnic communities.

The project emphasizes gender inclusive engagement in all aspects of project development and implementation. The National Policy on Gender in Agriculture and Light Industry Sector (2018-2025) and Gender Strategy for Environmental Sector (2014-2030) provide guidance ensuring gender sensitive consultation, planning and implementation of project interventions at all levels.

FAO has supported Mongolia as the first country in Asia to implement the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT), which promote responsible governance with respect to all forms of tenure: public, private, communal, indigenous, customary, and informal.

c) Describe how the integrated approach proposed for the child project responds to and reflects the Program's Theory of Change, and as such is an appropriate and suitable option for tackling the systemic challenges, and to achieve the desired transformation with multiple global environmental benefits;

The project's Theory of Change provides an integrated approach to tackle the complex drivers of land degradation and address the key barriers in the target landscape. It is directly aligned with the Program's Theory of Change. Interventions targeted at all levels of the system (policy, governance, stakeholders, capacities, value chains, and PPP) and across all actors and stakeholders in the landscape will support the required systems transformation. The biome/ecosystem/landscape focus of the Program and its cross-sectoral approach will be well suited to tackle the drivers of degradation in Mongolia, with impacts across multiple focal areas. Furthermore, co-benefits will be realized in the area of International Waters through improved management of the headwaters of the Amur-Heilongjiang ecosystem.

d) Describe the project's incremental reasoning for GEF financing under the program, including the results framework and components.

The GEF financing will build on the baseline described above, and will specifically support incremental costs of:

- Required policy, planning and governance changes supporting a systems transformation.
- Ensuring a cross-sectoral, multi-stakeholder approach.
- Ensuring planning at the biome/ecosystem/landscape level and a science-based approach to conservation and sustainable use.
- Technologies and innovations for scaling up sustainable dryland management, including the development of value chains and PPPs.
- Generation and sharing of knowledge at the project and program level, including improved monitoring and access to land-use data.

In line with the Program objective, the project aims to reverse and prevent dryland ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss through an inclusive and integrated landscape and value chain approach for sustainable, resilient livelihoods in the Eastern Steppe of Mongolia. The project will be divided into three components:

- 1) Strengthening the enabling environment for the sustainable management of drylands in Mongolia;
- 2) Scaling up sustainable dryland management in the Eastern Steppe of Mongolia; and
- 3) Project coordination, knowledge management and monitoring.

Total project area is 6.86 million hectares; total avoided GHG emissions 10.3 million tCO₂eq; target beneficiaries 20,500 households (or 100,000 people).

3. Engagement with the Global / Regional Framework (*maximum 500 words*)

Describe how the project will align with the global / regional framework for the program to foster knowledge sharing, learning, and synthesis of experiences. How will the proposed approach scale-up from the local and national level to maximize engagement by all relevant stakeholders and/or actors?

The project will provide key policy and decision makers in Mongolia with tools and capacity and linkage to other dryland countries with best environment/biodiversity legal framework/practice.

The project will establish systems for M&E, knowledge management and knowledge sharing contributing to national, regional and global IP implementation. Special consideration will be given to experience sharing with other Central Asian countries practicing pastoral husbandry, best dryland practice. The project will build on relevant international platforms in which Mongolia already plays an active role, such as the UNCCD, WOCAT, the Central Asia Countries Integrated Land Management Initiative (CACILM), the Bonn Challenge, the Northeast Asia Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought Network²³, and the United Nations Environment Assembly, under which Mongolia is leading efforts to designate an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, among others. The project will also coordinate closely with FAO's Committee on Forestry (COFO) Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems.

Furthermore, the project will support regional and cross-border coordination relevant to maintaining the ecological integrity of the Central Asian Steppe, in particular in relation to the Mongolia-Manchurian Grassland and the Daurian Forest Steppe Ecoregions. It will generate lessons learned that will contribute to the understanding of the complex dynamics of ecosystems, their values and the multiple demands placed upon them. The project will also provide important lessons with regard to land tenure and access, resilience, and the role of women in the sustainable management of drylands. Through the involvement of the private sector, the project will catalyse innovations that can be scaled up in other countries in the region and globally under the IP. These innovations may include, among others, financial and market-based instruments such as certifications.

²³ The DLDD NEAN demonstration program aims for regional SLM/CC/BD cooperation among Mongolia, FAO, Korea Forest Service, and State Forest Administration of China to identify, disseminate and adapt best practices combating desertification.

GEF-7 CHILD PROJECT CONCEPT

CHILD PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Child Project

PROGRAM: IP SFM Drylands

Child Project Title:	Conservation Areas for Biodiversity Conservation and Development
Country:	Mozambique
Lead Agency	WB
GEF Agency(ies):	WB
Total project cost (GEF Grant):	\$ 23,115,776
Total Co-financing:	\$ 113,000,000

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. Country Context

Describe the country's relevant environmental challenges and strategic positioning relative to the systems transformation proposed for the program, including relevant existing policies, commitments, and investment frameworks. How are these aligned with the proposed approach to foster impactful outcomes with global environmental benefits?

Mozambique's forest covers 43% of the country, the predominant ecosystem being miombo woodlands which support high levels of endemic biodiversity, store more than 5.2 billion tCO₂ and significantly contribute to the local economy. The Miombo forest provides a variety of biophysical ecosystem goods and services to local communities, including food, fuel, medicine and construction materials. Communities depend significantly on forests. It is estimated that in some areas, miombo woodlands contribute about 19% of household cash income and 40% of the household subsistence (non-cash) income.

The Government of Mozambique (GoM) has in recent years shown unprecedented commitment to avoiding and reducing deforestation and forest degradation. It is the only miombo country engaged in Emissions Reductions payments, having signed a US\$50 million ERPA in January 2019, and its National REDD+ Strategy aims to reduce deforestation by 40%. GoM also has a commitment to restore 1 million hectare of degraded landscapes through the AFR100 initiative, estimated to be equivalent to US\$ 314 million with a 0.09 GtCO₂ carbon sequestration potential, which would advance the country towards LDN. Mozambique's NDC also has significant commitments to drylands, which aims for GHG reductions of 23MtCO₂ from 2020 to 2024 and 53 MtCO₂ from 2025 to 2030, of which reduction in GHG from land-use change and deforestation is the main sector.

To achieve these commitments, the GoM has strong integrated policies, tools and frameworks in place. On a national level, sustainable forest management is a core part of GoM's National Sustainable Development Program (Sustenta), which has enabled key reforms such as a ban on timber log exports, new institutions for forest law enforcement, and the establishment of several tools that improve law enforcement and support dryland forest management, including the National Territorial Development Plan, a National Forest Monitoring System and Forest Information System as well as collaborative management contracts for protected areas. Through the Sustenta Program, currently serving five provinces, GoM is providing incentives for small- and medium landholders to restore critical degraded lands. At the local level the Government is implementing spatial planning tools such as ROAM to help communities identify areas for restoration and select feasible

interventions to reduce degradation. Funding mechanisms such as performance-based grants for commercial forest plantation by smallholders are under implementation. Multi-stakeholder landscape platforms are actively supported to enable effective participation. At the regional level, Mozambique is actively engaged in the Mimobo Network and is working to revitalize and strengthen key TFCAs to preserve transboundary ecosystems.

This project is part of the GoM's aforementioned integrated approach, and is an effective way for Mozambique to generate positive social and environmental benefits at local, national, and global levels. The interventions contribute to achieving global benefits and Mozambique's targets in terms of increased biodiversity protection, reduced land degradation, strengthened climate change resilience, and contribute to climate change mitigation while also increasing livelihood opportunities, income, jobs for local communities and the value derived from increased quality of the natural resource base, such as clean water, and better access to markets.

2. Project Overview and Approach (*maximum 1250 words*)

- a) Provide a brief description of the geographical target(s), including details of systemic challenges, and the specific environmental threats and associated drivers that must be addressed;
3. The Chimanimani National Reserve and surrounding landscape is recognized as KBA in the Eastern Afromontane Hotspot, and is part of the Chimanimani TFCA. This region encompasses an endemic ecosystem with areas of high scientific value, as well as high concentrations of new and/or poorly known species. A 2018 ROAM assessment identified and spatially prioritized over 170,000 hectares for restoration within the Landscape, considering benefits to water services, soil fertility, biodiversity, and legal compliance. ROAM also identified significant opportunities in three National Forest Reserves, which protect species of high commercial value and evergreen forests. Species invasion, predominately linked to poor management has however resulted in rapid deforestation and degradation of these areas. Through re-categorization of these areas to formal community forest reserves, and the enabling tools, ROAM identified investments and CBNRM capacity building, these areas have large restoration potential, which will be supported by this Child Project.
4. The Maputo Special Reserve Landscape is a Biodiversity hotspot and is recognized for high conservation value and is part of the Lubombo TFCA. The area is home to Licuati Forest Reserve which is internationally recognized for its rich content of endemic plant and bird species. The MMR Landscape is an important wetland system and a hotspot for avifauna species, being classified as one of the key RAMSAR sites and IBA of Mozambique.
5. The main deforestation and degradation factors that will need to be addressed in these areas are slash-and-burn agriculture, wood extraction, trade in timber, fires of unnatural causes, population growth, encroachment and land tenure conflicts. The planned integrated landscape approach would facilitate a combination of required activities to promote sustainable agriculture, improved land tenure, restoration, reduced erosion, protection of water resources, reduction in flood risk and conservation of endemic biodiversity. Forest-related climate change mitigation and adaptation needs will also be addressed, so as to increase resilience of rural communities and reduce forest fires and pest outbreaks.

- b) Describe the existing or planned baseline investments, including current institutional framework and processes for stakeholder engagement and gender integration;
- 6. The primary baseline investment is Mozbio 2 (\$45 million IDA). In addition the Project will benefit from up to \$40 million from the WB financed Integrated Landscape Management (ILM) Program, implemented by GoM; in particular from MozLand US\$100 million; Sustenta US\$80 million; MozFIP US\$37 million. In addition, the project will benefit from: technical and financial resources of up to US\$20 million from co-managers of PAs; up to US\$5 million will be leveraged from beneficiaries of the Matching Grant Scheme and US\$3 million in GoM in-kind contribution. The ILM Program combines efforts of sustainable forest management, biodiversity protection, sustainable agriculture and restoration of degraded habitats with the aim to foster rural development, such as access to financing, infrastructure, and land tenure security to local communities. The ILM program has enabled GoM to build a strong enabling environment, institutional arrangements and processes for delivering on the components in this Child Project, especially the Matching Grant Scheme, community land delimitation and performance based and accompanying benefit sharing mechanisms.
- 7. This child project will benefit from the ILM Program's approach of managing the wider landscapes, as it emphasizes stronger presence and decentralized coordination mandate at the local level; through the establishment of Landscape Management Units (LMUs), multi-stakeholder coordination platforms and Conservation Areas (CA) Management Councils. The LMUs coordinate and monitor ILM progress at the provincial level and coordinate with district authorities and other stakeholders. The platforms convene stakeholders around relevant issues in the landscape and help foster cooperation in implementation, while CA Management Councils coordinate key issues inside protected areas.

