



**GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY**  
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

COMPILATION OF COMMENTS  
SUBMITTED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS  
ON THE  
JUNE 2020  
LDCF WORK PROGRAM

NOTE: This document is a compilation of comments submitted to the Secretariat by Council members concerning the project proposals presented in the June 2020 LDCF Work Program.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	Burkina Faso: Improving the Climate Resilience of Agro-Sylvo-Pastoral Production Systems in Burkina Faso (GEF ID 10516); Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$10,000,000; Co-financing: \$40,169,687 .....	1
2.	Djibouti: Planning and Implementing Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) in Djibouti's Gobaad Plain and Tajdourah Ville (GEF ID 10180); Agency: UNEP; GEF Project Financing: \$10,000,000; Co-financing \$13,125,000 .....	3
3.	Haiti: Strengthening the Climatic Resilience of the Drinking Water Sector in the South of Haiti (GEF ID 10320); Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$5,096,746; Cofinancing: \$31,600,000 .....	5
4.	Lao PDR: Integrated Water Resource Management and Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) in the Xe Bang Hieng River Basin and Luang Prabang City (GEF ID 10514); Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$6,000,000; Co-financing: \$20,000,000 .....	7
5.	Liberia: Enhancing the Resilience of Vulnerable Coastal communities in Sinoe County of Liberia (GEF ID 10376); Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$10,000,000; Cofinancing: \$53,700,000.....	9
6.	Mauritania: Enhancing Pastoral Farming Producers Resilience in Southeast Watersheds of Mauritania (GEF ID 10176); Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$5,000,000; Co-financing: \$15,000,000 .....	11
7.	Tanzania: Integrated Adaptation Program to Enhance Resilience of Communities and Ecosystems in the Dry Miombo Woodlands of Tanzania Mainland and Dryland of Zanzibar (GEF ID 10364); Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$5,000,000; Cofinancing: \$40,979,900.....	13
8.	Yemen: Resilient and Sustainable Livelihoods for Rural Yemen (GEF ID 10562); Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$9,006,056; Co-financing: \$42,000,000 .....	14

**JUNE 2020 LDCF WORK PROGRAM:  
COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS  
(REFERENCE: GEF/LDCF.SCCF.28/03)**

**1. Burkina Faso: Improving the Climate Resilience of Agro-Sylvo-Pastoral Production Systems in Burkina Faso (GEF ID 10516); Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$10,000,000; Co-financing: \$40,169,687**

✓ **United States Comments:**

Thank you for the opportunity to review the PIF:

As FAO prepares the draft final project document for CEO endorsement, we urge FAO to:

- Consider how the project will manage the frustration of local communities who struggle with issues of land tenure. While the Hauts Bassins region is considered the food and cotton belt of the country, land tenure is a sensitive issue within the region as it hosts a great number of migrants and jobless youth. Additionally, the establishment of protected areas by the GoBF has increased the scarcity of farm and grazing lands in the region
- Develop Memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with existing programs pursuing the same objectives to create reliable partnership with clear defined activities and tools to assess the performance of the collaboration in achieving the objectives of the project.
- Create opportunities for farmers to farmers' exchange. For instance, farmers from the intervention zone will visit farmers in the central north and north regions of the country to ground test the climate resilient activities implemented by farmers in the central north and north regions of the country and benefit from their long experience.
- Promote agricultural intensification techniques to reduce the abusive use of pesticides and fertilizers contributing to deteriorate soil fertility and creating a high dependence on pesticides and fertilizers.
- Include a Social Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) component to promote social cohesion and disseminate appropriate messages in line with the COVID-19 outbreak and agricultural good practices.
- Promote specific activities for women to increase their autonomy as women are deeply involved in households' agricultural activities in these regions and are lacking specific activities to increase their individual revenue.
- Develop a fair mechanism that allows vulnerable households access to restored lands and other production inputs to properly exploit these lands.

- Thank you again for the opportunity to provide feedback on this important PIF. We look forward to seeing our feedback incorporated in the project proposal at the CEO endorsement stage of the process.

