



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

22 July 2019

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## ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AFOLU	Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use
CAF	Development Bank of Latin America
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CCCD	Cross-Cutting Capacity Development
CI	Conservation International
COP	Conference of the Parties
CRIC	Committee for Review of Implementation of the Convention
DLDD	Desertification, Land Degradation, and Drought
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FOLUR	Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration Impact Program
FY	Fiscal Year
GEBs	Global Environmental Benefits
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEF-6	Sixth Replenishment Cycle (July 2014 to June 2018)
GEF-7	Seventh Replenishment Cycle (July 2018 to June 2022)
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
IADB	Inter-American Development Bank
IEO	Independent Evaluation Office of the GEF
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LDCF	Least Developed Countries Fund
LDFA	Land Degradation Focal Area
LDN	Land Degradation Neutrality
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NAP	National Action Program
NGI	Non-Grant Instruments
PPG	Project Preparation Grant
SCCF	Special Climate Change Fund
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
SGP	Small Grants Program
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
STAR	System for Transparent Allocation of Resources
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
WWF-US	World Wildlife Fund – United States

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report has been prepared by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Secretariat for submission to the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). This is the seventh report prepared by the GEF to the COP in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the COP to the UNCCD and the GEF Council. This is the fifth time the GEF is reporting since the GEF Instrument was amended in 2010 to list the UNCCD among the Conventions for which the GEF serves as a financial mechanism.

2. The report provides information on GEF activities in the GEF Land Degradation Focal Area (LDFA), specifically sustainable land management (SLM), for the period of July 2017 to June 2019. Activities in other GEF Focal Areas and funding windows related to SLM are also presented. The reporting period coincides with the last year of the Sixth GEF Replenishment Phase (GEF-6, from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2018) and the first year of the Seventh GEF Replenishment Phase (GEF-7, from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2022). The report also informs on the cumulative achievements of LDFA programming in GEF-6.

### GEF's Response to COP Decisions

3. During the period covered by this report, substantial progress was made in addressing decisions taken at UNCCD COP 13, held in September 2017, on Collaboration with the GEF. Details of the decisions and progress with responses and actions taken by the GEF Secretariat are presented in Part I of this report.

### Highlights of Land Degradation Portfolio Trends

#### *Total GEF Programming*

4. A total of 75 projects and programs were approved with funding from the LDFA and other related funding windows of the GEF trust fund during the reporting period (see Table 1). The total GEF grant for these projects and programs amounts to \$857.76 million, which leveraged \$5,673.87 million in co-financing. These resources were utilized by countries through 20 stand-alone LDFA projects using \$48.92 million, and 55 multi-focal area (MFA) projects and programs using \$808.84 million of GEF resources.

5. These 55 MFA projects and programs include \$159.97 million of LDFA project financing. This investment was linked to \$579.42 million of GEF project financing that were programmed in conjunction with LDFA resources including Biodiversity (\$283.32 million), GEF-7 Impact Programs (\$184.70 million)<sup>1</sup>, Climate Change (\$58.38 million), International Waters (\$40.45 million), and the GEF-6 SFM incentive program (\$12.57 million).

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<sup>1</sup> The figure includes the Impact Program incentive in addition to focal area STAR contributions by countries.

**Table 1: GEF Programming in the Reporting Period (July 2017 to June 2019)**

<b>Project Type</b>	<b>Number of Projects</b>	<b>GEF Project Financing<sup>2</sup> (\$ Million)</b>	<b>Total GEF Resources<sup>3</sup> (\$ Million)</b>	<b>Co-Financing<sup>4</sup> (\$ Million)</b>
L DFA Stand-Alone	20	43.69	48.92	681.03
Multi-Focal Area	55	739.39	808.84	4,992.84
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>783.08</b>	<b>857.76</b>	<b>5,673.87</b>

### *Regional Distribution*

6. Of the 75 projects and programs approved during the reporting period, 56 national projects are covering 50 countries across all five UNCCD Annexes—Africa, Asia, Latin America and Caribbean, Central and Eastern Europe, and North Mediterranean. For these five regions, total GEF grants of \$262.42 million were approved during the reporting period. In addition, \$371.27 million were programmed through eleven global projects and programs and \$224.07 million were programmed through eight regional projects and programs designed to invest in coordinated actions by seven countries to address specific thematic issues for SLM. In addition, to date 39 countries participate in GEF-7 Impact Programs that are relevant for the LDFA. Furthermore, 107 countries benefitted from Enabling Activities. All countries participating in projects and programs are listed in Annex 1.

### **SLM Synergies through Other GEF Funding Windows**

7. Four projects relevant to LDFA were approved during the reporting period by other GEF funding windows, including one project through the Cross-Cutting Capacity Development (CCCD) Program, one project through the Non-Grant Instruments (NGI) pilot program, and two multi-trust fund projects with the Least Developed Country Fund (LDCF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF). Through those windows, GEF provided \$7.00 million in grants and \$9.00 million in non-grant support.

### **Overall Achievements in GEF-6**

#### *Overall Programming of LDFA Allocation*

8. Of the total \$431 million allocated to the LDFA during GEF-6, \$400.67 million were programmed from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2018. This represents a LDFA utilization percentage

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<sup>2</sup> GEF Project Financing are the resources provided to a GEF project to support its implementation. It does not include Project Preparation Grants (PPGs) or Agency Fees.

<sup>3</sup> Total GEF resources include GEF project financing, approved PPGs, and all associated Agency Fees.

<sup>4</sup> Co-Financing means financing that is additional to GEF Project Financing, and that supports the implementation of a GEF-financed project or program and the achievement of its objective(s). Please refer to GEF, 2018, [Updated Co-Financing Policy](#), Council Document GEF/C.54/10/Rev.01

of 106.5 percent of the revised target of \$376 million under the projected shortfall of the GEF-6 resource envelope as of October 2016.<sup>5</sup> The overachievement of the revised target indicates that countries may have prioritized LDFA STAR investments over other focal area investments in response to the projected shortfall.

9. The ratio of GEF project financing to co-financing in GEF-6 was 1 to 6.0 across the LDFA portfolio. A total GEF project financing amount of \$1,139.79 million leveraged \$6,842.23 million in co-financing.

#### *Utilization of Country Allocations under the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources*

10. In GEF-6, through the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR), \$346 million were directly allocated to 144 countries for land degradation. The target was revised in October 2016 to \$291 million. From July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2018, \$317.60 million was utilized by 116 of 144 countries, which is 109.1 percent of the revised target for the LDFA STAR.

#### *LDFA Set-Asides and Enabling Activity Financing*

11. Of the total \$85 million of set-aside resources for the focal area, \$83.07 million, or 97 percent, were programmed under the Integrated Approach Pilot on Food Security, the SFM Program, eight global and regional projects, as well as for Enabling Activities.

12. Of the total \$15 million earmarked for Enabling Activities, \$13.12 million were utilized (87 percent). The GEF announced its support for the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Target Setting Project (GEF ID #9365) at COP 12 in Ankara in 2015. At COP 12, UNCCD Parties decided that striving to achieve target 15.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a strong vehicle for driving implementation of the UNCCD, within the scope of the Convention.<sup>6</sup> In addition, a global support program in cooperation with the Global Mechanism was funded with \$2 million. Furthermore, countries could apply for a \$70,000 Enabling Activity support provided through a separate umbrella project. In total, GEF supported 107 countries.

#### **Progress in GEF-7**

13. The Seventh Replenishment of the GEF (July 2018 to June 2022) was concluded during this reporting period. The total amount pledged by donors to the GEF is \$4.1 billion. The LDFA notional allocation for GEF-7 is \$475 million, an increase of 10 percent compared to GEF-6 (\$431 million). The STAR allocation to countries has increased from \$346 million to \$354 million. In GEF-7, all countries have a minimum floor of \$1 million for LD STAR and least developed countries have an increased floor of \$1.5 million.

14. With the start of the GEF-7 replenishment period, GEF has updated and revised its LDFA strategy to be fully aligned with the LDN concept. The GEF-7 Impact Programs on Food Systems,

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<sup>5</sup> GEF, 2016, [Update on GEF-6 Resource Availability](#). Council Document GEF/C.51/04

<sup>6</sup> Decision 3/COP.12

Land Use, and Restoration (FOLUR), as well as the Amazon, the Congo Basin, and Sustainable Dryland Landscapes are major contributions to implementing LDN. Specifically, the Sustainable Dryland Landscapes Impact Program has the objective “to avoid, reduce, and reverse further degradation, desertification, and deforestation of land and ecosystems in drylands, through the sustainable management of production landscapes” and is thus fully in line with the LDN concept. The program framework also enables participating countries to address desertification, land degradation, and drought (DLDD) issues.