The ILM Program applies a gender differentiated approach, with activities that are designed to bridge the social, economic and cultural gender gaps in women's access and management of natural resources, including i) support to environmental clubs for girls and young women to address gender differentiated knowledge and skills, including literacy, reproductive health, civic awareness and leadership; ii) support to Credit and Savings Associations in natural-resource dependent communities to increase financial empowerment; iii) develop gender sensitive zoning plans that take into account gender-differentiated needs and opportunities for restoration; and iv) provide technical and financial support to female-led businesses. WB and the GoM are also currently preparing a Gender Action Plan to improve future ILM interventions.

- c) Describe how the integrated approach proposed for the child project responds to and reflects the Program's Theory of Change, and as such is an appropriate and suitable option for tackling the systemic challenges, and to achieve the desired transformation with multiple global environmental benefits; and

The integrated ILM approach combines hard and soft investments to address direct drivers and threats to drylands, with activities to build productive landscapes by using a holistic long term approach that interlinks dryland management with sustainable agricultural development, strengthening of PA biodiversity management and conservation, increased stakeholder rights and awareness and market linkages. At community level; miombo-dependent communities who benefit from land delimitation, TA and financing for dryland restoration, are more motivated and enabled to change practices and enjoy both natural benefits from ecosystems (improved waterways, soils etc) as well as socio-economic income from their activities. By also supporting environmental education and gender-differentiated activities, the project will aim to address the

underlying social factors in miombo communities, ensuring a bottom-up approach derived from ownership and willingness of communities to be part of it.

At the landscape level; provision of matching grants for dryland value chains and restoration, with accompanying land delimitation, involving both private sector and smallholders, will help transform local economies, by reducing land tenure conflicts in the use of drylands and creating jobs and alternative income generating activities that actually aim to avoid and reduce degradation. This aligns with the DFP ToC supporting scaling up interventions on the ground for visible impact. By developing district and local land-use plans that help guide interventions, Districts and Provincial governments, and PAs, will be enabled to work together with stakeholders in the landscape to achieve the common vision of LDN and SFM, ensuring landscape level change rather than micro level. This approach has been proven effective in Nampula and Zambezia provinces, where restoration activities linked to value chains have been sustained.

These integrated activities will also reduce both individual and collective climate vulnerability. For example, access to finance will help community members and private entities to buy inputs that increase agricultural productivity and replace climate-sensitive crops - contributing to diversified agro-ecological food production and livelihood systems and likelihood for longer term dryland sustainable management. From a national point of view, the Project's interventions towards LDN and SFM, will be used as pilots, to be scaled up and replicated at a national scale to through the Sustenta program.

- d) Describe the project's incremental reasoning for GEF financing under the program, including the results framework and components.
8. As designed the project objective is to improve management of target conservation area landscapes and enhance the living conditions of communities in and around these conservation areas. The project will be structured around the following components which will be refined during preparation.
9. Component 1 will strengthen the enabling environment and technical and financial capacities of conservation and dryland institutions to address drivers of deforestation and degradation and promote forest and biodiversity conservation. Implemented through Mozambique's Conservation Fund for Biodiversity (BIOFUND) and the Ministry of Land, Environment and Rural Development, the component will support coordination between entities to design and implement effective dryland management measures, including afforestation, assisted natural regeneration, forest plantation of native species, improved efficiency of charcoal production, and payment for ecosystem services for natural forests. By identifying and coordinating decision-making on prioritized interventions, the component will help maximize productivity and species diversity of the forest originally present at a site or restore the capacity of degraded or fragmented forest land to deliver forest products and services (forest rehabilitation). This component contributes to PFD Component 1, especially 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3 as key results include improved coordination on prioritized dryland restoration activities, and design and use of local Land Use Plans and natural resource value assessments.

Component 2 aims to scale up investments in sustainable dryland management, through interventions that target the Conservation Areas and their surrounding larger landscapes, through two subcomponents.

Sub-Component 2.1 will promote conservation-compatible rural development in target landscapes through support to sustainable dryland value chains, associated land-delimitation

and restoration activities. An integrated set of interventions will be done, including a matching grant mechanism for dryland value chains, incentives and TA for ROAM prioritized restoration activities and associated land delimitation. The FNDS Matching Grant Scheme 'Sustenta Biodiversity', targets local entrepreneurs; community based organizations and MSMEs. To help promote the inclusion of women in dryland value chains, the project will also support Saving and Credit Groups, which primarily comprise women. Value chains to be supported can include commercialization of NTFPs and the promotion of diversified agro-ecological food production systems. This component contributes to PFD Component 2.2. Key results include increased number of households included in sustainable dryland value chains, in particular of women-headed households, reduction in loss of habitat through sustainable land use practices and reduction in GHG emissions through reforestation and efforts to reduce land degradation.

Sub-Component 2. 2 will provide direct support to target Conservation Areas to improve management and coordination with surrounding stakeholders and, to improve the enforcement and investments needed for sustainable dryland management. Conservation Areas will be supported to improve protection or management to benefit biodiversity and investments directly linked to avoiding loss of high-conservation value forest and reduction in CO₂ emissions. By direct investments to community forest reserves, including assisted natural regeneration and active planting with native and certain exotic species, soil productivity will be improved, and will contribute to reduced erosion and enhanced biodiversity of these areas. Support to multi-stakeholder platforms, environmental awareness youth clubs and environmental education will also be supported to achieve a common vision and promote stronger awareness at community level regarding dryland and biodiversity conservation. This component contributes to PFD component 2, especially 2.4. Key results include improved management of Conservation Areas, strengthened awareness on restoration, biodiversity conservation among local communities and increased area under improved protection or management to benefit biodiversity and avoid loss of high-conservation value forest and reduction in CO₂ emissions.

Component 3 will support project coordination, monitoring of results, regional cooperation through the MN and the Lubombo and Chimanmani TFCAs, and participation in global forums, allowing to prioritize, coordinate and collaborate on efforts with other dryland countries in order to maximize relevance, impact and cost-effectiveness of interventions in transboundary ecosystems. It will also support participation in coordinating grant events and regional meetings as well as production, dissemination and knowledge sharing derived from the project. This component contributes to PFD Component 3 and also 1.4. Key results includes strengthened coordination and monitoring capacity of project and strengthened regional and global collaboration on drylands through participation in learning events.

10. Engagement with the Global / Regional Framework (*maximum 500 words*)

Describe how the project will align with the global / regional framework for the program to foster knowledge sharing, learning, and synthesis of experiences. How will the proposed approach scale-up from the local and national level to maximize engagement by all relevant stakeholders and/or actors?

The Project will take advantage of global knowledge resources on drylands and biodiversity to ensure the use of best practices, and to create and contribute to regional and global partnerships, joint research and strategic knowledge management. The Miombo Network (MN) is one of the most important networks, in which Mozambique has played an increasingly active role recently. Further integration and support to the MN under will allow Mozambique to improve research efforts that

link biological, ecological, social and economic disciplines to provide a scientific basis for the joint regional conservation and sustainable use of the Miombo woodlands in Southern Africa. Mozambique will continue its collaboration with NM, by implementing collaboration opportunities already identified in a recent NM report, to compare and refine national policies across the region with the goal to advocate for policy harmonization. The project will also support participation in national, regional, and international conservation meetings to guarantee exchange of knowledge with other partners and institutions. This project will also support a Conservation Leadership Program, which aims to promote a cohort of skilled professionals in biodiversity conservation, promoted through long- and short-term trainings, internships and targeted research. The program is regionally focused, through collaboration with institutions such as the Southern Africa Wildlife College, Mweka Wildlife College, Edward O. Wilson Laboratory and other relevant academic partners focused on drylands and biodiversity.

The project will also continue to promote and build on the significant efforts that Mozambique has done in regard to South-south learning exchanges. A programmatic series of south-south exchanges since 2015 have exposed various Ministries to a wide dimension of successful experiences and lessons learned globally, from climate financing to sustainable rural development practices, non-timber forest products value chains, forests, wildlife and conservation management, contributing to increased knowledge for decision makers, project teams and beneficiaries. This programmatic approach will be continued under this project, by south-south exchanges with Namibia, Angola and other countries. The exchanges will be wide in regard to thematic areas and participants, to ensure broad capacity building of local entities/actors, that can use the knowledge acquired in the landscape. The Project will also continue strategic outreach and knowledge management to give Mozambique broad international exposure and national stakeholder engagement. Participation in events, such as the Global Landscape Forum, will also be supported to push national agendas forward and share knowledge and communication.

The Project will also benefit from technical and management collaboration through the TFCAs of Chimanimani and Lubombo, which will enable strengthened coordination and measures to protect and preserve these transboundary ecosystems. Examples of such collaborations include joint enforcement and patrolling, sharing and streamlining of research and management practices in regard to dryland and other endemic biodiversity.

Finally the project will benefit from the global coordination grant of the overall Dryland impact program to allow for knowledge exchange and learnings and contribute to the drylands agenda both at the regional and global level. The project will budget resources to enable participation in the annual and regional events organized through the coordination grant.

GEF-7 CHILD PROJECT CONCEPT

CHILD PROJECT TYPE: FULL-SIZE PROJECT

PROGRAM: IP SFM DRYLANDS

Child Project Title:	Integrated landscape management to reverse degradation and support the sustainable use of natural resources in the Mopane-Miombo belt of Northern Namibia
Country:	Namibia
Lead Agency	FAO
GEF Agency(ies):	FAO
Total project cost (GEF Grant):	\$ 6,130,275
Total Co-financing:	\$ 138,700,000

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Country Context

Describe the country's relevant environmental challenges and strategic positioning relative to the systems transformation proposed for the program, including relevant existing policies, commitments, and investment frameworks. How are these aligned with the proposed approach to foster impactful outcomes with global environmental benefits?