✓ **Germany Comments:**

Germany welcomes this project, which has a strong climate rationale, and aims to increase resilience to climate change impacts of one of the world's poorest countries. The combination of governance, landscape management and value chain strengthening approaches is innovative. This project has the potential to ensure the resilience of the three target regions while also scaling up its approach to other areas. Synergies with and co-financing through several on-going projects have also been identified.

Suggestions for improvements to be made during the drafting of the final project proposal:

- Stakeholder engagement: Germany appreciates the inclusion of non-state actors. Please specify, which ethnic groups, civil society organizations and private sector organisations will be involved/consulted during the project's PPG phase and during implementation.
- Indicators: Germany appreciates the high number of beneficiaries. Please further elaborate on how this ambitious goal can be achieved. Please add the PIF's table "Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment". Germany appreciates the large area of forest under protection measure. However, Germany suggests elaborating on how the ambitious goals can be achieved.
- Co-financing: Germany appreciates the extensive co-finance amounts. Please clarify as to whether letters of commitments from all four co-financiers have been issued.
- Synergies with existing projects and government policies and knowledge sharing: Germany appreciates the exploration of synergies with other projects and suggests to also approach the global programme Soil Protection and Rehabilitation of Degraded Soil for Food Security (ProSoil) implemented by GIZ in several countries, including Burkina Faso as well as the Regional Project to Support Pastoralism in the Sahel (PRAPS). Given the project's focus on the local level, Germany suggests assessing how its lessons learnt could be shared with existing projects on decentralisation and municipal government which are being implemented by GIZ through bilateral projects (PDDC, Programme Decentralisation et Developpement Communal). Knowledge could also be shared with existing projects' platforms, such as the Platform for Agricultural Risk Management (PARM) and the Green Innovation Centres for the Agriculture and Food Sector (GIC). Furthermore, Germany suggests referencing the national strategy on "Restoration et Conservation des Ressources en Sol SNRCRS".
- Mitigation co-benefits: Germany appreciates the focus on agriculture. Given

the inclusion of forest restoration activities, Germany suggests mentioning potential mitigation co-benefits.

- Pastoralists: Germany appreciates the agro-sylvo-pastoral production focus. Nevertheless, solutions proposed are predominantly oriented towards agriculturalists. Germany suggests including more solutions aimed at pastoralists.
- Exit strategy: Germany appreciates the multifaceted approach, however, suggests providing an exit strategy in the final draft.

**2. Djibouti: Planning and Implementing Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) in Djibouti's Gobaad Plain and Tajdourah Ville (GEF ID 10180); Agency: UNEP; GEF Project Financing: \$10,000,000; Co-financing \$13,125,000**

✓ **United States Comments:**

Thank you for the opportunity to review the PIF:

As UNEP prepares the draft final project document for CEO endorsement, we urge UNEP to:

- Consider how the project and associated funds will continue to support resilience to droughts and floods in the long term. Will projects need continued maintenance or support in years to come?
- Ensure that gender equality is considered in the proposal, including understanding how women, children, and the elderly are disproportionately affected by adverse effects of extreme weather.
- Consider the potential COVID-19 implications on this project, including short- and medium-term impacts.
- Ensure that youth will be considered and involved in the planning and implementation of the project, recognizing that they are the future of the nation.
- Determine measurable, definable, and attainable check points to measure the progress of the project. Ensure that reporting for these mid-term reports are being recorded and reported accurately.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide feedback on this important PIF. We look forward to seeing our feedback incorporated in the project proposal at the CEO endorsement stage of the process.

✓ **Germany Comments:**

Germany welcomes this project, which looks at specific and vulnerable areas of Djibouti to implement Ecosystem based Adaptation (EbA) measures, build capacity and raise awareness on such measures. The project has interesting synergies with

on-going projects in the region and holds great knowledge-sharing potential as it strives to build on lessons learnt from them.