15. Specifically with regard to DLDD, the LDFA strategy enables countries to make investments to sustain and rebuild productive areas, mitigate the effects of drought, increase resilience and prevent conflict and migration. Support may be provided in specific contexts such as in drought prone and/or fragile areas to address drivers of fragility and land and water insecurity, to reverse resource pressures, enhance or restore governance and rebuild natural resource based livelihoods and jobs.

16. LDFA investments in this regard are directly responding to UNCCD priorities, and more specifically the UNCCD Strategic Framework (2018-2030) which acknowledges that desertification/land degradation and drought (DLDD) are challenges of a global dimension, which contribute to and aggravate economic, social and environmental problems as well as reduced resilience to climate change and forced migration.<sup>7</sup>

17. In the first year of GEF-7, \$176.40 million of LDFA resources were programmed, representing 37.1 percent of the total allocation. The majority of the LDFA funding was invested in multi-focal area projects and programs, thereby leveraging additional \$392.41 million from other GEF focal areas and Impact Programs.

18. The ratio of GEF project financing to co-financing is 1 to 7.7 across the LDFA portfolio in the first year of GEF-7. GEF project financing of \$519.77 million leveraged \$3,968.75 million in co-financing.

### **Portfolio Monitoring and Evaluation**

19. Building on the focal area mandate and the opportunities for transformational impact, the GEF-6 focal area corporate target was an aggregate area of 120 million hectares under SLM coverage. This target included potential coverage across crop, rangeland, and forest landscapes in affected regions. The approved GEF-6 projects have a cumulative target of 103 million hectares, which is 86 percent of the corporate target. The slight underachievement may in part be attributed to the shortfall of resources in the GEF-6 envelope, as only 93 percent of the original funding allocation were utilized.

20. The LDFA projects approved during the final year of GEF-6 contributed 39.00 million hectares, approximately 32 percent of the GEF-6 corporate target. Furthermore, the expected greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation benefits from these projects total 44.70 million tons of carbon

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<sup>7</sup> [UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework](#), ICCD/COP (13)/21/Add.1

dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e), which is about 6 percent of the 750 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e corporate target for climate change in GEF-6.

21. For the GEF-7 replenishment period, the GEF has updated its results architecture to better reflect the integrated programming across focal areas.<sup>8</sup> Building on and learning from the systems and approaches developed over the past two decades, the GEF-7 results architecture is designed to generate more relevant and more reliable data and information on results, while promoting integration, multiple benefits, and simplification. Specifically, the results architecture aims to better capture the value of synergies across the GEF's different areas of work and captures more systematically the socio-economic co-benefits of its projects and programs. The GEF-7 LDFA-relevant corporate targets are: i) 320 million hectares of landscapes under improved practices; ii) 6 million hectares of area of land restored; and iii) 1,500 million metric tons of GHG emissions mitigated. All GEF focal areas and Impact Programs may contribute to the achievement of these targets. Furthermore, the number of beneficiaries in all GEF projects and programs will be monitored, aggregated by gender.

22. In the first year of GEF-7, the approved projects and programs have set targets of: i) 53.17 million hectares of landscapes under improved practices; ii) 4.68 million hectares of land restored; iii) 466.40 million metric tons of GHG emissions mitigated; and iv) 9.74 million of beneficiaries, of which 4.79 million are men and 4.95 million are women.

23. GEF's 2018 Annual Portfolio Monitoring Report<sup>9</sup> found that the LDFA stand-alone project portfolio is significantly contributing to the GEF corporate targets, in terms of implementation progress and their respective development objective. Of the 62 LDFA projects currently under implementation, 93 percent were rated moderately satisfactory or higher with regard to implementation progress. In terms of achieving their development objective, 91 percent of the projects are achieving ratings of moderately satisfactory or higher.

## Conclusions

24. The reporting period has seen further progress and achievements with respect to GEF's role as financial mechanism of the UNCCD, and more specifically in relation to GEF activities in the LDFA. The LDFA portfolio continues to support a significant number of projects covering all geographies and a wide range of agro-ecologies and thematic issues. The potential for achieving transformational impact through SLM is high for all affected regions. Furthermore, the GEF is responding to UNCCD COP decisions of relevance to the GEF and playing an important role in supporting countries to implement their voluntary LDN targets as part of the SDGs.

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<sup>8</sup> GEF, 2018, [Updated Results Architecture for GEF-7](#). Council Document, GEF/C.54/11 Rev.02

<sup>9</sup> GEF, 2018, [Annual Portfolio Monitoring Report](#). Council Document GEF/C.55/03



## **INTRODUCTION**

### **Purpose of the Report**

1. This report has been prepared by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Secretariat for submission to the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). This is the seventh report prepared by the GEF to the COP in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the COP to the UNCCD and the GEF Council. This is the fifth time the GEF is reporting since the GEF Instrument was amended in 2010 to list the UNCCD among the Conventions for which the GEF serves as a financial mechanism.
2. The Land Degradation Focal Area (LDFA) is the GEF window for investing in projects and programs to combat land degradation, and directly supports the implementation of the UNCCD. The LDFA fosters synergetic benefits with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and relevant international agreements on the sustainable use of international waters. It also contributes to the UN Forest Instrument of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF).
3. This report presents an analysis of the GEF project and program portfolio for the LDFA, including stand-alone and multi-focal area (MFA) projects, covering the period from July 2017 to June 2019. This period coincides with the last year of the Sixth GEF Replenishment Cycle (GEF-6) and the first year of the Seventh GEF Replenishment Cycle (GEF-7). Details of programming trends are presented for focal area objectives and the five regional UNCCD Annexes.
4. The report also includes an overview of LDFA relevant programming of resources provided by other GEF trust fund windows supporting sustainable land management (SLM), including funding for the Small Grants Program (SGP), the Cross-Cutting Capacity Development (CCCD) Program, and the Non-Grant Instruments (NGI) pilot program.
5. The report further provides an update on the overall programming of resources in GEF-6, including utilization of the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR), LDFA set-asides, and financing for Enabling Activities under the UNCCD.
6. In addition to the synthesis on programming trends, the report presents details of the COP decisions and progress with responses and actions taken by the GEF Secretariat.
7. The report presents a synthesis of the focal area portfolio monitoring and assessment and introduces the updated results architecture for GEF-7.

### **Goals and Objectives of the Land Degradation Focal Area in GEF-7**

8. The seventh replenishment cycle of the GEF (GEF-7) began on July 1, 2018. As a part of the Summary of Negotiations of the Seventh Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund, the GEF-7

programming directions including the allocations of resources set forth therein were endorsed by the GEF Council during its 54<sup>th</sup> meeting held in Da Nang, Viet Nam, in June 2018.<sup>10</sup>

9. The goal of the GEF LDFA remains to contribute to arresting and reversing current global trends in land degradation, specifically desertification and deforestation. This is accomplished by investing in projects that promote and support good practices conducive to SLM, and which are able to generate global environmental benefits (GEBs) while supporting social and economic development at the local and national level.

10. The LDFA strategy in GEF-7 has three overarching purposes: i) aligning GEF support to promote UNCCD's Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) concept through an appropriate mix of investments; ii) seeking effective integration within the GEF-7 Impact Programs for generation of multiple benefits; and iii) harnessing private capital and expertise to finance investments in SLM, in particular in cooperation with the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Fund and other innovative financing mechanisms.<sup>11</sup>

11. GEF investments seek to address the drivers of land degradation, based on robust assessment of experience and existing knowledge gained through ongoing implementation of LDFA-related projects and programs. The GEF emphasizes innovative and integrated approaches to SLM that can be scaled up to maximize global benefits for the environment and similarly address the issues of biodiversity, climate change, and local livelihoods.

12. GEF continues to apply a comprehensive landscape approach to address the broad multi-faceted nature of land degradation across the range of agro-ecological and climatic zones. The LDN concept will inform project design, the conceptual framework to establish baselines, targets, indicators, and the metrics for monitoring and evaluation of GEF interventions.

13. The LDFA investments focus on production landscapes where agricultural and rangeland management practices underpin the livelihoods of poor rural farmers and pastoralists. A specific emphasis in GEF-7 is placed on sustainable management of drylands in semi-arid and sub-humid zones addressing, among other issues, drought-prone ecosystems and populations.

14. GEF-7 LDFA relevant corporate targets are: i) 320 million hectares of landscapes under improved practices; ii) 6 million hectares of area of land restored; and iii) 1,500 million metric tons of GHG emissions mitigated. All GEF focal areas and Impact Programs may contribute to the achievement of these targets. Furthermore, the number of beneficiaries in all GEF projects and programs will be monitored, aggregated by gender.