In spite of its arid climate, Namibia holds a remarkable variety of species, habitats and ecosystems. The Miombo/Mopane woodlands of northern Namibia provide a full range of ecosystem services, maintaining carbon stocks and fertility, controlling soil erosion, modifying hydrological cycles, and supplying timber and non-timber products (NTFPs). They offer a variety of NTFPs, such as edible insects, medicinal and cosmetic plants, fruits, mushrooms, honey, fodder, and wild meat, contributing significantly to food and nutrition security, helping ward off micronutrient deficiencies, diversifying diets and livelihoods, and overall acting as safety net in times of stress. Ecosystems are a crucial source of subsistence goods for construction and grazing. The associated biodiversity – especially mammals and birdlife – attracts a steady flow of tourists and brings employment and revenue to local communities.

The most significant environmental challenge in the targeted Miombo/Mopane woodlands are land use changes caused by the conversion from grassland to cropland and a general loss of trees and ecological value of forests. Direct drivers for land degradation include agricultural expansion, charcoal production and overgrazing, which contribute to the loss of soil carbon and of biomass, resulting in biodiversity loss. Land degradation is accelerated by climate change and indirectly driven by population pressure. In the last ten years, temperatures in Namibia have been rising at three times the global mean increase reported for the 20th century, while rainfall received throughout the country has been low in the last 10 years, characterized by short duration and high intensity rain storms. North and central Namibia will suffer the highest increase in temperature and decrease in precipitation over the period 2036-65¹.

For Namibia, this project provides a strategic opportunity to strengthen its national policy and capacity on LDN and align to key strategic documents including the Forest Policy and Forestry Act (2001); National Climate Change Strategy & Action Plan (2013-2020); Second National Biodiversity Strategy and

¹ TNC, 2015

Action Plan 2013-2022; Namibia Agriculture Policy (2015) and MAWF's Strategic Plan 2017/18-2021/22. The project will scale-up SLM and SFM best practices in priority landscapes in the north of the country, with a transboundary focus and impact (Cunene basin) complementing existing interventions (i.e. GEF6 NILALEG). The project will directly contribute to the SADC's Great Green Wall Initiative and SADC's Sub-regional Action Programme to combat desertification. The strengthened national policy and capacity on LDN and the empowerment of stakeholders on SLM/SFM/LR/IWRM planning and implementation in combination with the establishment/strengthening of inclusive dryland commodity value chains will have a positive impact beyond the target landscapes. The upscaling and mainstreaming of SLM/SFM/LR/IWRM investments in a coordinated fashion with other projects active in the same part of the country (NILALEG) and creating synergies at the transboundary level (with Angola) will have a positive long-term impact on a part of Namibia where LD is the most critical issue. In addition, the transboundary approach, including the linkage with GGWI/SADC, the regional knowledge platform and regional farmer support opportunities through the Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions (SACAU) will ensure an impact at larger ecosystem level.

Project Overview and Approach (maximum 1250 words)

- a) Provide a brief description of the geographical target(s), including details of systemic challenges, and the specific environmental threats and associated drivers that must be addressed;**

The project area extends over two landscapes (65,000 km²), partially shared with Angola ([Map](#)), in the Mopane ecosystem of northern Namibia. The landscape across the Omusati-Oshana-Oshikoto-Kunene region is situated in the Cunene Basin within the Angolan Mopane Woodlands ecoregion, and the Kavango landscape is in the Okavango Basin within the Kalahari Xeric Savanna and Kalahari Acacia-Baikiaea woodlands ecoregion. All sites include protected areas of global significance (e.g. Etosha NP, Ka-Za Conservation Area) and comprise several Community Forests and Conservancies. Because of nature protection, landscapes are comparatively rich in biocarbon, but also prone to hazardous fire if not adequately managed. Sites were selected by the Namibian Government in September 2018, based on set criteria² and are strategically located adjacent to the sites of the GEF-6/UNDP NILALEG project, which the proposed project will geographically expand and technically complement.

The most significant land use change in the targeted landscape is a steady conversion from grassland to cropland (25% increase between 1995-2015) and a general reduction in tree cover (3,771 ha out of 119,085 ha between 2001-2015). The cropland area, 41,175 ha rainfed and 13,106 ha mosaic cropland, has averagely expanded by 11% and 22 % respectively. All sites are affected by declining productivity (over 952,203 ha or 20% of the project area) and water scarcity. Land degradation in the area has been driven by agriculture expansion, charcoal production and overgrazing, which together with monocropping, has contributed to soil organic carbon degradation ([Maps](#)). Climate change and increasing population are the main indirect drivers that contribute to accelerating the process.

Challenges for effective integrated/transboundary landscape management at scale in the region relate to: (i) landscape-wide land use planning and management; (ii) access to knowhow and resources concerning climate-resilient NRM methods and technologies for improving livelihoods; (iii) the capacity

² Population density, land tenure situation, poverty level, agriculture and soil productivity, extent of degradation and restoration potential.

of national and regional institutions to harmonize trans-boundary landscape management governance mechanisms and to monitor changes including livelihoods opportunities for communities.

b) Describe the existing or planned baseline investments, including current institutional framework and processes for stakeholder engagement, and gender integration;

The project will draw on existing and planned investments in the agriculture, community-based NRM, resilience and wildlife conservation sectors. Baseline investments: (i) MAWF's Strategic Plan 2017/18-2021/22; (ii) ADB-funded Namibia Agriculture Mechanisation and Seed Improvement Project; (iii) GCF-funded Climate Resilient Agriculture in northern regions and CBNRM-EDA (Community Based NRM); (iv) Dryland Crop Production Program (MAWF); (v) MAWF Comprehensive Conservation Agriculture Program-Country Climate-Smart Agriculture programme 2015-2025; (vi) baseline co-financing agreed upon by FAO and KFW, including bi-lateral and multi-lateral (SADC) investments (NAMPARKS 4 and 5, Anti-poaching Wildlife Protection Project, Community Forest Project, Ka-Za). During EOI design, the MAWF confirmed that the level of investments of the mentioned governmental funding schemes will be maintained in the following funding cycles.

At the policy level, the project builds on the commitments made by the Namibian Government towards LDN. The national LDN target setting process is completed - aligned with the UNCCD NAP3 Implementation Strategy 2014-2024 - has political support at the highest level, and benefits from multi-institutional support via the National Sustainable Land Management Committee. National LDN targets are aligned with and directly contribute to Namibia's INDC. A cross-sectoral LDN coordination mechanism will be led by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism.

The PPG phase will carry out a participatory stakeholder mapping, a capacity needs assessment, representative household surveys and focused group discussions. It will address gender mainstreaming gaps through gender-responsive project design. Special measures will be included for increasing women's access to sustainable water management practices, storage and processing technologies and to reduce their work burden (in particular time spent on fuelwood collection). The project will focus on women's and youth empowerment also through the diversification and sustainable intensification of production.

c) Describe how the integrated approach proposed for the child project responds to and reflects the Program's Theory of Change, and as such is an appropriate and suitable option for tackling the systemic challenges, and to achieve the desired transformation with multiple global environmental benefits.

The project is closely aligned with the DSL IP's ToC, addressing the main barriers³ behind dryland degradation: (i) limited capacity for implementing harmonized cross-sectoral policies and coordination mechanisms between Namibia and Angola, (ii) Ineffective policies, enforcement and governance mechanisms to prevent causes of land degradation; ; (iii) communities' limited and unequal access to knowhow and investment opportunities that could improve their livelihoods and help manage scarce land and water resources At the same time, the project design will take Namibia's specific context and

³ A refined ToC will be prepared jointly with all relevant stakeholders during the PPG phase.

challenges into consideration, balancing local environmental and social needs with strategies for addressing land degradation at the landscape level, including with a transboundary element.

The project will strategically address these challenges through: (i) enabling LDN implementation at the landscape level; (ii) enhanced stakeholder capacity for LDN/SLM/SFM/IWRM and community-based sustainable land-use management and livelihoods' development; and (iii) ensuring transboundary cooperation through SADC for the above.

The interventions will lead to the achievement of the following GEB: (i) 42,760 ha of degraded forest restored/improved through SFM interventions; (ii) 80,000 ha of crop land improved, and (iii) -5.7 million tCO₂-e sequestered over twenty years. Local/national benefits: improved livelihoods for 30,000 beneficiaries in target landscapes, of which 50% women.

d) Describe the project's incremental reasoning for GEF financing under the program, including the results framework and components.

The baseline scenario includes strong national baseline investments in rural development and environmental conservation, as well as transboundary mechanisms and investments supported through SADC. Baseline co-financing has been agreed upon by the FAO and KFW, including both bi-lateral and multi-lateral (SADC) investments (NAMPARKS 4 and 5, Anti-poaching Wildlife Protection Project with MET, Community Forest Project, Ka-Za).

The alternative scenario includes GEF investments, which will not only contribute to local development and address land degradation but will also have a positive transboundary impact. The project has three components:

Component 1 will strengthen the capacity of national/local stakeholders through effective decision-support and collaboration mechanisms to design/regionally harmonize cross-sectoral policies and plans supporting LDN, with focus on climate-resilient ecosystem services, and gender-equity for pro-poor growth. The project will strengthen the GGWI/SADC platform to address LDN at the transboundary level and will strengthen capacity on cross-sectoral policy improvement/harmonization, integrated landscape planning, and cooperation mechanisms through functional programs to be developed or consolidated.

Component 2 will support the establishment/strengthening of diversified commodity value chains and local food systems, targeting poor women and young people, and thereby achieve more resilient livelihoods based on the sustainable use of a variety of climate-adapted crops including underutilized indigenous plants, NTFPs, and tourism. Activities will be facilitated by peer learning processes (FFS), technical support and investments for the upscaling of best practices and technologies to sustainably enhance the productivity of multi-use landscapes. Targeted skills development training will help overcome stakeholders' capacity challenges for SLM/SFM/LR/IWRM.

Component 3 will contribute to, and benefit from the Global Coordination Project structures and regional platforms (e.g. SADC GGWI, the Miombo Network as well as the Science and Policy Interface established by the GEF-6 Integrated Approach Pilot (IAP) Food Security Programme), which will facilitate the collection and dissemination of best practices, effective and harmonized

monitoring and evaluation. Special synergies will be created with the transboundary interventions in Namibia.