Suggestions for improvements to be made during the drafting of the final project proposal:

- Theory of Change: Germany appreciates the clearly defined stressors and problem statement. However, the corresponding theory of change is less explicit. Instead, processes describe interventions – addressing the main reasons for the deterioration of the ecosystem –, which are intended to improve the resilience of communities to droughts and floods in rural areas. Germany recommends improving on the Theory of Change in a way that interventions can be traced back to stressors and that allows for monitoring.
- Core indicators: Germany appreciates the identification of indicators. However, these indicators, particularly direct beneficiaries, do not appear clearly in the document, and are absent from the corresponding section. Improvements on the Theory of Change may improve indicators and sharpen the focus on direct beneficiaries. Germany suggests to clearly identifying direct beneficiaries throughout the document.
- Climate rationale: Germany appreciates the brief mentioning of changes in future rainfall variability in the project description section. However, Germany suggests expanding on that issue, given the project’s focus on droughts and floods.
- GCF co-financing: Germany appreciates the close alignment with ongoing initiatives. However, as the GCF Readiness funding for the country’s NAP has been listed under co-financing and is due to start in 2020, Germany suggests confirming if and when this project’s contribution would be effective.
- Reframing project’s components: Germany appreciates that proposal addresses multiple hazards. Components 1 and 2 each address a different climate hazard, droughts and floods respectively. However, some of the activities proposed under each are either very broad (e.g. multi-sectoral climate risk and vulnerability assessment) or relate to the other climate hazard. Germany suggests clarifying and focusing this further by appropriate indicators to ensure funding is not disbursed to duplicated activities under each component. Besides, awareness raising is currently present under both components 2 and 3, whereas the latter should be the only one dedicated to this matter.
- Targets for awareness-raising activities: Germany appreciates the objective to target “wider audiences than the immediate project beneficiaries”. Still, the latter should be at the heart of such activities, given their key role in these EbA activities’ implementation.
- Gender: Germany appreciates the inclusion of a gender perspective, however, suggests being more specific about how climate change impacts

are currently affecting women in the intervention zones.

**3. Haiti: Strengthening the Climatic Resilience of the Drinking Water Sector in the South of Haiti (GEF ID 10320); Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$5,096,746; Cofinancing: \$31,600,000**

✓ **United States Comments:**

Thank you for the opportunity to review the PIF:

As UNDP prepares the draft final project document for CEO endorsement, we urge UNDP to:

- Clarify the geographic area the project is proposed to take place, understanding that different regions have different access to water. For example, most of the population in the South-East doesn't have access to underground water. There also seems to be a mix-up between the South and Southeast. For example, Macaya National Park is not located on Massif de LaSelle.
- Consider the greater impact of watershed degradation on water supply. By focusing on the degradation at the aquifer recharge zones, it underestimates the overall impact of watershed degradation on water infiltration and yield.
- Explain the path to sustainability for the different components of the project as well as the financial sustainability for the community-based strategic plans that would be developed under the proposed interventions.
- Identify the location of the watershed protection component and explain in greater detail how the funding would adequately cover the costs of such a measure.
- Include a comprehensive view of different risks that may impact the region and water sector.
- Consider the coordination potential of working in tandem with all water and sanitation stakeholders (such as IDB, Spanish AID, Swiss AID, USAID, World Bank) currently working in Haiti, either in partnership or in parallel toward the sustainable delivery of safe drinking water amid recurrent severe climate events in rural and/or high density population zones. The proposal mentions a few of these actors but does not elucidate on any of their accomplishments since their 2012 commencement (USAID since 2018) or how each may be better leveraged in a coordinated effort to improve the resilience of drinking water access in Haiti to the effects of climate change.
- Utilize past drinking water/water supply programs, especially those in rural Haiti, to gain a comprehensive understanding of their success or failure.
- Consider a multi-sector and stakeholder commitment approach that not only includes high-level donors and government entities, but also local

stakeholders (CBOs, FBOs, NGOs, municipalities, CASECs, ASECS, etc.).