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<sup>10</sup> GEF, 2018, [Summary of Negotiations of the Seventh Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund](#). Council Document GEF/C.54/19/Rev.03

<sup>11</sup> [https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/Focal\\_area\\_GEF-7\\_Programming\\_Directions\\_Land\\_Degradation.pdf](https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/documents/Focal_area_GEF-7_Programming_Directions_Land_Degradation.pdf)

## PART I: GEF'S RESPONSE TO COP DECISIONS

15. During the reporting period, substantial progress was made in responding to decisions taken at UNCCD COP 13, held in Ordos, China in September 2017, on Collaboration with the GEF and other decisions with relevance to the GEF.<sup>12</sup> Details of the decisions and progress with responses and actions taken by the GEF Secretariat are presented in Table 2.

**Table 2: GEF's Response to UNCCD COP 13 Decisions of Relevance to the GEF**

COP 13 Decisions	GEF's Response
Welcomes the continued support for the implementation of the Convention, in particular the funding of enabling activities by the Global Environment Facility in the context of Sustainable Development Goal target 15.3. (11/COP.13)	Noted with appreciation of recognition.
Invites the Global Environment Facility donors to use the findings and lessons learnt, contained in the report on programming and priorities in the affected regions, to inform the programming directions for the focal area in the Seventh Replenishment phase of the Global Environment Facility (GEF-7). (11/COP.13)	Donors responded positively to this invitation in the context of GEF-7 replenishment negotiations.
Encourages developed country Parties and other Parties to make voluntary financial contributions to the Global Environment Facility with the aim of achieving robust Seventh Replenishment, including for the Land Degradation Focal Area. (11/COP.13)	Donors responded positively to this invitation in the context of GEF-7 replenishment negotiations. Donors pledged \$4.1 billion to the GEF, of which \$475 million was notionally allocated to the Land Degradation Focal Area.
Invites the Global Environment Facility to continue its support for the implementation of the Convention under GEF-7, in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular target 15.3. (11/COP.13)	The GEF support for the Convention in the context of SDGs and target 15.3 was addressed in the GEF-7 Programming Directions.
Also invites the Global Environment Facility, during GEF-7, to continue providing technical and financial support for capacity-building, reporting and voluntary national land degradation neutrality target-setting and implementation. (11/COP.13)	The GEF support for capacity-building, reporting, and voluntary target setting for land degradation neutrality and implementation was addressed in the context of the GEF-7 replenishment negotiations. GEF will continue to provide support, including through an enhanced level of finance for STAR and Enabling Activities.
Further invites donors to the Global Environment Facility to give due consideration to the concerns expressed with regard to the allocation of resources across the different focal areas and encourages Parties, through the Global Environment Facility and	Donors responded positively to this invitation in the context of GEF-7 replenishment negotiations by increasing the resources allocated to the LDFA from \$431 million in GEF-6 to \$475 million in GEF-7. In comparison, the allocation to the Climate Change

<sup>12</sup> [https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/sessions/documents/2017-11/cop21add1\\_eng.pdf](https://www.unccd.int/sites/default/files/sessions/documents/2017-11/cop21add1_eng.pdf)

COP 13 Decisions	GEF's Response
the Convention's focal points and their constituencies, to advocate for a balanced allocation of funds among the Rio conventions during the GEF-7 replenishment process. (11/COP.13)	Focal Area changed from \$1,260 million to \$802 million, and the allocation to the Biodiversity Focal Area changed from \$1,296 million to \$1,287 million.
Encourages the Global Environment Facility to continue and further enhance means to harness opportunities for leveraging synergies among the Rio Conventions and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. (11/COP.13)	The GEF will continue to make efforts to facilitate means to harness opportunities to leverage synergy among the Conventions it serves, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This was also addressed in the context of the completed GEF-7 replenishment negotiations, in particular through the Impact Programs.
Invites the Global Environment Facility to report on the implementation of this decision as part of its next report to the fourteenth session of Conference of the Parties. (11/COP.13)	The GEF has prepared and submitted this report to the fourteenth session of Conference of the Parties.
Adopts the attached new Memorandum of Understanding. (12/COP.13)	Noted.
Requests the secretariat of the UNCCD and invites the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility to make appropriate arrangements to sign the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the Global Environment Facility Council and the Conference of the Parties. (12/COP.13)	The GEF Council, during its 54 <sup>th</sup> meeting, requested the Secretariat of the GEF and invited the Secretariat of the UNCCD to make appropriate arrangements to sign the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the GEF Council and the Conference of the Parties. The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the GEF CEO and the Executive Secretary of the UNCCD on behalf of the Global Environment Facility Council and the Conference of the Parties on June 11, 2019.
Requests the secretariat of the UNCCD and invites the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility to implement the attached Memorandum of Understanding. (12/COP.13)	The GEF stands committed to implement the Memorandum of Understanding.

## PART II: STATUS OF GEF LAND DEGRADATION FOCAL AREA PORTFOLIO

### Programming Trends in the Reporting Period

16. During the reporting period, a total of 75 projects were approved with funding from the LDFA and other related funding windows of the GEF trust fund. The total GEF grant for these projects amounts to \$857.76 million.

17. These resources were utilized either as stand-alone LDFA projects or through multi-focal area (MFA) projects that combine LDFA resources with resources from other focal areas or incentive programs such as Biodiversity, Climate Change, International Waters, the GEF-6 SFM incentive program, and the GEF-7 Impact Programs.

18. As shown in Table 3 below, 56 of the 75 projects were approved in fiscal year (FY) 2018 and 19 projects in FY19, corresponding to the last year of the GEF-6 and the first year of GEF-7, respectively. These resources were utilized by countries through 20 stand-alone LDFA projects using \$48.92 million and 55 MFA projects using \$808.84 million of GEF resources.

**Table 3: GEF Programming in the Reporting Period (July 2017 – June 2019)**

Time Period	Project Type	Number of Projects	GEF Project Financing <sup>13</sup> (\$ Million)	Total GEF Resources <sup>14</sup> (\$ Million)	Co-financing <sup>15</sup> (\$ Million)
July 2017 – June 2018 (4 <sup>th</sup> Year of GEF-6)	LDFA Stand-Alone	16	30.76	34.40	477.27
	Multi-Focal Area	40	232.55	254.55	1,227.85
July 2018 – June 2019 (1 <sup>st</sup> Year of GEF-7)	LDFA Stand-Alone	4	12.93	14.52	203.76
	Multi-Focal Area	15	506.84	554.29	3,764.99
	<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>783.08</b>	<b>857.76</b>	<b>5,673.87</b>

19. Table 3 also shows that 73 percent of the projects are MFA projects and 27 percent are LDFA stand-alone projects. In terms of resources, 94 percent of the LDFA financing is utilized in MFA projects and programs.

<sup>13</sup> GEF Project Financing are the resources provided to a GEF project to support its implementation. It does not include PPGs or Agency Fees.

<sup>14</sup> Total GEF resources are the total amount of funding provided to GEF projects or programs including project financing, PPGs, and associated Agency Fees.

<sup>15</sup> Co-Financing means financing that is additional to GEF Project Financing, and that supports the implementation of a GEF-financed project or program and the achievement of its objective(s). Please refer to GEF, 2018, [Updated Co-Financing Policy](#), Council Document GEF/C.54/10/Rev.01.

20. The LDFA portfolio of 75 projects and programs for the reporting period includes four programs, 53 full-sized projects, 13 medium-sized projects, and five Enabling Activities.

21. A total GEF project financing of \$783.08 million leveraged \$5,673.87 million co-financing, with a co-financing ratio of 1 to 7.2 for the reporting period. In the fourth and final year of GEF-6, GEF project financing of \$263.31 million leveraged 1,705.12 million co-financing. In the first year of GEF-7, GEF project financing of \$519.77 million leveraged 3,968.75 million in co-financing. The co-financing ratio has increased from 1 to 6.5 in the last year of GEF-6 to 1 to 7.6 in the first year of GEF-7.

22. Of the total GEF resources, \$203.66 million in project financing was allocated from the LDFA. The portfolio includes 20 stand-alone projects utilizing \$43.69 million of LDFA project financing and 55 multi-focal area projects and programs using \$159.97 million of LDFA project financing. The MFA projects and programs provide an additional amount of \$579.42 million, which means that every dollar of LDFA resources programmed through MFA projects leveraged \$3.62 from other GEF focal areas and incentives to address multiple objectives.

23. The average GEF project financing amount is \$2.18 million for LDFA stand-alone projects and \$13.44 million for MFA projects. Thus, the MFA approach enables countries to address multiple global environmental concerns at a larger scale compared to stand-alone projects.