The project's incremental reasoning follows a two-pronged approach: (i) Add value to ongoing efforts towards the strengthening/expansion of climate-resilient agriculture embedded in baseline initiatives NAMSIP (Namibia Agriculture Mechanisation and Seed Improvement Project), CRAVE (Climate Resilient Agriculture in northern regions) and MAWF's Dryland Crop Production Programmes; (ii) Enable conditions for sustainable investments in soil, watershed and ecosystem management. Without GEF support, baseline interventions would lack the landscape-level planning layer needed to identify vulnerable areas, restoration priorities, and appropriate SLM/SFM+related measures/technologies. This would increase the environmental and social risks potentially embedded in agricultural development drivers, aggravating pressures on dryland resources. With GEF funding, the project will complement baseline interventions with: (i) additional resources to capacitate key stakeholders for an integrated planning and implementation of sustainable landscape-level interventions (across borders) and for mainstreaming LDN into relevant policies and practices, enabling the upscaling/outscaling of SLM and SFM; (ii) enhancing agricultural know-how and leveraging investments for sustainable value chains with focus on gender and youth inclusion, and diversification of production; and finally (iii) fine-tuning technologies and management systems through regional and global collaboration.

Engagement with the Global / Regional Framework (maximum 500 words)

Describe how the project will align with the global / regional framework for the program to foster knowledge sharing, learning, and synthesis of experiences.

Being part of a joint submission from a coalition of six southern African countries⁴, this project contributes to the SFM IP's vision to maintain the ecological integrity of an increasingly threatened ecosystem (across borders): the Miombo and Mopane woodlands ([Map](#)). This will be achieved through DSL-IP interventions at country level that are well aligned with and coordinated by SADC's Great Green Wall Initiative.

The child project's framework is therefore closely aligned with the DSL IP's global framework and ToC as well as harmonized with that of the other five Miombo/Mopane child projects. This will facilitate the sharing of evidence-based good practices and adaptive learning across the country initiatives, which will be done through the relevant global (e.g. Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems, of the Committee on Forestry, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, the Global Landscapes Forum, the Global Soils Partnership, and the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies) and regional (e.g. SADC GGWI, Miombo Network and the GEF-6 IAP Policy and Science Interface) knowledge and exchange structures. The Namibia child project will actively "feed" and share knowledge to the global and regional platforms, while benefiting from recent scientific knowledge and global best practices provided by the platforms in return. Moreover, the child project will use part of the DSL IP incentive to "access" additional services provided by the global project on demand and adaptive basis (e.g. in the form of technical assistance) to support the child project(s) in achieving the anticipated impact at (ecosystem) scale. For that purpose, common management challenges across the DSL IP's three components that lead to the degradation of the Miombo and Mopane ecosystem will be jointly identified and prioritized by Namibia and the other countries in this region. The process will be

⁴ Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Malawi, Angola

facilitated by SADC in alignment with relevant regional strategies and frameworks, on-going as well as planned investments. The regional hub will further provide opportunities for effective knowledge sharing between the countries (e.g. through study tours and exchange visits for peer to peer learning), aligning tools and approaches for ecosystem-level impact monitoring as well as sustainable and innovative financial mechanisms and market opportunities for scaling-up INRM/SLM/SFM approaches.

The Namibia child project will in particular build on the Mashare Climate Resilient Agriculture Centre of Excellence of the baseline CRAVE to ensure the incorporation of updated downscaling analysis of climate change impacts to the identification of vulnerabilities and selection of resilient land uses and practices in the participatory trans-boundary landscape planning process, and to the selection of suitable technologies to be upscaled through the baseline NAMSIP and MAWF's Dryland Crop Production Programme. Multi-stakeholder coordination and cooperation mechanisms will be established (or consolidated) through functional programs in the targeted dryland landscapes in view of adopting LDN-sustainability frameworks and ensuring the interlinking of activities to the policy guidance from steering structures.

GEF-7 CHILD PROJECT CONCEPT

CHILD PROJECT TYPE: FULL-SIZE PROJECT

PROGRAM: IP SFM DRYLANDS

Child Project Title:	Integrated Landscape Management in Dry Miombo Woodlands of Tanzania
Country:	United Republic of Tanzania
Lead Agency	FAO
GEF Agency(ies):	FAO
Total project cost (GEF Grant):	\$ 7,368,807
Total Co-financing:	\$ 48,535,350

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Country Context

Describe the country's relevant environmental challenges and strategic positioning relative to the systems transformation proposed for the program, including relevant existing policies, commitments, and investment frameworks. How are these aligned with the proposed approach to foster impactful outcomes with global environmental benefits?

The Central Zambesian Miombo woodlands cover 93% of Tanzania's forested land. Miombo woodlands are a global biodiversity hotspot with irreplaceable endemism ([here](#)). The mosaic of Mopane/Miombo woodlands in the targeted landscapes fulfil various eco-system services supporting the resilience of surrounding farmland and communities, especially under climate change. The woodlands' ecosystems bolster livelihoods, act as safety nets in times of emergency and serve as gap fillers in times of seasonal shortage. About 34 NTFPs edible species identified in Tanzania (e.g. insects, fruits, mushrooms, honey, medicinal plants and wild meat) directly contribute to resolving underlying causes of food insecurity, undernutrition and poverty. The woodlands also provide fuel wood and charcoal, construction material, and used as roaming "refuge" (livestock), in the dry months (June-November). This unique ecosystem is increasingly being degraded by **shifting cultivation with inadequate rotational fallow periods, overgrazing, charcoal production and uncontrolled fires**. Irregular rainfalls are further increasing the negative effects of these practices. Land productivity is therefore decreasing while the population is rapidly increasing ([here](#)).

Tanzania is committed to addressing land degradation as stated in the cross-sectoral National Five-Year Development Plan (FYDP II) 2016/17-2020/21. The recently completed LDN process complements this objective and supports the alignment of relevant sector policies towards LDN ([here](#)). The project will directly contribute to the following LDN targets: i) 11,011,950 ha of forests restored through SFM; ii) prevent and avoid decline of land productivity of forests on 2,640,600 ha; iii) 1,714,500 ha of shrub and grassland productivity improved; iv) 8,462,500.5 ha of cropland productivity improved; v) soil organic carbon in cropland increased to 54.5 tons/ha; and vi) soil erosion reduced by 19 tons/ha.

Tanzania will use the momentum and the incremental GEF resources to leverage on the "fresh" commitments and cross-sectoral mechanisms that were established during the recently completed LDN target setting efforts. The interventions are geared towards fostering the (still fragile) institutional frameworks and to support Tanzania in reaching the defined LDN targets by overcoming key challenges for the sustainable and integrated management of the targeted area. Firstly, the project will support the development of effective governance systems, including improved coordination and collaboration

across sectors and scales and informed decision making for integrated land-use planning. Secondly, dryland ecosystem functions will be restored, enhanced and maintained at scale through effective empowerment and capacity development of local communities and livelihoods (particularly important to women). A range of national policies and regulatory frameworks will, in particular support the efforts of local empowerment¹. The wide-scale uptake of appropriate and socially accepted SLM and SFM approaches will be supported through efficient, participatory rural advisory services (e.g. FFS) building upon lessons learned and mechanism from the *GEF Transboundary Agro-ecosystem Management project (ID2139)*² as well as the *GEF Mainstreaming Sustainable Forest Management in the Miombo Woodlands of Eastern Tanzania project (ID3000)*³. SLM and SFM practices will lead to higher agricultural productivity, food products' diversity and resilience to climate change, thereby sustainably increasing food security and nutrition. Strengthening of selected (sustainable, diverse and inclusive) dryland commodity value chains paired with tailored financial support to producer organizations (micro-credits) and linkages to new market opportunities at a national (Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania and the Tree Growers Association of Tanzania) and regional (Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions) scale will ensure sustaining livelihoods beyond the project's duration. Finally, the linkage with SADC's Great Green Wall Initiative, and other knowledge platforms will ensure an impact at a larger ecosystem level (see Section 3).

As a result, 764,047 ha (20% of the total area) will be under improved management practices by the end of the project. This will promote ecosystem services and enable the storage of approximately 12.57 million tCO₂ equivalent over 20 years as a co-benefit.

Project Overview and Approach (maximum 1250 words)

- | |
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| <p>a) Provide a brief description of the geographical target(s), including details of systemic challenges, and the specific environmental threats and associated drivers that must be addressed</p> |
|--|

The project intervention area is located in the southern and western parts of Tanzania covering 144,146 km² with approximately 3,827,912.07 ha of dry Miombo woodlands stretching over 4 regions and corresponding districts: Tabora (Kaliua, Urambo, Sikonge, Uyui), Katavi (Mlele, , Mpanda), Rukwa (Nkasi, Sumbawanga) and Songwe (Mbozi, Momba, Songwe DC) ([Map](#)). Vast areas of these woodlands are located on village lands or free/common land ensuring the participatory approach the project will take in terms of land use planning (integrated village plans). The targeted zone comprises of Protected Areas⁴

¹ Forestry policy (1998, revised 2018), Forest Act (2002), Beekeeping Policy (1998) as well as the National Land Policy (1995) and its legislations (Land Act, No. 4 and Village Land Act No.5 of 1999) provide a clear commitment to decentralization of forest management which includes devolving full control over forests and resources to local people.

² The GEF TAMP project successfully assisted smallholder farmers and service providers on the ground in 21 districts in testing and adapting SLM practices (crop, livestock, soil, water) and integrated production systems that sustain biodiversity and enhance the delivery of ecosystem services and contribute to both environmental and development goals – working from micro-catchment to river basin levels. In TAMP, “best” existing SLM practices for the range of agro-ecosystems were identified and documented by local actors as a basis for FFS learning by doing and adaptive management and for subsequent SLM scaling up in target catchments and agro-ecosystems.

³ The GEF SFM project successfully promoted the devolution of rights and responsibilities for woodland management to communities and institutions. Key lessons learned from the establishment of viable SFM-related enterprises and NTFP value chains will be incorporated in the DSL IP project's design.

⁴ These include the PAs of Katavi-Rukwa-Lukwati, Rungwa-Kizigo-Muhesi, Itulu Hills and Kalambo waterfalls.

(PAs), 60%, surrounded mainly by cropland which has increased by 40% in the past 20 years (1995 - 2015). 65% of the total population in the area (3,738,164 persons) live below the poverty line and more than 85% depend on agriculture (crop and cattle). In addition, an estimated 70% utilize NTFPs mainly for food security, and the large majority depend on wood fuel to meet their daily cooking demand. The combination of low agricultural productivity and population growth increases pressure on the remaining dry forest formation outside the PAs and its ecological, as well as socio-economic services. Unsustainable land-use practices shifting cultivation, overgrazing, charcoal production and uncontrolled fires are the direct causes for land degradation in this landscape (see detailed assessment [Map, SDG 15.3.1](#)).