- Consider urbanization currently rampant in Haiti, including demand for livable land and subsequent unenforced activities in ad hoc informal settlements and how this impacts watershed efficiency and water quality in aquifers and other water sources.
- Consider local ownership and responsibility for the sustainable management and actions (governance, finance, water resource management) that will be needed both during and beyond this project. Expand on how this project will address issues that arise related to the human resources needed to localize the proposed projects.
- Consider other sectors that are dependent on water access and availability such as agriculture, livestock, stream ecosystems, and local industries and how this project will benefit them.
- Focus on a more regional, zone-specific perspective that describes the water management and water needs/challenges in the target zone of South-East.
- Provide more information regarding what fora or communication media the implementing agency and its partners will use to communicate results.
- Thank you again for the opportunity to provide feedback on this important PIF. We look forward to seeing our feedback incorporated in the project proposal at the CEO endorsement stage of the process.

✓ **Germany Comments:**

Germany welcomes the proposal, which aims to increase the resilience of communities to the effects of climate change in Haiti by improving access to drinking water in the South-Eastern part of the country. Furthermore, Germany appreciates that the proposed activities under the project are fully aligned with Haiti's National Action Plan for Adaptation and have been framed to align with and support other ongoing development activities in the water sector. Given the universally poor coverage and vulnerability of water supply in the country, Germany also sees opportunities for scalability, as the measures to be implemented under the project can be replicated in other parts of the country.

**Suggestions for improvements to be made during the drafting of the final project proposal:**

- Regulatory and policy instruments: Germany appreciates the approach to strengthening the institutional capacities. However, regarding component 2, Germany suggests incorporating an analysis of illegal and unregulated water extraction practices and unregulated spring water usage in the area of intervention and formulating a strategy to tackle this issue.
- Role of the local level: Germany appreciates the central role of the Ministry of Environment's (MdE) Direction for Climate Change. However, the MdE's limited capacities regarding production and use of information as

well as operationalization of policies supported by projects should be considered. Existing experiences regarding watershed management, to which UNDP projects have contributed, and experience in natural resource management in general show that regulatory and policy instruments should not depend on active application by central government stakeholders but be closely connected to the local level.

- Duplication of work: Germany appreciates the several types of plans that will be produced at local level. However, the “community-based strategic and operational plans” should not lead to duplications and increased workload for the local participants. Germany suggests improving the quality of existing plans e.g. Plan de Development Communal (Municipal Development plans, required by law) wherever possible. Regarding the investments to be included in those plans, Germany further suggests considering the lack investment capacity of most local stakeholders or local governments – especially small communities.
- Synergies with existing projects and knowledge sharing: Germany appreciates the exploration of synergies with other projects and suggests to further include the experience of CIAT (Comité interministerial d’Amenagement du Territoire), which has been working on pilot projects in spatial planning (plans d’amenagement du territoire) and improvement of hydro-meteorological data collection, as well as the experience of DINEPA, which worked with local committees in the Southern Department (financed by IDB and World Bank, 2007-2011).
- Financial sustainability of water supply systems: Germany appreciates that the financial sustainability of water supply systems is addressed in the proposal. However, Germany recommends considering the informality of the existing water supply especially in rural areas. Fees paid might not cover costs of meter systems and informality might limit the potential of policy and regulation efforts.
- Gender: Germany welcomes that gender-sensitive approaches are explicitly considered and suggests including disaggregated numbers of direct beneficiaries by gender.

**4. Lao PDR: Integrated Water Resource Management and Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) in the Xe Bang Hieng River Basin and Luang Prabang City (GEF ID 10514); Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$6,000,000; Co-financing: \$20,000,000**

✓ **United States Comments:**

Thank you for the opportunity to review the PIF:

As UNDP prepares the draft final project document for CEO endorsement, we urge UNDP to:

- Expand on which hydrological models and early warning systems will be

used within the context of GOL (MONRE) and community capacity.

- Expand on operation and maintenance programs for hardware to be used for monitoring.
- Engage with the Mekong River Commission (MRC), as the sole treaty-based organization in the region, as well as with local communities and non-government organizations. The MRC is undergoing work on the Luang Prabang dam and the construction and eventual operation of the dam will certainly impact LDCF project goals and outcomes.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide feedback on this important PIF. We look forward to seeing our feedback incorporated in the project proposal at the CEO endorsement stage of the process.