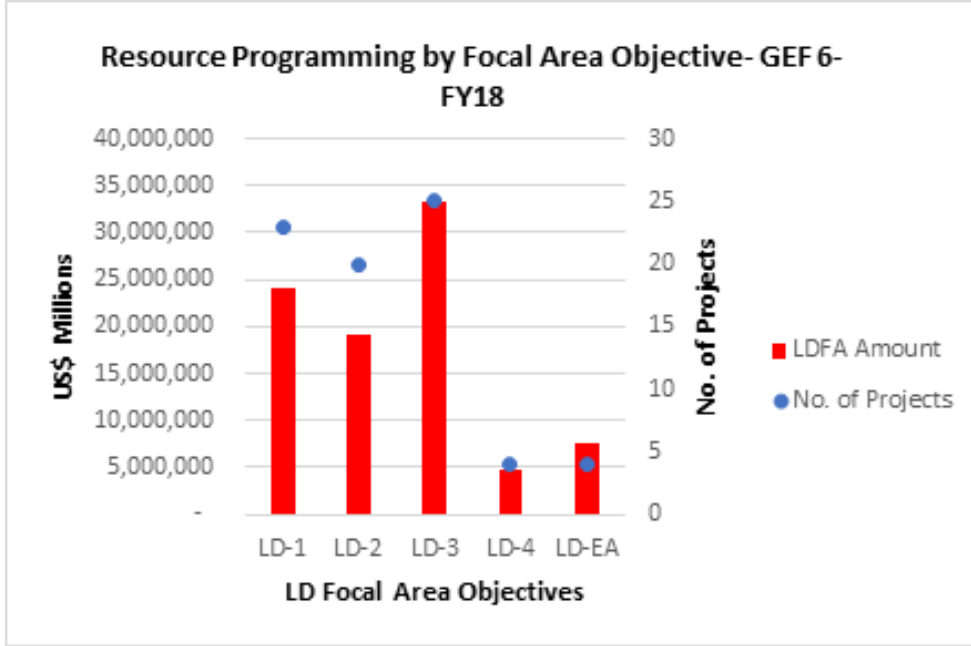
#### **Programming by Focal Area Objectives in GEF-6 and GEF-7**

24. The LDFA strategy for GEF-6 (2014 - 2018) included five objectives:

- (a) LD-1: Agriculture and Rangeland Systems: Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem services to sustain food production and livelihoods;
- (b) LD-2: Forest Landscapes: Generate sustainable flows of forest ecosystem services, including sustaining livelihoods of forest dependent people;
- (c) LD-3: Integrated Landscapes: Reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses in the wider landscape;
- (d) LD-4: Maximizing Transformational Impact: Maintain land resources and agro-ecosystem services through mainstreaming at scale; and
- (e) LD-EA: UNCCD Enabling Activities: Support countries in reporting to UNCCD and aligning National Action Plans (NAPs) to the UNCCD Strategy.

25. In FY18, a total of \$81.50 million of project financing were directed towards the four GEF-6 LDFA objectives, and an additional \$7.50 million of project financing going towards the LDFA Enabling Activities. These figures exclude Agency Fees and PPGs, as those cannot be assigned to the specific focal area objectives.

**Figure 1: Programming of LDFA Grants by GEF-6 Focal Area Objectives (July 2017-June 2018)**



26. Objective LD-3 accounted for the highest resource allocation with \$33.36 million programmed through 25 projects during the final year of GEF-6. Objective LD-1 also showed strong programming with \$24.16 million of the LDFA resources allocated through 23 projects, followed closely by Objective LD-2 with \$19.21 million programmed through 20 projects. Objective LD-4 was addressed in four projects with \$4.77 million programmed. Several projects address more than one LD objective. In addition, enabling activities were financed through four umbrella projects targeting 107 countries with a total amount of \$7.50 million.

27. The LDFA strategy for GEF-7 (2018–2022) includes two main objectives and six sub-objectives:

Objective 1: Support on the ground implementation of SLM to achieve LDN

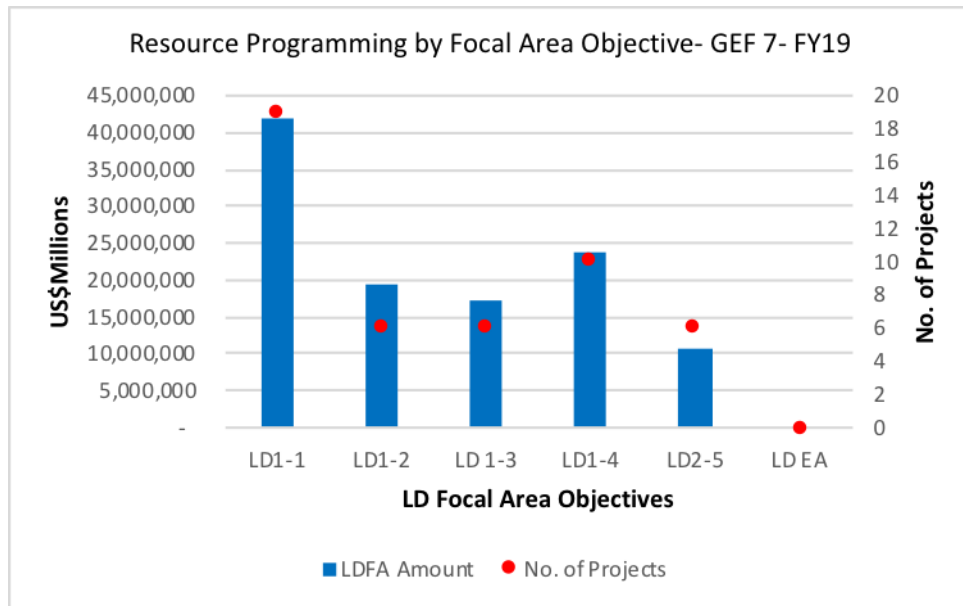
- (a) LD-1-1: Agriculture and Rangeland Systems: Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem services to sustain food production and livelihoods through SLM;
- (b) LD-1-2: Forest Landscapes: Maintain or improve flow of ecosystem services, including sustaining livelihoods of forest dependent people through sustainable forest management;
- (c) LD-1-3: Restored Landscapes: Maintain or improve flow of ecosystem services, including sustaining livelihoods of local people through forest and landscape restoration;
- (d) LD-1-4: Integrated Landscapes: Reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses and increase resilience in the wider landscape.

Objective 2: Creating an enabling environment to support voluntary LDN target implementation

- (e) LD-2-5: Create enabling environments to support scaling up and mainstreaming of SLM and LDN; and
- (f) LD-EA: UNCCD Enabling Activities: Support countries in reporting to UNCCD and enabling voluntary LDN target setting and monitoring, and related capacity building.

28. In FY19, a total of \$113.45 million of project financing were directed towards five GEF-7 LDFA objectives.

**Figure 2: Programming of LDFA Grants by GEF-7 Focal Area Objectives (July 2018-June 2019)**



29. Objective LD-1-1 has the highest amount programmed, with \$42.02 million in project financing, programmed through 19 projects, followed by LD-1-4 with \$23.69 million programmed through ten projects. Objectives LD-1-2, LD-1-3, and LD-2-5 are addressed through six projects each, with amounts of \$19.48 million, \$17.39 million, and \$10.87 million, respectively. Several projects address more than one LD objective. Enabling activities were not programmed in the first year of GEF-7. These figures exclude Agency Fees and PPGs, as those cannot be assigned to the specific focal area objectives.

**Multi-focal Area Programming**

30. As mentioned above, the LDFA portfolio includes 55 MFA projects and programs approved during the reporting period with a total amount of \$739.39 million in project financing. Table 4 shows the detailed contribution of different focal areas to these MFA projects. \$159.97 million of LDFA resources were programmed through these MFA projects, of which



\$58.24 million were programmed in the fourth year of GEF-6 and \$101.73 million in the first year of GEF-7. This investment was linked to \$579.42 million of GEF project financing mobilized from other focal areas and incentive programs, of which \$174.31 million were leveraged in the fourth year of GEF-6 and \$405.81 million in the first year of GEF-7. The total amount of \$579.42 million that were programmed in conjunction with LDFA resources include Biodiversity (283.32 million), GEF-7 Impact Programs (\$184.70 million)<sup>16</sup>, Climate Change (\$58.38 million), International Waters (\$40.45 million), and the GEF-6 SFM incentive program (\$12.57 million).