The main challenges for the sustainable management of natural resources under an integrated landscape management approach in this region are: (i) limited institutional capacity for cross-sectoral management planning as well as still “fragile” institutional frameworks and mechanisms established under the LDN TSP, and limited technical capacity and tools to prioritize interventions for SLM and SFM thereby preventing efficient planning towards meeting national targets and international commitments including LDN; (ii) limited knowledge and understanding of the ecological value of forest ecosystems such as Miombo woodlands, and of the socioeconomic value of ecosystem goods and services for local people and for the national economy, and land-use planning limited to administrative boundaries (e.g. districts) which hinders an integrated, landscape-scale approach for sustainable ecosystem management; (iii) inadequate empowerment, land tenure systems and capacity to plan and implement SLM and SFM approaches at the district and village levels due to limited, sectoral and “top-down” farmer extension systems; (iv) limited availability of evidence-based knowledge on good management practices to be used as models for the sustainable management of forests and rangelands, which result in the absence of alternative livelihoods for local communities, and inadequate attention to support the organizations of producers which could create options at a viable scale for local communities that currently have no other choice than unsustainably exploiting natural resources; and (v) absence of harmonized approach to monitor the effect of improved practices for SLM and SFM, insufficient knowledge sharing on successful models for SLM and SFM to guide land-use planning, and limited coordination between countries to address transboundary issues.

b) Describe the existing or planned baseline investments, including current institutional framework and processes for stakeholder engagement, and gender integration;

Various (cross-sectoral) projects and programs implemented by the (national/local) government and private sector compose the baseline for this project, to the extent that they are well aligned with the project’s objective and can provide a platform for collaboration, technical integration and co-financing. The most relevant are as follows:

- The Agricultural Sector Development Programme Phase (ASDP II 2015/6-2024/5) (Budget: US\$ 5,892,745,453 including US\$ 40,000,000 in the targeted area) focuses on the development of priority commodities, land use planning, sustainable watershed management, climate-smart agriculture and water management. The GEF project will assist in the development of value chains that support ASDP II interventions thereby complementing and sustaining ASDP II outputs.
- The Water Sector Development Program (WSDP II 2006-2025) (Budget: US\$ 2,380,740 including US\$ 1,035,350 in the targeted area) focuses on establishing water facilities and charcoal dams. The project will use the infrastructure for the crop-diversification efforts (seed banks, nurseries and on-farm irrigation).

- National Tree planting strategy (TFS) focuses on afforestation and reforestation (Budget: US\$ 2,400,000,000 including US\$ 600,000 in the targeted area). The GEF project will support the diversification of planting material in the nurseries (e.g. including Miombo trees) and climate change consideration, and will therefore support the resilience, sustainability and diversity of benefits generated by planted sites.
- The Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania (SAGCOT) initiative (2021-2030) (Budget: US\$ 456,000,000 including US\$ 3,150,000 in the targeted area) will support Public Private Partnerships with the development of value chains. The project will support and sustain these interventions by diversifying the value chains (drought tolerant crops) and by building producer organizations' capacity.
- NMB foundation (US\$ 1,000,000) will directly support farmers with microcredits. The project will build on the financial opportunity through building the capacity of farmers to access these funds, and support NMB through increased availability of sustainable investment options.

By complementing and influencing the baseline, the project will essentially support the government in achieving the defined LDN targets that have high level political support, multi-sectoral interest and commitment which is evident through the contribution of nine ministries and seven research institutes to the PIF development.

The Tanzania Forest Services Agency under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism will be the lead Executing Agency. Other executing partners will be the President's Office – Regional Administration and Local Government, the Vice President's Office – Division of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries and National Land Use Planning Commission. Multiple other stakeholders – including government institutions, civil society organizations, research institutions, and private sector investors and enterprises – will contribute to and benefit from the project. A participatory stakeholder mapping, capacity needs assessment (across three dimensions: individuals, organizations and the enabling environment), representative household surveys which includes a gender analysis (see below) and focused group discussions will be carried out during the PPG phase.

While men dominate most decision-making in Tanzania, women are the most active element at the community and farm levels, and so perhaps the most important target for the promotion of SLM on the ground. In addition, women often have a more prominent role in the rearing and education of children, and therefore constitute an essential channel for dissemination of good practices in a vast range of socially and environmentally relevant areas, including those related to SLM. Moreover, in Tanzania, traditional knowledge of forests and of local crop cultivation⁵ is often held by women. Women implication in the project is therefore crucial to achieve the expected transformational shift towards SFM and SLM. The project will address gender gaps through increasing women access to sustainable, diversified and income-generating resources (e.g. forest products, agroforestry⁶), and investing in their technical and leadership skills and their own enterprises and organizations towards equitable participation in decision-making. An in-depth gender analysis will be undertaken at the PPG stage to inform project design and implementation.

⁵ World Bank, 2009. Module 10: Gender and natural resources management, from the Gender in Agriculture Sourcebook.

⁶ Reyes T, 2011. Gender and farming in Tanzania.

c) Describe how the integrated approach proposed for the child project responds to and reflects the Program's Theory of Change, and as such is an appropriate and suitable option for tackling the systemic challenges, and to achieve the desired transformation with multiple global environmental benefits

The project is designed in full alignment with the program's Theory of Change addressing the identified key barriers (a) that are preventing comprehensive landscape planning and management at various scales by: i) increasing the capacity of all sectors involved in the management of natural resources to jointly prioritize and plan SLM and SFM interventions towards LDN, supporting improved land governance in 11 targeted districts, and promoting integrated landscape management planning beyond administrative boundaries; and ii) empowering communities and strengthening forest and farm producer organizations through providing access to knowledge and resources, including financial opportunities to adopt sustainable, income-generating, resilient livelihoods – including the development of agricultural and forest-based value chains – in a gender-responsive and inclusive manner. The project interventions will therefore support improved management of scarce land and water resources, and sustainably increase food production across 764,047 ha of the Miombo landscape and beyond through increased transboundary and international collaboration facilitated by SADC (see Section *Engagement with the Global / Regional Framework*). While being fully aligned with the overall program, the project is designed to address context-specific capacity shortages at the institutional level, and challenges related to agricultural expansion, livestock grazing and charcoal production within and outside protected areas of the Central Zambezian Miombo woodlands, and transboundary challenges involving Tanzania.

d) Describe the project's incremental reasoning for GEF financing under the program, including the results framework and components

The GEF incremental finance will build upon and influence the baseline and associated investments (b) across sectors and scale.

Without GEF support, land degradation, including deforestation and the reduction of land productivity will continue to be addressed in isolation by different sectors and associated investments. The risk of overlap and use of maladapted practices will remain, with limited opportunities for knowledge sharing, synergy and complementarity. Without a comprehensive approach that involves all sectors that contribute to the degradation of the targeted landscape, efforts to reduce degradation will not succeed and food insecurity will increase.

The alternative scenario – including GEF investment – will built upon this baseline and support Tanzania to shift from the unsustainable exploitation of forest, pastoral, water and agricultural resources towards productive, resilient, sustainably managed ecosystems that meet social and economic needs, and are therefore more climate resilient, through three components:

Component 1 will add value to baseline investments through improved understanding of the ecological and socio-economic value of functioning ecosystems, and increased institutional and technical capacity across sectors for informed decision-making, prioritization, planning and governance of land rehabilitation and restoration efforts. The project interventions will support the government in moving away from district and village level planning for the management of natural resources towards a more holistic landscape scale approach. This will create the supporting conditions for sustainable investments in agriculture, watershed and forest management. The alignment of investments in the country with the LDN impact pathway will enable increased efficiency and effectiveness towards achieving government goals and commitments.

Component 2 will pilot gender transformative SLM and SFM best practices at landscape level to address land degradation and biodiversity loss and sustain food production and resilient livelihoods. The availability of evidence-based knowledge of good practices building upon key lessons learned from the GEF TAMP⁴ and GEF SFM⁵ will be increased and provide a model to be scaled out under the GEF-funded project and other initiatives. The interventions under Component 2 will build upon existing land-planning structures (funded village plans), resources management organizations (FFPOs), baseline investments (WSDP II, ASDP II, TFS, SAGCOT), and micro-finance schemes (e.g. NMB Foundation). The development of a sustainable and resilient value chain will increase the economic value of natural resources and ecosystem services in support of forest, agriculture and water-based baseline initiatives (e.g. WSDP II, ASDP II, TFS) thereby supporting their sustainability. Improving the land tenure system and strengthening forest and farm producer organizations using a bottom-up approach will empower local communities to become primary decision makers. This will enable sustainable livelihood improvement and poverty reduction and thicken the link between rural economy and the resilience of the Miombo woodlands in the long term.

Component 3 will support the country in identifying and addressing collaboratively transboundary NRM challenges in the Miombo and Mopane woodlands, and other transboundary ecosystems⁷. It will also ensure effective monitoring, knowledge management and the evaluation of LDN and other NRM interventions. Moreover, this component will focus on harmonizing M&A approaches and ensure effective knowledge sharing for LDN at a national and regional level through SADC's GGWI, SRAP and the Miombo network.

Engagement with the Global / Regional Framework (maximum 500 words)

Describe how the project will align with the global / regional framework for the program to foster knowledge sharing, learning, and synthesis of experiences.

Being part of a joint submission from a coalition of six southern African countries⁸ (Map) the project will contribute to the SFM IP's overall vision to maintain the ecological integrity of the Miombo and Mopane woodlands (across borders). This will be achieved through DSL-IP interventions at country level that are well coordinated at the regional level. The child project's framework is therefore closely aligned with the DSL IP's global framework and ToC as well as harmonized with that of the other five Miombo/Mopane child projects. This will facilitate the sharing of evidence-based good practices and adaptive learning across the country initiatives, which will be done through the relevant global (e.g. Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems, of the Committee on Forestry, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, the Global Landscapes Forum, the Global Soils Partnership, and the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies) and regional (e.g. SADC GGWI, Miombo Network and the GEF-6 IAP Policy and Science Interface) knowledge and exchange structures. The Tanzania child project will actively "feed" and share knowledge to the global and regional platforms, while benefiting from recent scientific knowledge and global best practices provided by the platforms in return. Moreover, the child project will use part of the DSL IP incentive to "access" additional services provided by the global project on demand and adaptive basis (e.g. in the form of technical assistance) that will be provided through the global and regional knowledge hubs to support the child project(s) in achieving the anticipated impact at (ecosystem) scale. For that purpose, common management

⁷ <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6085e.pdf>

⁸ Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Malawi, Angola (note: discussions with the World Bank and the government of Mozambique about the strategic inclusion of the DSL IP Mozambique child project in the Miombo/Mopane cluster under SADC will be carried out during the PPG).

challenges across the DSL IP's three components that lead to the degradation of the Miombo and Mopane ecosystem will be jointly identified and prioritized by Tanzania and the other countries in this region. The process will be facilitated by SADC in alignment with relevant regional strategies and frameworks, on-going as well as planned investments. The regional hub will further provide opportunities for effective knowledge sharing between the countries (e.g. through study tours and exchange visits for peer to peer learning), aligning tools and approaches for ecosystem-level impact monitoring as well as sustainable and innovative financial mechanisms and market opportunities for scaling-up INRM/SLM/SFM approaches.