✓ **Germany Comments:**

Germany welcomes the proposed project, which aims to increase climate resilience of communities in Savannakhet Province and the city of Luang Prabang vulnerable to floods and droughts, through integrated management of sites in the Mekong River Basin. Germany appreciates the project's gender-sensitive approach, including the envisaged gender action plan, as well as gender-sensitive indicators and targets to be developed for the proposed project.

Germany requests that the following requirements are taken into account during the design of the final project proposal:

- **Beneficiaries:** Germany appreciates the clear project description. Regarding the beneficiaries, the description provides information that is not linked with the theory of change. The proposal states that 2,100 people, including 1,058 women, will be trained on climate change impacts and adaptation opportunities. This number of direct beneficiaries is nevertheless not included in the theory of change. Germany highly recommends reviewing the theory of change at outcome and output level, and formulating concrete indicators focused on beneficiaries. Furthermore, Germany agrees with the PIF Review that clarification is needed on how beneficiaries and other core indicators (e.g. area of land restored) have been estimated in the context of larger baseline initiatives.
- **Alignment with policies:** Germany appreciates the contribution to several of Laos' development and environmental priorities. However, Germany suggests that the project aligns better with upcoming strategies such as the Ninth Five-Year National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSEDPP), rather than its eighth iteration, which covers the period of 2016-2020 only.
- **Project risks:** Germany positively notes the coherence and integrated nature of the proposal. However, the complexity of the proposed approach raises concern on the project's feasibility within the given timeframe. The success of the implementation of the intervention in Luang Prabang depends on the completion and adoption of new strategies and the approval of updated,

EbA-mainstreamed policies and plans. Germany requests that the risks of delays and issues likely encountered in the implementation of Outcome 1.2 be better reflected in the risk section, including concrete mitigation measures.

- Stakeholder engagement: Germany welcomes the development of an integrated approach to manage climate risk through cross-sectoral cooperation and informed planning processes. Germany encourages to clearly indicate the engagement of relevant stakeholders, with an emphasis on vulnerable community groups and gender, within the description of component 1 in order to reflect at the operational level what is described in the gender and stakeholder sections.
- Private sector: Germany appreciates the reference to the private sector and the role of concession owners of agricultural land. Germany suggests emphasizing the importance of commercial agricultural concessions in the Xe Bang Hieng area in the context of land degradation and climate change risks and elaborating possible avenues of engagement with concession owners in the drafting and implementation of adaptation measures.
- Project Focus: Germany appreciates the project's regional focus. Given the complexity, Germany suggest considering downscaling the intervention measure to only one implementation site, with a focus on the Savannakhet project area.

**5. Liberia: Enhancing the Resilience of Vulnerable Coastal communities in Sinoe County of Liberia (GEF ID 10376); Agency: UNDP; GEF Project Financing: \$10,000,000; Cofinancing: \$53,700,000**

✓ **United States Comments:**

Thank you for the opportunity to review the PIF:

As UNDP prepares the draft final project document for CEO endorsement, we urge UNDP to:

- Review the expected co-financing amount from the Government of Liberia (GoL). Our experience is that the GoL is under resourced and GoL agencies frequently do not have funds available for programming, operations, and salaries. Expectations of a \$10 million contribution, even as an in-kind contribution, are, in our view, an over-estimation. In fact, we would expect that the GoL would request that any donor-funded project provide funds to the GoL.
- Adequately justify why Sinoe county is being selected. The document vacillated between discussions facing the entire Liberian coast and Sinoe-specific references. Sinoe is one of the least-populated counties in Liberia with low existing infrastructure capacity. Also, the number of community members set to benefit relative to the budget seems low, which would imply

that the budget numbers are inflated.