**Table 4: Multi-focal Area (MFA) Programming in the Reporting Period**

Time Period	Focal Area / Programs	MFA Programming (\$ Million)	Percentage of MFA programming per FY (%)
July 2017 – June 2018 (FY18) (4 <sup>th</sup> Year of GEF-6)	Land Degradation	58.24	25.0%
	Biodiversity	98.33	42.3%
	Climate Change	22.96	9.9%
	International Waters	40.45	17.4%
	GEF-6 SFM Program	12.57	5.4%
	<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>232.55</i>	<i>100.0%</i>
July 2018 – June 2019 (FY19) (1 <sup>st</sup> Year of GEF-7)	Land Degradation	101.73	20.0%
	Biodiversity	184.99	36.5%
	Climate Change	35.42	7.0%
	GEF-7 Impact Programs	184.70	36.5%
	- <i>Food Systems, Land Use, and Restoration</i>	<i>90.33</i>	<i>17.9%</i>
	- <i>Dryland Sustainable Landscapes</i>	<i>36.82</i>	<i>7.3%</i>
	- <i>Amazon Sustainable Landscapes</i>	<i>33.02</i>	<i>6.5%</i>
- <i>Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes</i>	<i>24.53</i>	<i>4.8%</i>	
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>506.84</i>	<i>100.0%</i>	
	Grand Total	739.39	

31. The linkages with other focal areas are primarily based on potential for achieving synergies through sustainable land management and integrated landscape management, including in forest landscapes. This is consistent with the increasingly integrated approach to programming focal area resources to enhance multiple GEBs, including increased landscape connectivity (Biodiversity Focal Area), carbon sequestration and reduction of land-based emissions of GHGs (Climate Change Mitigation Focal Area), and avoiding and reversing land and forest degradation in forest landscapes (GEF-6 SFM program).

32. The GEF-7 Impact Programs pool GEF resources from the Biodiversity, Land Degradation, and Climate Change Focal Areas and are contributing to their objectives in a more integrated manner and at more impactful scales. The Impact Programs listed in Table 4 above are fully in

<sup>16</sup> This figure represents the Impact Program incentive in addition to focal area STAR contributions by countries.

line with GEF-7 LDFA objectives and cover four globally important systems for advancing transformational change with multiple global environmental benefits: Food Systems, Land use, and Restoration; Amazon Sustainable Landscapes; Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes; and Dryland Sustainable Landscapes.

### Geographical Trends

33. The LDFA portfolio is represented by 56 national projects in 51 countries across all five UNCCD Annexes—Africa, Asia, Latin America and Caribbean, Central and Eastern Europe, and North Mediterranean as well as 11 global and 8 regional projects (see Table 5). For the five UNCCD regions, total GEF resources programmed amount to \$262.42 million. The remaining \$595.34 million were programmed through 11 global projects and eight regional projects designed to invest in coordinated actions by in total number of 71 countries or address specific thematic issues for SLM.

**Table 5: Number of Projects and GEF Resources by UNCCD Annexes in the Reporting Period**

Region	No. of Projects in FY18	No. of Projects in FY19	No. of Project in FY18 & FY19	GEF Resources in FY18 (\$ Million)	GEF Resources in FY19 (\$ Million)	Total GEF Resources in FY18 & FY19 (\$ Million)
Africa	20	3	23	95.78	11.63	107.41
Asia	11	3	14	56.59	18.69	75.28
Latin America and Caribbean	7	6	13	34.08	30.30	64.38
North Mediterranean	1	0	1	2.20	0.00	2.20
Central and Eastern Europe	3	2	5	7.75	5.40	13.15
Global projects	9	2	11	34.34	336.93	371.27
Regional projects	5	3	8	58.21	165.86	224.07
<b>Total</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>288.95</b>	<b>568.81</b>	<b>857.76</b>

#### *Africa Region*

34. For the period covered by this report, the Africa region has a strong portfolio with in total \$107.41 million of GEF resources programmed through 23 national projects in 21 countries: Algeria, Angola, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Djibouti, Egypt, The Gambia, Guinea, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Mauritius, Namibia, Niger, São Tomé and Príncipe, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, and Zambia. For details, please refer to Annex 1.

35. In addition, the Africa region benefits significantly from global and regional Impact Programs, with a large part of the GEF investment going towards the Congo Basin through the

Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes (GEF ID #10208), the Southern Africa Miombo forest region, and the Sahel through the Dryland Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program (GEF ID #10206). Further details are presented below under global and regional programming.

### *Asia Region*

36. With 14 projects and a total GEF investment of \$75.28 million, Asia has the second largest portfolio for the reporting period, including projects in ten countries: Afghanistan, Cambodia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vanuatu. For details, please refer to Annex 1.

37. The projects in Asia are mainly MFA projects that address Objective LD-3 of the LDFA strategy for GEF-6, which invests in reducing pressures on natural resources from competing land uses in the wider landscape. Five of the MFA projects receive funding from the SFM incentive program to combine biodiversity conservation, the scaling-up of SLM innovations, and climate change mitigation through agriculture, forest, and land use measures.

### *Latin America and Caribbean Region*

38. The Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region is represented with 13 projects in this reporting period, accounting for a total GEF grant of \$64.38 million.

39. The MFA projects account for most of the LDFA resources programmed by countries in the LAC region. These projects largely addressed Objectives LD-1 and LD-3 of the GEF-6 focal area strategy, and mainly leverage resources from the Biodiversity Focal Area to enhance integrated management of landscapes at scale. GEF-7 projects in Uruguay (GEF ID #10081), Ecuador (GEF ID #10184), Honduras (GEF ID #10220), and the Dominican Republic (GEF ID #10216) focus on LDN implementation.

40. The LAC region also benefits from a regional investment of \$96.25 million into the GEF-7 Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program (GEF ID #10198), which includes Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, and Suriname.

### *North Mediterranean Region*

41. Among the twelve countries included in this UNCCD Annex, only two, Albania and Turkey, are GEF eligible. In this reporting period, Turkey is supported with an Irrigation Modernization Project (GEF ID #9984).

### *Europe and Central Asia Region*

42. Five projects were approved in countries in the Europe and Central Asia Region, with a total of \$13.15 million of GEF resources programmed in the following countries: Azerbaijan, Georgia, Macedonia, Moldova, and Ukraine. The project Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality

Targets of Georgia through Restoration and Sustainable Management of Degraded Pasturelands specifically addresses LDN implementation (GEF ID #10151).

### *Regional and Global Programming*

43. During the reporting period, \$595.34 million of GEF resources were programmed through eleven global projects accounting for \$371.27 million and eight regional projects accounting for \$224.07 million. The large amount of resources programmed through global and regional projects is testament to the continued efforts of the GEF towards more integrated programming of resources, addressing environmental issues at global and regional scales. The global projects in this cohort address specific thematic or cross-cutting issues that are crucial for advancing focal area agendas beyond national boundaries. Two global projects stand out for their relevance for the LDFA and are briefly described in the following paragraphs.

44. The objective of the Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration (FOLUR) Impact Program (GEF ID #10201) is to promote sustainable, integrated landscapes and efficient food value and supply chains at scale. The program seeks to promote a transformational shift in agricultural land use and food systems that are major drivers of environmental degradation around the world. Agriculture as we know it today has a huge environmental footprint across many domains. First, expansion of agriculture lands is the dominant driver of land-use change, including tropical deforestation, land degradation, and the associated negative impacts on biodiversity. As a result, and coupled with poor agriculture practices, this sector accounts for approximately one-quarter of all global GHG emissions. Countries selected for participation in the program based on the first call for expression of interest are: Burundi, China, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Liberia, Malaysia, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Tanzania, Thailand, Ukraine, and Vietnam. Please refer to Annex 3 for further details.

45. The objective of the Dryland Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program (GEF ID #10206) is to avoid, reduce, and reverse further degradation, desertification, and deforestation of land and ecosystems in drylands, through the sustainable management of production landscapes. The program will transform the management of drylands in selected regions and countries, establishing the basis for the scaling out of sustainable dryland management to regional and global levels. The Program framework allows participating countries to address desertification, land degradation, and drought (DLDD) issues. The program will focus specifically on three dryland regions: the Miombo and Mopane ecosystems of southern Africa (with participating countries Angola, Botswana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe), the savannas of West Africa (Burkina Faso) and the temperate grasslands, riparian forests, and shrublands of Central Asia (Kazakhstan and Mongolia). Annex 3 contains further details.

46. Among the regional programs, most noteworthy for UNCCD are the GEF-7 Impact Programs focused on the Amazon and the Congo Basin, which are described below.

47. The Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program (GEF ID #10198) includes Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, and Suriname. The program focuses on designing and

implementing collaborative approaches to biodiversity conservation and productive land use that provide for livelihoods, implementing integrated forest landscape approaches, and helping reinforce and improve coordination of actions on the ground. Ultimately, the program seeks to help the region move away from business-as-usual—converting and degrading forest into low-productivity cattle ranching and other unsustainable land uses—and toward forest- and freshwater-friendly landscapes. The ultimate outcome of this process will be to maintain and restore the ecological resilience of the Amazon biogeographical region.

48. The Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program (GEF ID #10208) includes Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and Republic of Congo. The objective of the Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes Program is to catalyze transformational change in conservation and sustainable management of the Congo Basin through landscape approaches that empower local communities and forest dependent people, and through partnership with the private sector. The program includes actions to address immediate problems related to biodiversity loss and lack of tenure and land rights for forest dependent people, but will also help prepare the region for increasing threats in the near future. The development of infrastructure and large-scale agribusiness plantations pose risks of land and forest degradation and irreversible damage to the integrity and functioning of the Congo Basin Forest ecosystem.