In Tanzania, a diversity of government actors – including national, district and village level government across natural resource management related sectors – will benefit from capacity building for informed decision-making on land rehabilitation and restoration, integration of SLM and SFM into district and village level planning as well as planning beyond administrative boundaries, and design, implementation and monitoring of SLM and SFM interventions. The targeted capacity building interventions combined with knowledge sharing on best practices at the country scale will support the national scaling out of best practices. Scaling out will be further facilitated by the identification of priority areas for SLM and SFM interventions building upon experiences and key lessons learned from the successful Kagera TAMP and Miombo Forest Management projects⁷. Furthermore, the approach is based on participatory rural advisory mechanisms (FFS), which already exist in Tanzania and will facilitate the scaling out of the interventions through peer-to-peer learning and local government support across the country's 11 districts. Linkage with the FFF programs in neighbouring countries will extend the learning between and amongst forest and farm producer organizations.

GEF-7 CHILD PROJECT CONCEPT

CHILD PROJECT TYPE: FULL-SIZE PROJECT

PROGRAM: IP SFM DRYLANDS

Child Project Title:	A cross-sector approach supporting the mainstreaming of sustainable forest and land management to enhance ecosystem resilience for improved livelihoods in the Save and Runde Catchments of Zimbabwe
Country:	Zimbabwe
Lead Agency	FAO
GEF Agency(ies):	FAO
Total project cost (GEF Grant):	\$ 10,433,945
Total Co-financing:	\$ 64,188,000

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. Country Context

Describe the country's relevant environmental challenges and strategic positioning relative to the systems transformation proposed for the program, including relevant existing policies, commitments, and investment frameworks. How are these aligned with the proposed approach to foster impactful outcomes with global environmental benefits?

The Miombo and Mopane woodlands are with 2.7 million km² the largest dryland forest ecosystem in Africa, sustaining the livelihoods of more than 100 million rural and 50 million urban poor. The unique ecosystem is increasingly degraded and threatened mainly by cropland expansion and charcoal production. The Save and Runde Catchments in Zimbabwe located in the Miombo woodlands, is home to a population of 3,517,278 individuals¹ which is rapidly increasing ([here](#)). Poverty affects over two-thirds of these households with a high prevalence of subsistence livelihoods heavily dependent on natural resources (i.e. fuelwood, NTFP, grazing lands, freshwater). Ecosystem services in Save and Runde Catchments suffer high levels of degradation. The main direct causes for land degradation in the landscape are the expansion of agriculture, charcoal production, overgrazing, fires and illegal mining. Increased flooding and droughts are further increasing the negative effects of these practices. Unsustainable practices are resulting in reduced land productivity, biodiversity loss, invasion of alien species, pollution, and an overall decline in ecosystem services².

The proposed project is part of a joint Expression of Interest submission from a coalition of six southern African countries³ who have prioritized interventions to reverse degradation and maintain the ecological integrity of the extensive and threatened Miombo and Mopane ecosystem, in line with the GEF-7 DSL IP's overall vision ([Map](#)). The project intervention therefore offers a strategic opportunity for Zimbabwe to halt and reverse land degradation in Save-Runde Catchment, building upon and strengthening the country's LDN and policy alignment efforts – while fostering cross border collaboration, capacity building and knowledge exchange. The intervention links directly to Great Green Wall Initiative in Southern Africa ([here](#)), in particular the "SADC Sub Regional Action Programme to combat desertification, SRAP"

¹ 2012 Census

² Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate, 2014. National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. Republic of Zimbabwe.

³ Angola, Namibia, Botswana, Tanzania, Malawi and Zimbabwe (note: discussions with the World Bank and the government of Mozambique about the strategic inclusion of the DSL IP Mozambique child project in the Miombo/Mopane cluster under SADC will be carried out during the PPG).

([here](#)) as well as other regional SADC initiatives and programmes focusing on similar objectives (e.g. SADC's Protocol on Biodiversity, and on Forestry ratified by Zimbabwe).

The country's LDN commitments, corresponding plans, instruments and policies ([here](#)) will inform the design and institutional support mechanisms for this project at targeted catchment and national level. Zimbabwe's LDN targets that the intervention will directly contribute to include: 6,455,250 ha reforested and 361,250 ha cropland stabilized. The LDN targets comprise of seven priority land degradation hotspots including the two targeted districts. Other key national instruments that will support the implementation of the project are: the Second National Action Programme (2015-2030), Second National Development Plan (2015/16-2019/20), Vision 2020, Transitional Stabilisation Programme (2018-2020), National Climate Policy (2017), NDC (2017), NBSAP (2014), National Climate Change Response Strategy and Action Plan (2014), Poverty Alleviation Action Plan (1994), Environmental Management Act, National Environmental Policy (2009), National Energy Policy, and Wildlife-Based Land Reform Policy.

The proposed integrated landscape management approach for the Save and Runde Catchments will address the various drivers of degradation in the project area through effective coordination between all relevant land and resource users across sectors and scales. The project will build upon existing management structures and partnerships (e.g. Save Valley Conservancy partnership and networks of the Gonarezhou Conservation Trust). Cross-sectoral, participatory and informed land-use planning will be undertaken in the targeted district and integrated in relevant policy and land management frameworks, including the Southeast Lowveld's 20-year management plan. Communities will be capacitated on SLM/SFM through effective participatory rural advisory approaches and associated knowledge sharing networks (FFS) while livelihoods will be improved through a self-sustaining and diversified supply of planting material (e.g. community seed banks), selected sustainable, diverse and inclusive value chains and boosted through the establishment of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programmes.

As a result, 225,000 ha including productive areas adjacent to PAs will be under improved management practices by the end of the project. The storage of 12.63 million CO₂ eq. tons will be enabled. In addition, up to 10 Miombo tree species will come under improved management and biodiversity will be preserved. Finally, enhanced collaboration across sectors and countries will support a wider impact at ecosystem level.

2. Project Overview and Approach (*maximum 1250 words*)

- a) Provide a brief description of the geographical target(s), including details of systemic challenges, and the specific environmental threats and associated drivers that must be addressed;**

The targeted landscape is located in the midlands and south-eastern parts of the country covering the following provinces and districts: Manicaland (Buhera, Chimanimani, Chipinge), Masvingo (Bikita, Chivi, Masvingo, Zaka) and Midlands (Shurugwi) ([Map](#)). The landscapes feature 733,430 ha of Mopane and 2,406,806 ha of Miombo woodlands, including protected areas (e.g. the Save Valley Conservancy and the Gonarezhou National Park) cropland, grassland and settlement areas. Key land users in the targeted landscape are farmers (e.g. sugar cane, maize, ground nuts, millet, cotton, tobacco), woodfuel harvesters, pastoralists, and small-scale miners (e.g. gold) both legal and illegal. The rate of degradation is around 3.74% per annum with particularly high rates in areas close to cropland and settlements. A

detailed assessment of the targeted landscape revealed major loss of grassland and tree cover, and significant expansion of cropland. Causes of deforestation and degradation include expansion of agriculture, unsustainable harvest and extraction of forest products (particularly woodfuel), overgrazing, veldt fires, illegal mining and invasive species. As a result, nearly half of the landscape (1,474,960 ha) is affected by declining productivity ([Maps](#)).

Several barriers prevent the sustainable management of natural resources within the Save and Runde Catchments, including: (i) limited institutional, technical capacity and tools for government institutions to prioritise, plan and implement SFM and SLM interventions across relevant sectors (land-use planning, environment, agriculture and forestry sectors) and scales to simultaneously address climate change issues, increased demand for food and ecosystem degradation, thereby hindering success and sustainability of investments; (ii) gaps and limited clarity of some national policies and within the regulatory framework (e.g. user rights and access to natural resources) that prevent the sustainable management of land, biodiversity and forest resources, and limited capacity, resources and information at district and sub-district levels to implement national policies on natural resources management; (iii) inadequate coordination for participatory cross-sectoral decision-making mostly using a bottom-up approach for the management of natural resources with limited involvement of local communities in decision making – particularly in the buffer zones of PAs – which prevents sustainability; (iv) limited community awareness, technical support and financial opportunities to adopt alternative livelihood opportunities based on the sustainable use of land and forest resources; and (v) insufficient availability and knowledge sharing on successful models for SLM and SFM to guide land-use planning, and absence of a harmonised approach to monitor the effect of improved practices for SLM and SFM.

b) Describe the existing or planned baseline investments, including current institutional framework and processes for stakeholder engagement and gender integration;

The project will leverage on the following ongoing interventions in the agriculture and conservation sectors:

- “Smallholder Irrigation Revitalization Programme” (2016- 2023), USD 52,000,000 (IFAD), aiming to improve productivity and climate resilient crop production under both rainfed and irrigated conditions, through diversification of crops and increased adoption of improved varieties, combined with climate-smart agricultural practices and most importantly, enhanced access to markets. Another investment of USD 40,000,000 from IFAD is envisaged for 2020 and 2025, focusing on improving the productivity of smallholder agriculture (including US\$20,000,000 considered as cofinancing) that is currently being discussed with the Government to establish the geographic location. The integrated approach of the GEF-funded project on SLM and SFM, and IFAD-funded irrigation interventions will work concomitantly towards the sustainable increase of agricultural productivity and diversification of agricultural products.
- The EU-funded Natural Resource Management Project in the Save Valley Conservancy (SVNRM; US\$ 13,488,000 for 2018-2022 with a possible extension) focuses on improving livelihoods through increased agricultural production in the Save Valley Landscape and value chain development from agriculture, wildlife and NTFPs. The SVNRM project also addresses human-wildlife and land-use conflicts. The GEF-funded project will complement the SVNRM project through promoting sustainable ecosystem management and improved livelihoods (e.g. through crop diversification) in productive landscapes surrounding the SVC. Opportunities for collaboration regarding the value chains development will be investigated during the PPG phase.