- Clearly state what sea or river protection techniques or structures will be deployed.
- Clearly customize the concept to the actual risks and hazards to be addressed. Most of the references are 10+ years old and much of that information is now outdated including settlements and population density. The proposal does not reference anything related to anticipation of climate-related shocks and planning for them such as floods early warning, storms, sea wave surges etc.
- Review the expected co-financing amount from USAID. The USAID-funded West Africa Biodiversity and Climate Change (WABiCC) project provides support for transboundary protected areas in Liberia (e.g. Gola Rainforest National Park) and does not support any coastal activities in Liberia. Additionally, WABiCC is scheduled to end in 2020. Therefore, there should be no expectations of \$28 million in co-financing from WABiCC.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide feedback on this important PIF. We look forward to seeing our feedback incorporated in the project proposal at the CEO endorsement stage of the process.

✓ **Germany Comments:**

Germany welcomes the project, which aims to protect the assets and enhance livelihood diversification in Liberian coastal communities by implementing sea and river defence risk management approaches, with a strong focus on gender. The project seeks to implement a “hybrid” approach to integrated coastal zone management, combining civil engineering solutions with ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) measures. Germany supports the inclusion of EbA activities and appreciates the intention to learn from relevant initiatives, including the “Microfinance for Ecosystem-based Adaptation “(MEbA) project, implemented by UNEP and financed by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU).

Germany requests that the following requirements are taken into account during the design of the final project proposal:

- Theory of change: Germany appreciates that the proposal builds on the climate risk and vulnerability studies undertaken in the country’s ongoing NAP process. Still, the final project document requires more detailed information on (i) the project-relevant outcomes of the climate risk and vulnerability studies, (ii) chosen adaptation measures, as well as (iii) how exactly these measures will contribute to adaptation. Germany suggests reviewing the theory of change at outcome and output level and link it to more specific indicators. This applies particularly to components 3 and 4.
- Co-financing: Germany welcomes the high volume of co-financing. Among

others, the proposal refers to indicative co-financing from the World Bank (USD 15 million) and USAID (USD 28 million). Germany requests to specify how and to which project outcomes and outputs this co-financing would contribute. The same is true for government co-financing. The proposal indicates Government co-financing of USD 10 million in all coastal counties rather than specifying the amount for Sinoe county only and attributing it to project activities. As the national budget 2019/2020 assigns USD 11 million to the Energy & Environment Sector, Germany would appreciate further elaboration on the numbers.

- Synergies with other development efforts: Germany appreciates the inclusion of other relevant development activities. Germany is funding a scholarship for a master's in water science and engineering at the University at the IHE Delft Institute for Water Education for a project manager of the Ministry of Public Works and suggests using this developed capacity should for the project. In addition, Germany is supporting private sector activities in infrastructure development. Please explore synergies regarding transparent procurement, the implementation of construction contracts and capacity development for low-cost construction
- Project coordination: Germany appreciates the Environmental Protection Agency to be the project host. However, Sinoe and Greenville are remote areas that are not accessible by road transport from its office during rainy season. Germany suggests addressing this issue in the final proposal.
- Private sector: Germany appreciates the inclusion of the private sector. Compressed Earth Block Stabilisation (CSEB) technology is proposed as key private sector involvement. However, Sinoe has only 100.000 inhabitants; there might be limited demand and the final project proposal should develop additional business ideas to boost the private sector.

**6. Mauritania: Enhancing Pastoral Farming Producers Resilience in Southeast Watersheds of Mauritania (GEF ID 10176); Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$5,000,000; Co-financing: \$15,000,000**

✓ **Germany Comments:**

Germany welcomes this project, which aims to increase resilience of vulnerable agro-pastoral communities to climate change impacts in Mauritania. The combination of climate-resilient land use planning at watershed level, technology and financial tools for adaptation, and policy support is innovative. This project has the potential to ensure the resilience of the three target regions while also scaling up its approach to other areas. Synergies with and co-financing through several on-going projects have also been identified.