### **PART III: SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT ADDRESSED THROUGH OTHER GEF FUNDING WINDOWS**

#### **Small Grants Program**

49. The total amount of STAR resources approved for the Small Grants Program (SGP) in the reporting period was \$35.03 million, with \$5.40 million utilized by 27 countries from their LDFA allocations under the STAR.<sup>17</sup> These resources provide grants to civil society organizations (CSOs), community-based organizations, and indigenous groups to support SLM activities. The LDFA resources were mostly used to support sustainable management of agro-ecosystems and production landscapes where deterioration of ecosystems services and goods undermines the livelihoods of grassroots communities. SGP projects that include LDFA STAR resources are included in Annex 1.

50. During the reporting period, there was continuous high demand by CSOs and communities for SLM projects, including projects that address sustainable forest management issues. Land is central to community livelihoods, and the increasing need to manage degradation resulting from various factors, including impacts of climate change, may contribute to stronger interest by CSOs and communities.

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<sup>17</sup> In addition to SGP supported with STAR funding, the GEF Council also approved \$64 million of funding in the first GEF-7 Work Program (December 2018) from the GEF-7 corporate budget.

## **Cross-Cutting Capacity Development Program**

51. In GEF-6, the Cross-Cutting Capacity Development (CCCD) Program continued to help countries address challenges of engaging with institutional and policy frameworks for implementing the conventions. Projects financed through the program address important capacity needs to enhance a country's ability to meet its obligations under the Conventions by creating synergies, while at the same time catalyzing the mainstreaming of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) into national policy, management, or financial and legislative frameworks. As most of the allocated budget for the CCCD was programmed early in GEF-6, only one project was financed during the reporting period: Systemic, Institutional and Individual Capacity for the Implementation of the Rio Conventions in the Republic of South Sudan (GEF ID #9815), with \$1.00 million of GEF project financing and \$2.25 million in co-financing. Please see the list of projects in Annex 2 for further details.

## **Non-Grant Instruments**

52. Drawing on its experience in utilizing debt, equity and risk mitigation products, the GEF has launched a Non-Grant Instruments (NGI) pilot program in GEF-6 to validate the application of non-grant financial instruments to combat global environmental degradation. The pilot program was endowed with \$110 million in GEF-6. The NGI program continues in GEF-7 with an allocation of \$136 million.

53. The NGI program aims to deliver global environmental benefits in one or several areas of GEF's work, including biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation and chemicals and waste management. Project proposals are especially encouraged if they: i) demonstrate innovative private and public sector application of financial mechanisms, business models, partnerships and approaches for achieving the objectives of the GEF's integrated strategies that may be broadly adopted and can be scaled up; and ii) entail high levels of co-financing. The funding size is flexible and ranges from \$2 million to \$15 million per project.

54. In this reporting period, one NGI project was linked to LDFA objectives. The CPIC Conservation Finance Initiative - Scaling up and Demonstrating the Value of Blended Finance in Conservation (GEF ID # 9915) invested \$8.99 million in GEF resources, which leveraged \$102.81 million in co-financing. This GEF-6 project is included in Annex 2 and a brief description can be found in Annex 3.

## **Multi-Trust Fund Projects**

55. In addition to LDFA stand-alone and multi-focal activities, investments in SLM can also benefit from synergy with other trust funds managed by the GEF. These funds are the Least Developed Country Fund (LDCF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) under the UNFCCC. The funds are focused on climate change adaptation, but because of their emphasis on production systems and vulnerability of human livelihoods in line with national priorities, synergy with SLM can sometimes be achieved through projects funded jointly by the GEF Trust Fund and the LDCF and/or the SCCF.

56. In the reporting period, two multi-trust fund projects were approved: for Sudan and a regional project in the Caribbean. The Sustainable Natural Resources Management Project in Sudan (GEF ID #10083) was supported by the LDCF with \$5 million, along with LDFA resources. The regional Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Multi-country Soil Management Initiative for Integrated Landscape Restoration and Climate-Resilient Food Systems (CSIDS-SOILCARE Phase 1) (GEF ID #10195) was supported by the SCCF with \$1.00 million, along with LDFA resources. These two GEF-7 projects are included in Annex 2 and a brief description can be found in Annex 3.

#### **PART IV: OVERALL ACHIEVEMENT OF GEF-6 PROGRAMMING**

57. As indicated in Table 6, a total of \$431 million was allocated to the LDFA during GEF-6; however, due to a shortfall of resources, the targets were revised at the midpoint of GEF-6.<sup>18</sup> In total, \$400.67 million were programmed from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2018. This represents a LDFA utilization percentage of 106.5 percent of the revised allocation. The high programming level indicates that countries may have prioritized LDFA STAR investments over other focal area investments in response to the projected shortfall.

58. In GEF-6, through the STAR, \$346 million were directly allocated to 144 countries for land degradation. As mentioned above, the target was revised in October 2016 to \$291 million. For the GEF-6 period, \$317.60 million of the revised LDFA STAR allocation was utilized by 116 of 144 countries, which is 109.1 percent of the revised target.

59. The GEF-6 STAR allowed for varying levels of flexibility in how countries utilize their resources. Countries with a total allocation up to \$7 million had full flexibility to use allocations across all focal areas. All other countries can make marginal adjustments between the different focal area allocations up to in total \$2 million, as outlined in the Initial GEF-6 STAR Country Allocations.<sup>19</sup>

60. These resources were programmed through LDFA stand alone and multi-focal area projects. Through multi-focal area projects, an additional amount of \$845.67 million of GEF resources was programmed in conjunction with LDFA resources in MFA projects and programs. In total, \$1,246.34 million of GEF resources were thus made available for UNCCD implementation in GEF-6.

61. These resources were programmed through LDFA stand alone and multi-focal area projects. Through multi-focal area projects, an additional amount of \$845.67 million of GEF resources was programmed in conjunction with LDFA resources in MFA projects and programs. In total, \$1,246.34 million of GEF resources were thus made available for UNCCD implementation in GEF-6.

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<sup>18</sup> GEF, 2016, [Update on GEF-6 Resource Availability](#). Council Document GEF/C.51/04

<sup>19</sup> GEF, 2014, [GEF-6 Indicative STAR Allocations](#). Council Document GEF/C.47/Inf.08

**Table 6: Final Status of LDFA Resource Utilization for GEF-6**

Item	GEF-6 Allocation (\$ Million)	Revised Targets as of October 2016 (\$ Million)	Total GEF-6 Amount Programmed (\$ Million)	Share of Allocation Utilized (Percent of Revised Targets)
Total LDFA Allocation	431	376	400.67	106.5%
- LDFA STAR Allocation	346	291	317.60	109.1%
- LDFA Set-asides	85	85	83.07	97.0%
MFA programming in conjunction with LDFA allocation	n/a	n/a	845.67	n/a
Total amount programmed			1,246.34	

62. The ratio of GEF project financing to co-financing in GEF-6 was 1 to 6.0 across the LDFA portfolio. A total GEF project financing amount of \$1,139.79 million leveraged \$6,842.23 million in co-financing.

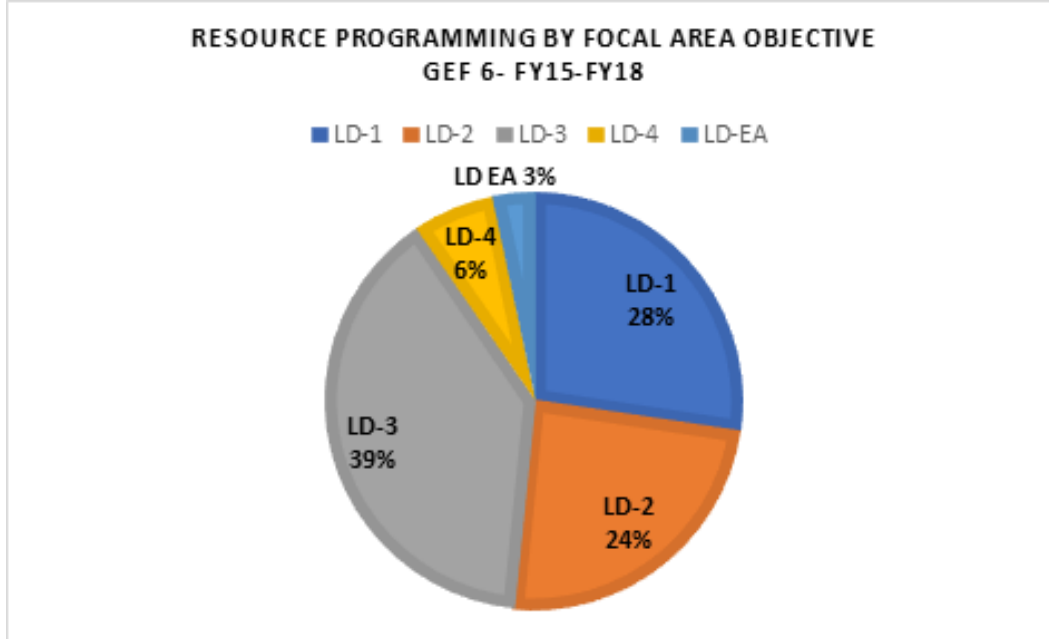
63. The LDFA resources were directed toward implementation of the four GEF-6 LDFA objectives and Enabling Activities with balanced investments across the focal area objectives (see Figure 1).