- Gonarezhou Trust Fund (Annual budget: US\$ 4,500,000, including US\$ 2,000,000 for interventions) focuses on natural resources protection and management within Gonarezhou National Park. The GEF-funded project will support the conservation efforts of the Trust through increasing economic opportunities from the sustainable management of natural resources in the buffer zone in the north of the park, thereby reducing unsustainable practices.
- “Livelihoods and Food Security Programme (LFSP)” Phase 2 (US\$ 12,000,000 for 2018-2020 funded by DFID) enables smallholder farmers to access rural finance and invest in farm enterprise diversification, productivity-enhancing technologies and non-farm economic activities in Mashonaland Central, Manicaland and Midlands provinces. It aims to address malnutrition through the adoption of nutrition-sensitive agricultural practices and improved resilience to climate change. The value chains interventions of the GEF-funded project will build on LFSP agricultural interventions in Manicaland and the Midlands regions to strengthen their impact and sustainability, and complement them with forest and land rehabilitation and restoration interventions – following an integrated approach – thereby further increasing the resilience of LFSP outputs.
- “Strengthening local communities’ adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change through sustainable groundwater exploitation in Zimbabwe” (US\$ 4,400,000 for 2019-2024 funded by the Adaptation Fund and implemented by UNESCO) will work concomitantly with the GEF-funded project towards increased food production and resilience to climate change.
- “Strengthening Adaptive Capacities for Smallholder Farmers in Water Stressed River Basins in Southern Africa (Angola, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zimbabwe)” (US\$ 14,000,000; 2020-2025, approximately US\$ 2,800,000 per country) is funded by the Adaptation Fund and implemented by UNESCO and FAO. The GEF-funded project will complement these interventions through focusing on land rehabilitation and restoration thereby contributing to improved water management, and through supporting the development of value chains and sustainable livelihood opportunities.
- FAO’s Technical Cooperation Programme (US\$ 500,000 for 2021-2022), FAO-Japan (US\$ 1,000,000 for 2020-2022) and FAO-DFID (US\$ 2,000,000 for 2019-2020 with expected extension plus FAO’s Technical Cooperation Programme US\$ 400,000 will support the project in accessing further technical and financial resources, developing complementary sources of income (e.g. beekeeping) and supporting gender mainstreaming in land-use planning.

At the policy level, the project builds upon and strengthens the country’s LDN and policy alignment efforts. The Expression of Interest and this corresponding child PIF was developed with the lead executing partner and its parastatals as well as with other relevant ministries, the focal points UNCCD, UNFCCC and CBD, and Business Council for Sustainable Development for Zimbabwe. The Portfolio Committee (Cabinet) for environment has also been sensitized on the project. The project will also facilitate the expansion of successful CSR models (e.g. for hunting and sugar cane businesses) to the mining and other sectors in areas surrounding PAs. Selected value chains will be developed through supporting micro, small and medium enterprises’ platforms which will facilitate an interaction amongst chain players including private sector entities. A detailed participatory stakeholder assessment, capacity needs assessment as well as representative household survey and focused group discussions will be conducted during the PPG phase to ensure effective and equitable participation of all relevant stakeholders.

In Zimbabwe, patriarchal systems, cultural norms and traditions play a major role in gender dynamics. Women and girls are generally responsible for fetching water and fuel, cooking, child caring and house maintenance. In addition, women receive less financial support (loans and credit) than men, including in

the agricultural sector. Women have less access to and control of resources (including land and livestock), and limited participation in decision making, rural institutions and development planning⁴. As a result, women and youth are particularly vulnerable.

The project will adopt a gender responsive approach across all components. Women-focused organizations – such as Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, and Small and Medium Enterprises, MUSASA NGO, and Women’s microfinance bank – will be involved in the program design to allow the scope and focus of the desired outcomes to integrate women’s needs and ensure the pursuit of gender equality objectives. The project will support the implementation of Zimbabwe’s Gender Sensitive Land Policy in the targeted landscape and align with GEF’s Gender Equality Policy to be inclusive of women, youth and the marginalized. A gender analysis will be conducted at the PPG stage to identify gender aspects in SFM and SLM. Overall, at least 45% of project beneficiaries will be women.

c) Describe how the integrated approach proposed for the child project responds to and reflects the Program’s Theory of Change, and as such is an appropriate and suitable option for tackling the systemic challenges, and to achieve the desired transformation with multiple global environmental benefits; and

The project is designed in full alignment with the program’s Theory of Change and will contribute to achieving each of the program’s outcomes. Under Component 1, capacity building of all relevant stakeholders, integration of SLM and SFM into the policy framework (e.g. 20-year development plan), enhanced collaboration across sectors and levels, and participatory, integrated land-use planning for SLM and SFM in eight districts will contribute to SFM IP’s Outcomes 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4. Under Component 2, livelihoods will be improved and diversified through SLM and SFM using FFSs and existing management structures, including strengthening value chains (e.g. climate-resilient crops, NTFP and sustainable charcoal) and market opportunities (SFM IP’s Outcomes 2.1 and 2.2). Under Component 3, support will be provided to identify and address transboundary management challenges, best practices from the pilot districts with regional and global collaboration. Capacity to use relevant tools for continuous monitoring and identification of best practices will also be strengthened. Harmonized M&A tools with other SADC countries will be developed in support of knowledge sharing (Outcomes 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 and 1.5 of the SFM IP).

[see Draft ToC Annex 1]

Transformative changes will take place through the piloting and scaling out of the following combination of innovative approaches to simultaneously address food security, ecosystem and biodiversity conservation, and climate change mitigation: i) bridging land degradation projects and conservation initiatives at the local and central levels in Zimbabwe; ii) applying a bottom-up approach through FFS to generate evidence-based knowledge on good practices for SLM and SFM, gender, cultural and social integration in poor rural communities, and to disseminate the efficiency of good practices on-the-ground; iii) the integration of various small-scale initiatives for private sector involvement to form a larger and inclusive intervention that links to markets and private sectors for increased income generation; iv) regularization and promotion of sustainable natural resource extraction by the provision

⁴ FAO, 2017. National gender profile of agriculture and rural livelihoods. Zimbabwe Country Gender Assessment Series. Harare, Zimbabwe.

of incentives for SLM and SFM; and v) cross-sectoral, landscape-scale and transboundary approach for large scale impact.

d) Describe the project's incremental reasoning for GEF financing under the program, including the results framework and components.

Without GEF support, government and non-government investments in the catchments will continue to be implemented in silos/isolation (e.g. conservation vs productive landscape) with limited consideration of the multidimensional and cross-sectoral aspects of land degradation issues. Opportunities for knowledge sharing between sectors and stakeholder groups (e.g. between conservationists and land users) will remain on an ad-hoc basis and with inadequate information on how best to create synergies and to achieve a win-win scenario that increases livelihoods while safeguarding ecosystem services. Land degradation and food insecurity will worsen because of the reliance of a growing population on resources that are unsustainably managed and decreased resilience to extreme weather events due to reduced vegetation cover, thereby preventing the country from achieving its development objectives.

The alternative scenario – including GEF investments – will add value to baseline initiatives working towards increased agricultural productivity through improved irrigation, sustainable wildlife and livestock management, wildlife conservation and enhanced mining management. It will build on existing local structures (e.g. Trusts, FFSs) and regional structures (e.g. SADC's GGWI, Miombo Network). It will follow a cross-sectoral, integrated approach to address issues of land degradation, increased demand for food and climate change. The project has three key components:

Component 1 will add value to baseline investments by supporting an effective collaboration across sectors and scales for joint decision making and planning, and strengthening the policy framework, thereby creating enabling conditions for effective and sustainable management of natural resources. This will support implementation and promote efficiency and sustainability of baseline investments. The project will further add value to the baseline investments by incorporating measures to adapt and respond to climate shocks in landscape-level planning.

Component 2 will pilot and scale out SLM and SFM best practices at landscape level. This will be achieved by building upon local structures and infrastructures provided by baseline investments (e.g. Trusts, IFAD) and the introduction of effective, bottom up rural advisory services taking local knowledge and practices into account. The development of improved livelihoods – with focus on gender and youth inclusion – and sustainable value chains (building upon the Forest Forces project and community seed banks' organizations for on-farm diversification) will increase the economic value of forest and agriculture resources which will contribute to the success and maintenance of baseline initiatives' outputs. The project will build on existing localized CSR experiences (e.g. private safari operators support to Nyangambe Community) to develop CSR activities in other sectors (i.e. mining). This will assist the Government to reduce illegal mining and promote improved mining practices. A CSR scheme will also be developed to harmonize and mainstream CSR across nature-based businesses.

Component 3 will support the country in addressing transboundary NRM challenges such as law enforcement for wildfires, illegal harvesting and illegal trade. It will also strengthen capacity for effective monitoring, knowledge management and evaluation of efforts towards achieving LDN and other national targets. M&A approaches will be harmonized to support effective knowledge sharing for LDN at national and regional level through SADC's GGWI and the Miombo network.

3. Engagement with the Global / Regional Framework (*maximum 500 words*)

Describe how the project will align with the global / regional framework for the program to foster knowledge sharing, learning, and synthesis of experiences. How will the proposed approach scale-up from the local and national level to maximize engagement by all relevant stakeholders and/or actors?

The child project's alignment with the global project's ToC, as well as the overall harmonization of frameworks and approaches between child projects that share the same ecosystem⁵, will facilitate the effective and multi-scale sharing of evidence based good practices, adaptive learning and synthesising of experiences. The project's knowledge exchange strategy will provide adequate platforms and mechanisms to share knowledge across sectors and scale (local, nation and regional).

The knowledge exchange at the global level facilitated by the global child project through the working groups on drylands and related platforms (e.g. Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems, of the Committee on Forestry, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, the Global Landscapes Forum, the Global Soils Partnership, and the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies) and the regional level (e.g. SADC GGWI, the Miombo Network and the GEF-6 IAP Policy and Science Interface) will take place in two ways: The Zimbabwe child project will actively "feed" and share knowledge to the global and regional platforms, while benefiting from recent scientific knowledge and global best practices provided by the platforms in return. Moreover, the child project will use part of the DSL IP incentive to "access" additional services provided by the global project on demand and adaptive basis (e.g. in the form of technical assistance) to support the child project(s) in achieving the anticipated impact at (ecosystem) scale. For that purpose, common management challenges across the DSL IP's three components that lead to the degradation of the Miombo and Mopane ecosystem will be jointly identified and prioritized by Zimbabwe and the other countries in this region. The process will be facilitated by SADC in alignment with relevant regional strategies and frameworks, on-going as well as planned investments. The regional hub will further provide opportunities for effective knowledge sharing between the countries (e.g. through study tours and exchange visits for peer to peer learning), aligning tools and approaches for ecosystem-level impact monitoring as well as sustainable and innovative financial mechanisms and market opportunities for scaling-up INRM/SLM/SFM approaches.