Germany requests that the following requirements are considered during the design of the final project proposal:

- Synergies with existing projects: Germany appreciates the goal to strengthen

the resilience of vulnerable rural populations. It shares that objective with the recently completed EU funded Institutional Strengthening Programme for Agro-Pastoral Resilience in Mauritania (RIMRAP). Germany suggest exploring synergies and prevent duplication of work.

- **Beneficiaries:** Germany appreciates the objective to enhance pastoral farming producers' resilience. However, throughout the PIF different groups are identified as beneficiaries in an inconsistent manner. As a result, it remains unclear whether the project targets the private sector as early-stage businesses, small-scale farmers, or both. Furthermore, if businesses are to be targeted Germany suggests that the baseline should provide an overview of agro-pastoral businesses in the target regions, the barriers they face to implement climate-resilient practices and how the project will overcome these.
- **Indicators:** Germany appreciates the ambitious target of the proposal. However, based on the experiences of RIMRAP, meaningful progress on the listed indicators within the timeframe seems challenging. Germany suggests revisiting the indicators.
- **Project rationale:** Germany appreciates the promotion of a watershed approach to develop resilient land use management plans as an innovation. However, Germany suggests analysing and describe its adaptation benefits more thoroughly.
- **Innovative financial tools:** Germany appreciates the utilisation of innovative financial tools. Output 2.2 indicates the promotion of venture capital to help project beneficiaries implementing innovative adaptation technologies. Germany suggests clarifying what type of venture capital will be promoted (i.e. technical or financial support). 'Caisse de Resilience' and micro-credits are mentioned, however, further specifications such as beneficiaries and selection processes are required. Germany suggests considering using best-practice methods rather than selection on a voluntary basis as the latter may be insufficient.
- **Project sustainability:** Germany appreciates the projects objectives. Unfortunately, it remains unclear how the project's results will be sustained beyond its lifetime, in particular the proposed adaptation technologies (i.e. by selecting low-cost technologies). Section 1.4 indicates that support for processing and marketing will be provided; yet this is not described under output 2.2. Germany suggests adding a description under Output 2.2.
- **Sharing knowledge:** Germany appreciates that pathways to share knowledge within Mauritania have been identified and suggests considering sharing lessons learned within the region. This is of particular relevance as FAO is using similar approaches in other countries.
- Germany would also like to emphasize that the threat of terrorism is especially given in Hodh el Gharbi and therefore implementing a "do no harm" approach" as well as close cooperation with security agencies are recommended.

**7. Tanzania: Integrated Adaptation Program to Enhance Resilience of Communities and Ecosystems in the Dry Miombo Woodlands of Tanzania Mainland and Dryland of Zanzibar (GEF ID 10364); Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$5,000,000; Cofinancing: \$40,979,900**

✓ **Canada Comments:**

- The choice of rehabilitation techniques should be influenced by its costs and benefits to participating communities. In addition, such interventions should ensure availability of enabling forest policies in order to address issues of concern, including (1) the full and meaningful participation of communities, (2) clear land and tree tenure, and (3) equitable benefit sharing. We also recommend that the project embraces and promotes landscape and multidisciplinary approaches and avoids sector approaches that have led to present situations of degradation.

✓ **United States Comments:**

Thank you for the opportunity to review the PIF:

As FAO prepares the draft final project document for CEO endorsement, we urge FAO to:

- Consider whether additional civil society organizations should be brought into the project as advisers and/or implementers given their expertise on these issues and given the proposed consolidation of resources and activities in national and local government structures.
- Consider the potential COVID-19 implications on this project in the context of other pressing issues government implementers (tourism authorities, forest service, etc.) will face in the short and medium term due to COVID-19, especially given the government's refusal to share its COVID-19 cases, bringing accountability into question.
- Explain how national and local government authorities implementing this project will be transparent and accountable, especially in the post-COVID-19 period.
- Thank you again for the opportunity to provide feedback on this important PIF. We look forward to seeing our feedback incorporated in the project proposal at the CEO endorsement stage of the process.