64. Of the \$85 million of resources set-aside from STAR, \$83.07 million were programmed (97 percent of the set-aside allocation) under the Integrated Approach Pilot on Food Security, the SFM Program, eight global and regional projects, as well as for Enabling Activities.

65. Of the total \$15 million set aside specifically for Enabling Activities, \$13.21 million were utilized (87 percent). Four umbrella projects were developed to respond to 107 countries that submitted a letter of endorsement from the GEF Operational Focal Point requesting support for Enabling Activities. Each country had access to up to \$70,000 Enabling Activity support. These umbrella projects were complemented by a \$2 million Global Support Project in cooperation with the Global Mechanism. The GEF also financed the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Project with \$3.00 million (GEF ID #9365) from the Enabling Activity budget.



**Figure 3: Programming of GEF-6 LDFA Resources by Focal Area Objectives**



**PART V: PROGRESS IN GEF-7 PROGRAMMING**

66. The Seventh Replenishment of the GEF (July 2018 to June 2022) was concluded during this reporting period. The total amount pledged by donors to the GEF is \$4.1 billion. The LDFA notional allocation for GEF-7 is \$475 million, an increase of 10 percent compared to GEF-6 (\$431 million). The STAR allocation to countries has increased from \$346 million to \$354 million. In GEF-7, all countries have a minimum floor of \$1 million for LD STAR and least developed countries have an increased floor of \$1.5 million.

67. The GEF-7 STAR allows for varying levels of flexibility in how countries utilize their resources. Countries with a total allocation up to \$7 million have full flexibility to use allocations across all focal areas. All other countries can make marginal adjustments between the different focal area allocations, as outlined in the Initial GEF-7 STAR Country Allocations.<sup>20</sup>

68. In the first year of GEF-7, \$176.40 million of LDFA resources were programmed, representing 37.1 percent of the total allocation. The majority of the LDFA funding was invested in multi-focal area projects and programs, thereby leveraging an additional \$392.41 million from other GEF focal areas and Impact Programs.

69. In the first year of GEF-7, 59 countries have utilized a total of \$134.40 million of their respective LD STAR allocations, which is 37.9 percent of the total allocation.

<sup>20</sup> GEF, 2018, [Initial GEF-7 STAR Country Allocations](#). Council Document GEF/C.55/Inf.03

70. Out of the \$121 million set-aside from STAR, \$42.00 million have been utilized, of which \$41.00 million was utilized for integrated programming through the four LDFA-relevant GEF-7 Impact Programs, and \$1.00 million was used for the regional project Caribbean Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) Multi-country Soil Management Initiative for Integrated Landscape Restoration and Climate-resilient Food Systems (CSIDS-SOILCARE Phase 1) (GEF ID #10195).

71. The ratio of GEF project financing to co-financing is 1 to 7.6 across the LDFA portfolio in the first year of GEF-7. GEF project financing of \$519.77 million leveraged \$3,968.75 million.

## **PART VI: PORTFOLIO MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

### **Annual Portfolio Monitoring Reporting**

72. GEF's Annual Portfolio Monitoring Report for 2018<sup>21</sup> found that the LDFA stand-alone project portfolio is significantly contributing to the GEF corporate targets, in terms of implementation progress and their respective development objective. Of the 62 LDFA projects currently under implementation, 93 percent were rated moderately satisfactory or higher with regard to implementation progress. In terms of achieving their development objective, 91 percent of the projects are achieving ratings of moderately satisfactory or higher.

### **Analysis of GEF-6 Focal Area Progress towards Targets**

73. Building on the focal area mandate and the opportunities for transformational impact, the GEF-6 focal area corporate target is an aggregate area of 120 million hectares under SLM coverage. This target includes potential coverage across crop, rangeland and forest landscapes in affected regions. The approved GEF-6 projects have set a cumulative target of 103 million hectares, which is 86 percent of the corporate target. This is only a slight underachievement when it is taken into account that only 93 percent of the original funding allocation were utilized due to the shortfall of resources in the GEF-6 envelope as described above. The 56 LDFA projects approved during the last year of GEF-6 contributed 39.00 million hectares, approximately 32 percent of the GEF-6 corporate target.

74. The cohort of projects approved during the last year of GEF-6 is also expected to contribute to GEF-6 corporate GHG mitigation targets. The expected GHG mitigation benefits from the 56 projects total 44.70 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e), which is about 6 percent of the 750 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e corporate target for climate change in GEF-6. These figures underscore the integrated nature of SLM in addressing both land and climate concerns and are expected to be refined further during project development, and to be further monitored throughout the project implementation period.

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<sup>21</sup> GEF, 2018, [Annual Portfolio Monitoring Report](#). Council Document GEF/C.55/03

## Updated Results Architecture in GEF-7

75. For the GEF-7 replenishment period, the GEF has updated its results architecture to better reflect the integrated programming across focal areas.<sup>22</sup> Building on and learning from the systems and approaches developed over the past two decades, the GEF-7 results architecture is designed to generate more relevant and more reliable data and information on results, while promoting integration, multiple benefits, and simplification. Specifically, the results architecture aims to better capture the value of synergies across the GEF's different areas of work, as well as efforts to catalyze a transformation of the key systems that drive the deterioration of the global environment. It will also enable the GEF to begin to capture more systematically the socio-economic co-benefits of its projects and programs.

76. The upgraded results framework has eleven core indicators and associated sub-indicators that span all five focal areas. The core indicators have been developed by the Secretariat in close consultation and collaboration with Agencies and other stakeholders, and incorporate input from Participants and Observers in the GEF-7 process. Corporate targets have been set at the core indicator level only. For the number of beneficiaries, no targets have been set; however, the number will be monitored and aggregated by gender.

77. Core indicators and sub-indicators with high relevance for the objectives of the LDFA are presented in Table 7, including the tentative targets set in approved projects and programs in GEF-7.

**Table 7: GEF-7 Core and Sub-indicators<sup>23</sup> with Relevance for LDFA Objectives (in bold)**

Core/Sub-indicator	GEF-7 Corporate Target	Tentative Targets Set in Projects/Programs Approved during 1 <sup>st</sup> Year of GEF-7	Percentage of GEF Corporate Targets
<b>Area of land restored</b>	<b>6,000,000 ha</b>	<b>4,685,169 ha</b>	<b>78.1%</b>
- Degraded agricultural land		- 2,461,185 ha	
- Forest and forest land		- 1,458,893 ha	
- Natural grass and shrublands		- 706,461 ha	
- Wetlands		- 58,630 ha	
<b>Area of landscapes under improved practices</b>	320,000,000 ha	87,132,695 ha	27.2%
- Improved management to benefit biodiversity		- 33,252,025 ha	
- Landscapes that meet certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations		- 163,510 ha	
- <b>Sustainable land management in production systems</b>		- <b>53,171,360 ha</b>	
- <b>High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) loss avoided</b>		- <b>545,800 ha</b>	
<u>Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated</u>	1.5 billion t of CO <sub>2</sub> e	581,662,628 t CO <sub>2</sub> e	38.8%

<sup>22</sup> GEF, 2018, [Updated Results Architecture for GEF-7](#). Council Document, GEF/C.54/11 Rev.02

<sup>23</sup> GEF, 2019, [GEF-7 Corporate Scorecard June 2019](#).

- <b>Carbon sequestered or emissions avoided in the AFOLU sector</b>		- <b>467,291,988 t CO<sub>2</sub>e</b>	
- Carbon sequestered or emissions avoided outside the AFOLU sector		- 114,370,640 t CO <sub>2</sub> e	
<b>Number of beneficiaries in LDFA projects and programs</b>	(The indicator is monitored, no target set)	<b>9,735,085</b>	(n/a)
- <b>No. of men</b>		- <b>4,789,077</b>	
- <b>No. of women</b>		- <b>4,946,008</b>	

## Lessons Learned Related to Projects and Programs Concerning DLDD

78. In 2017, the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) of the GEF evaluated the LDFA assessing its relevance, performance, effectiveness, and value for money. The comprehensive study<sup>24</sup> encompasses GEF grant funding activities in agricultural lands, rangelands, degraded productive lands, desert lands, and combating deforestation and desertification. The IEO study confirmed the high relevance of the LDFA (i) with regard to the mandates of the GEF partner agencies; (ii) concerning country needs in all regions, especially Africa; and (iii) in light of UNCCD’s identification of voluntary LDN targets, projects, and other SLM initiatives as effective vehicles for mobilizing additional sustainable financing and responsible and sustainable investments that address DLDD issues.