An enhanced collaboration across sectors and at all levels will support scaling out of the project interventions to other similar Miombo and Mopane landscapes in Zimbabwe. The interventions sites will act as pilot sites for community-based SLM and SFM that can be rapidly scaled out to other communities through the FFS model and associated networks. The FFS approach will also enable scaling deep through increased availability of evidence for the direct socioeconomic benefits generated by SLM and SFM. In addition, the identification of priority areas for carbon storage, landscape productivity assessments and tools to identify best practices, together with the knowledge sharing platforms and planned database development will enable the systematic and efficient channeling of upcoming sources of financing towards LDN. The alignment of the project with national priorities and international commitments will ensure that relevant government sectors support the sustainability of the outputs and the scaling out of successful project interventions to other relevant landscapes in the country. Finally, strengthening the policy and regulatory framework to support and promote SLM, SFM, biodiversity conservation and CCA

⁵ Miombo/Mopane Ecosystem: Angola, Namibia, Botswana, Tanzania, Malawi and Zimbabwe

in alignment with national development priorities and the LDN impact pathway will promote scaling up of the interventions at the national scale.

SFM IP DSL - CHILD PROJECT

CHILD PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Child Project

Project Title:	Global coordination project for the SFM Drylands Impact Program
Country(ies):	Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Malawi, Mongolia, Mozambique, Namibia Tanzania, Zimbabwe
Lead Agency:	FAO
GEF Agencies:	WB IUCN WWW-US
Total project cost (GEF Grant):	\$ 8,056,881
Total Co-financing:	\$ 18,000,000

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. Country Context

Describe the country's relevant environmental challenges and strategic positioning relative to the systems transformation proposed for the program, including relevant existing policies, commitments, and investment frameworks. How are these aligned with the proposed approach to foster impactful outcomes with global environmental benefits?

This is the umbrella global coordination project (GCP) for SFM drylands child projects in 11 selected countries. The global situation of drylands, and the environmental challenges faced in each target countries, are detailed in their respective PIFs, and summarized in the PFD.

By fostering transboundary outreach, scaling out and coordination, this global coordination project (in association with the child projects in the 11 countries) responds to the transboundary and regional nature of many of the challenges affecting drylands in the target regions. As described in the PFD, these include regional demographic flows (seasonal or permanent migration), regional economic connectivity and globalisation, transboundary transhumance, ecoregional biological connectivity, and transboundary flows of environmental impacts and services. As such, the GCP will help to ensure that the impacts of the program are felt and sustained both in the 11 target countries and beyond, in neighbouring countries with similar conditions and challenges.

2. Project Overview and Approach (maximum 1250 words)

a) Provide a brief description of the geographical target(s), including details of systemic challenges, and the specific environmental threats and associated drivers that must be addressed;

The GCP will support 11 child projects (in Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Malawi, Mongolia, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania and Zimbabwe). The exact target locations of the country-specific projects are characterised in the country-specific PIFs, together with the threats, drivers and systemic challenges or barriers to be addressed by each project.

Specifically, the GCP will focus on addressing the challenges described in the overall PFD theory of change, of “piecemeal approaches to combating land degradation across dryland regions”, which constitutes a barrier to the maximization of the effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability of the program as a whole. Three specific aspects of this challenge, which constitute the specific challenges or barriers which the GCP will address, are:

- 1) Lack of an adequate regional/landscape approach
- 2) Inadequate mechanisms for managing and exchanging knowledge effectively across the target regions and worldwide
- 3) Insufficient mechanisms for monitoring, learning and adaptive management

By addressing these barriers, the GCP will in turn enable the child projects more effectively to address the country-specific barriers to the sustainable management of drylands, thereby increasing the generation of global environmental benefits (GEBs) and social cobenefits, and helping to bring the landscapes targeted by the child projects closer to the situation sought in which they are sustainably managed and restored where necessary.

- b) Describe the existing or planned baseline investments, including current institutional framework and processes for stakeholder engagement and gender integration;*

The Global Coordination Project will build on an extensive baseline including:

- Knowledge hubs at global and regional levels, such as the Global Landscapes Forum, the UNCCD Global Mechanism, the Global Soil Partnership, the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT), the Pastoral Systems Knowledge Hub and the Agroecology Knowledge Hub: the project will work with these as channels and communities of practice allowing regional and global knowledge to be fed into the program and its constituent child projects, lessons generated through the program to contribute to regional and global knowledge resources, and south-south exchanges of knowledge;
 - Existing regional coordination and implementation mechanisms will be leveraged within the context of this project, such as the Great Green Wall Initiative in northern Africa, the Central Asia Countries Integrated Land Management (CACILM) Initiative in Central Asia, and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) in southern Africa. The program will take advantage of these mechanisms for channelling the scaling out of project impacts beyond the borders of the 11 selected countries to other countries in the target regions.
 - Investments in sustainable dryland management, restoration and rehabilitation by national Governments and other agencies in neighbouring countries, which the program will target, will be accomplished through outreach and knowledge sharing, as mechanisms for leveraging of impacts beyond the 11 selected countries. These will include for example, investments under the Integrated Approach GEF-6 Food Security Integrated Approach Program (IAP) in Burkina Faso, Burundi, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Swaziland, Tanzania and Uganda,
- c) Describe how the integrated approach proposed for the child project responds to and reflects the Program's Theory of Change, and as such is an appropriate and suitable option for tackling the systemic challenges, and to achieve the desired transformation with multiple global environmental benefits;*

As shown in Annex B, the GCP is a cornerstone of the DSL IP theory of change and its implementation will be critical in realising the potential of the programmatic approach of the IP to deliver much greater value with regard to overall impact across the 11 Program Countries, and in terms of effectiveness, sustainability, and out-scaling at regional and global levels, thereby maximizing the cumulative impacts of the program. Annex C summarizes how the GCP theory of change is embedded in that of the program as a whole.

Each country-specific child project will include a component on knowledge management, monitoring and evaluation, to support the adaptive management of each child project, and to ensure lessons learned are systematised and capitalised, and that project-specific communication and outreach contributes to national level outscaling.

The GCP will apply the same logic to the program as a whole: knowledge, experiences and best practices will be managed and shared at regional and global levels; child project investments will be prioritised based on sound region-wide information in order to maximize impact and cost-effectiveness; investments will be coordinated to maximise synergies; messages and lessons will be communicated regionally and globally to maximize outscaling potential; and coherent interactions with regional- and global-level stakeholders, of common relevance to different projects, will be facilitated.

d) *Describe the project's incremental reasoning for GEF financing under the program, including the results framework and components.*

The incremental reasoning of the program and the value-added of the programmatic approach are portrayed in Annex D:

- Each child project will deliver incremental country-specific GEF benefits on top of the “baseline” (i.e., without GEF) scenario, as required in any GEF project;
- The additional funding available to each country as a result of the IP “incentive” will allow these incremental benefits to be maximized, relative to conventional STAR-only projects. This will mean for example that social, demographic, economic and GEB considerations are integrated into sector development and land use plans; lasting and effective multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms operate, reflecting interdependences among sectors and among social, demographic, economic and productive factors; comprehensive spatial planning incorporates the full range of variables, the interactions between them, and spatial/temporal dynamics of landscapes; mechanisms and conditions exist to address the full complexity of governance, tenure and access issues; and technical options reflect the complexity of interactions between social, productive and environmental factors, and landscape dynamics;
- The country-specific incentive funding will also enable participating countries to scale out their impacts to neighbouring countries.

The GCP will complement these national benefits resulting from the incentive, allowing further programmatic value-added to be delivered beyond that resulting from the country-specific investments. These benefits will include (see Annex D):

- Increased effectiveness of impact generation due to improved access to global knowledge on lessons learned and scientific research results;
- Improved cost-effectiveness of investment due to improved prioritisation, based on sound information on spatial configurations of dryland values and conditions at regional and global levels;
- Increased effectiveness in addressing processes and tackling impacts operating at regional scale, including the transboundary leakage of impacts.

This programmatic value-added will be generated through the delivery of the following outputs:

The three components of the GCP respond to the three specific barriers set out above:

- **Component 1** will deliver programmatic value added in terms of increased effectiveness and cumulative impact of the IP, by ensuring region-wide coordination and informed prioritisation of investments. Its support to inter-country coordination (taking advantage where possible of existing structures such as CACILM, SADC, the Great Green Wall and the UNCCD) will generate synergies between projects, resulting in increases in cumulative impacts, and limit the risk of duplication, conflicts or transboundary impact leakages. Support to improved regional prioritisation of investments will be achieved by providing participating countries with science-based regional overviews of conditions, allowing effective region-wide priority setting and targeting.
- **Component 2** will focus on knowledge management and outreach, contributing to child project effectiveness by ensuring they respond to lessons learned regionally and globally, cutting edge science and best practice, and linking them to regional and global knowledge hubs such as the Global Landscapes Forum, the Global Soil Partnership, the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies, the Pastoral Systems Knowledge Hub and the Agroecology Knowledge Hub. It will also

contribute to sustained uptake and scaling out of impacts, by ensuring that lessons learned through the child projects are systematized, fed into national, regional and global knowledge hubs, and disseminated within and beyond the target countries.

- **Component 3** will focus on establishing and implementing harmonized and linked systems for monitoring at project, regional and program (global) levels, resulting in reliable, relevant and timely information on trends in conditions and impacts being fed back in support of adaptive management at all of these levels. This will be of particular significance from the programmatic perspective, allowing the detection of, and formulation of appropriate responses to, cumulative (supranational) impacts resulting from synergies, effects on transboundary leakages, and scaling out impacts.

3. Engagement with the Global / Regional Framework (*maximum 500 words*)

Describe how the project will align with the global / regional framework for the program to foster knowledge sharing, learning, and synthesis of experiences. How will the proposed approach scale-up from the local and national level to maximize engagement by all relevant stakeholders and/or actors?

Given the nature and objective of the Global Coordination Project, its integration into the global framework of the PFD is a fundamental aspect of its design. The way in which the GCP Theory of Change is embedded into that of the IP as a whole is shown in Annex B, and the relation of the GCP to the components of the PFD and the child projects is shown in Annex C. As demonstrated in Annex C in particular, the GCP will play a crucial role in supporting the IP as a whole through knowledge exchange and inputs (including capacity development), programmatic M&E and adaptive management, and its components 2 on knowledge management and outreach, and 3 on program-wide monitoring and adaptive management, will contribute to and support scaling out at regional levels. These transboundary scaling-out effects will be the result of the joint efforts of the child projects (taking advantage of the extra resources available to them as a result of the incentive) and the GCP, which will oversee, support and advise the countries on how to maximize regional outreach and scaling up.