✓ **Germany Comments:**

Germany welcomes the well-written proposal, which aims to promote adaptation technologies and improve the enabling environment for adaptation in woodlands and drylands of Tanzania's mainland and in Zanzibar. Furthermore, Germany appreciates the combination of mainstreaming and practical action and the dedicated component on assessing the effectiveness of selected adaptation actions.

In addition, Germany lauds the wide engagement of relevant stakeholders during the project development process and the alignment with relevant national strategies and policies.

Germany requests that the following requirements are taken into account during the design of the final project proposal:

- Climate projections and regional climate impacts: Germany welcomes that the Tanzania Meteorological Agency (TMA) is a cooperation partner of the project. In addition to Tanzania's 2nd National Communication, which the proposal already refers to, the project could further strengthen its climate rationale by building on the comprehensive set of available climate projections for Tanzania, e.g., from the Future Climate for Africa project, which analysed 34 Global Climate Models for Tanzania in order to support identification of appropriate adaptation actions in each project region. The project could furthermore refer to the National Framework for Climate Services from 2018.
- Co-financing: Germany appreciates the close alignment with ongoing initiatives. Thus, the project shows a very high co-financing value of over USD 40 million and states that 50% of it "will be new capital investments". Germany requests to only count those proportions from the respective initiatives that are being spent in direct relation to the project.
- Adaptation actions and technologies: Germany appreciates the inclusion of the private sector. However, please specify more clearly component 3's direct contribution to climate adaptation and consider revising indicators under 3.2 accordingly. Furthermore, Germany appreciates that the proposal refers to the Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) and recommends that it also refers to the newer Technology Action Plan Report on Agriculture and Water Sectors from 2018. Beyond that, Germany appreciates the promotion of Non-Timber Forest Products as part of the addressed ecosystem services. In light of the high deforestation rates in Tanzania due to charcoal production, Germany suggests to also consider the promotion of sustainable firewood and associated livelihood opportunities.
- Synergies with other development efforts: Germany welcomes the project's link to NDC and NAP processes. Tanzania's NAP process has been supported by German Development Cooperation from 2016-2019. Germany encourages the project to build on the respective cooperation structures like the National NAP Team.

**8. Yemen: Resilient and Sustainable Livelihoods for Rural Yemen (GEF ID 10562); Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$9,006,056; Co-financing: \$42,000,000**

✓ **United States Comments:**

Thank you for the opportunity to review the PIF:

As FAO prepares the draft final project document for CEO endorsement, we urge FAO to:

- Ensure that any repercussions from the project do not result in a reduction of food output.
- Communicate project objectives with farmers and fisherfolk to help explain why spatial planning and fishing restrictions to sustain fish populations are in their best interest.
- Understand the complexities in building a reliable partnership with the ROYG at this stage. Consider that simple approaches, such as prohibition or severe taxation of khat production, may be possible but understand that it may be difficult to prevent rent-seeking.
- Recognize the limitations that the ROYG has to institute beneficial reforms due to the current instability. There is little capacity to develop or enforce spatial planning models. It could easily serve as a mechanism for government rent-seeking.
- Include YESS/ERLP in project coordination, keep them up to date with intended activities and progress.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide feedback on this important PIF. We look forward to seeing our feedback incorporated in the project proposal at the CEO endorsement stage of the process.

✓ **Germany Comments:**

Suggestions for improvements to be made during the drafting of the final project proposal:

- Provide a more precise description of the fragile and dynamic situation in the country as basis for a risk assessment regarding political fragmentation and the role and status of Government in Yemen within the proposal
- Further explain how local ownership will be ensured, taking into account the de facto Huthi “government” in the northern governorates as well as recently elected local councils in Socotra and Al Mahra as part of a Do No Harm approach in a highly conflictive context.
- Consider coordination with ongoing thematically relevant GIZ projects: Strengthening Resilience and Local Participation (transitional aid); Institutional Development of the Water Sector III ‘IDWS’ - Addressing Basic Needs. Note that the mentioned GIZ projects Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity (approach taken up by FAO) and Food and Nutrition Security, Enhanced Resilience have expired or are about to expire but can provide relevant lessons learnt.