79. The study created valuable lessons on programming and priorities in the affected regions, which also helped to inform the programming directions for the LDFA in GEF-7. The study recommended to: 1) implement LDN with an appropriate mix of interventions also considering restoration activities along with SLM; 2) to assess climate risks to LDFA initiatives, and design adaptive management responses to such risks; 3) strengthen monitoring and evaluation (M&E) tools and methods of knowledge dissemination; and 4) specifically with regard to DLDD, the study recommended to give due consideration to complex contextual factors including drought, food insecurity, and migration during project and program design.

80. In response to these recommendations, the GEF-7 LDFA strategy has the following elements: 1) restoration of degraded land is included as sub-objective LD-1-3 “Restored Landscapes: Maintain or improve flow of ecosystem services, including sustaining livelihoods of local people through forest and landscape restoration” to enable targeted investments; 2) climate risks are being assessed at project formulation stage as part of the risk assessment; 3) precise geospatial information on project locations is required at project submission for carrying out accurate M&E of land degradation projects; and 4) with regard to DLDD, the LDFA strategy enables countries to make investments to sustain and rebuild productive areas, mitigate the effects of drought, increase resilience and prevent conflict and migration.

<sup>24</sup> GEF IEO, 2018, [Land Degradation Focal Area \(LDFA\) Study 2017](#). Council Document GEF/ME/C.52/Inf.02

81. Support may be provided in specific contexts such as in drought prone and/or fragile areas to address drivers of fragility and land and water insecurity, to reverse resource pressures, enhance or restore governance and rebuild natural resource-based livelihoods and jobs.

82. LDFA investments, in this regard are directly responding to UNCCD priorities, and more specifically the UNCCD Strategic Framework (2018-2030) which acknowledges that DLDD are challenges of a global dimension, which contribute to and aggravate economic, social and environmental problems as well as reduced resilience to climate change and forced migration.<sup>25</sup>

83. Within this reporting period, several projects and programs have been approved that address DLDD issues, e.g. through producing knowledge, methods, and scientific results that will help in combatting DLDD in the Large-scale Assessment of Land Degradation to Guide Future Investment in SLM in the Great Green Wall Countries (Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Niger, Senegal - GEF ID #9825); through introduction of drought resistant species in the Sudan Sustainable Natural Resources Management Project (GEF ID #9575) and through aquifer replenishment in Sustainable Management of Water Resources, Rangelands, and Agro-Pastoral Perimeters in the Cheikhetti Wadi Watershed of Djibouti (GEF ID #9599). Furthermore, the Impact Program on Dryland Sustainable Landscapes (GEF ID #10206) will address desertification and drought as part of its integrated approach, e.g. through dryland restoration and rehabilitation activities to address desertification and by supporting drought tolerant, indigenous and underutilized crop value chains.

### **GEF Support to Land Degradation Neutrality and Sustainable Development Goals**

84. The GEF has responded to the request for LDN target setting and implementation support since the UNCCD COP 12. In addition to the support through the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Project (GEF ID #9365), 15 countries designed national projects using their LDFA STAR allocation to specifically implement LDN. In addition, five regional and global projects helped to develop capacities and tools for LDN implementation. Details can be found in a GEF publication summarizing the progress towards LDN implementation in GEF-6.<sup>26</sup>

85. The GEF also supported the establishment and operation of the Land Degradation Neutrality Fund Technical Assistance Facility with an investment of \$2.00 million through a medium-size project implemented by WWF-US (GEF ID # 9900), with the objective to provide project preparedness and technical assistance services to build a strong portfolio of transformative projects for the LDN Fund.

86. With the start of the GEF-7 replenishment period, GEF has updated and revised its LDFA strategy to be aligned with the LDN concept. The GEF-7 Impact Programs on FOLUR, the Amazon, the Congo Basin, and Sustainable Dryland Landscapes are major contributions to implementing LDN. Specifically, the Sustainable Dryland Landscapes Impact Program has the objective “to avoid, reduce, and reverse further degradation, desertification, and deforestation

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<sup>25</sup> [UNCCD 2018–2030 Strategic Framework](#), ICCD/COP (13)/21/Add.1

<sup>26</sup> GEF, 2017, [Land Degradation Neutrality at the GEF](#).

of land and ecosystems in drylands, through the sustainable management of production landscapes” and is thus fully in line with the LDN concept.

87. Eighteen approved LDFA projects and programs in this reporting period include measures to address the implementation of voluntary LDN targets. Examples of approved projects that fully focus on LDN target implementation include: a project in Macedonia, Promoting Sustainable Land Management (SLM) through Strengthening Legal and Institutional Framework, Capacity Building and Restoration of Most Vulnerable Mountain Landscapes (GEF ID #9759); the Namibia Integrated Landscape Approach for Enhancing Livelihoods and Environmental Governance to Eradicate Poverty (GEF ID #9426); and the LDN Target-Setting and Restoration of Degraded Landscapes in Western Andes and Coastal Areas in Ecuador (GEF ID #10184).

88. Moreover, the GEF Secretariat is encouraging its project proponents and implementing agencies to apply the Checklist for Land Degradation Neutrality Transformative Projects and Programs for project design in GEF-7 on a voluntary basis.<sup>27</sup> The checklist has been developed by the UNCCD to help country-level project developers and their technical and financial partners to design effective LDN initiatives.

89. The GEF LDFA also stands ready to support implementation of projects addressing SDGs, as per UNCCD COP decisions. Projects may entail an appropriate mix of interventions, particularly through the suite of SLM interventions. In line with country priorities, context, and considerations of cost-effectiveness, LDFA will also strengthen its support to forest and landscape restoration activities. While SLM practices are intended to help avoid and reduce land degradation, forest and landscape restoration will help reverse degradation processes.

90. In addition to UNCCD COP, CBD, and Stockholm Convention COPs have issued guidance to the GEF on SDGs. The GEF will respond to the guidance by encouraging integration of efforts in line with the integrated nature of SDGs and based on country needs, within its mandate.

## **PART VII: CONCLUSIONS**

91. In the reporting period of July 2017 to June 2019, the LDFA portfolio continued to have a significant number of projects covering all UNCCD Annexes and a wide range of agro-ecologies and thematic issues. The potential for achieving transformational impact through SLM is high, as indicated by the expected results of the project cohort contributing 39.00 million ha of land under SLM in the last year of GEF-6 and 53.17 million ha of land under SLM in the first year of GEF-7. This amounts to a total of 92.17 million hectares of land under SLM, which contributes significantly to the GEF-6 corporate target and to the GEF-7 core indicators.

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<sup>27</sup> <https://www.thegef.org/documents/checklist-land-degradation-neutrality-transformative-projects-and-programmes-draft>

92. GEF-6 concluded with a robust programming of \$400.67 million in LDFA resources, which represents 106.5 percent of the revised GEF-6 LDFA allocation target and included \$317.60 million in STAR and \$83.07 million in set-aside resources. STAR and set-aside resources were programmed through LDFA stand-alone projects, including Enabling Activities, and multi-focal area projects and programs. Through multi-focal area projects and programs, an additional amount of \$845.67 million of GEF resources was programmed in conjunction with LDFA resources. In total \$1,246.34 million of GEF resources were made available for investments related to implementation of SLM in GEF-6. The ratio of GEF project financing to co-financing in GEF-6 was 1 to 6.0 across the LDFA portfolio. A total GEF project financing amount of \$1,139.79 million leveraged \$6,842.23 million in co-financing.

93. Activities and progress during the reporting period attest to the continued importance and relevance with respect to GEF's role as financial mechanism of the UNCCD, including its role in supporting countries to set and achieve voluntary LDN targets. The alignment of the GEF-7 LDFA strategy with the LDN concept and the design of the GEF-7 Impact Program on Sustainable Dryland Landscapes as a major contribution to implementing LDN targets reflects the increasing importance of GEF in supporting the implementation of the Convention.

94. The GEF-7 replenishment has also seen a significant increase of resources notionally allocated to the LDFA to respond to the high demand and utilization rate of GEF resources by eligible countries for projects to support implementation of the Convention in GEF-6. Total LDFA programming in the first year of GEF-7 is progressing very well with 37.1 percent of LDFA resources programmed, ahead all other GEF focal areas.

95. The portfolio monitoring analysis confirmed the high relevance of the LDFA as an effective vehicle for mobilizing additional sustainable financing and responsible and sustainable investments that address DLDD issues. They also generated valuable lessons on programming and priorities in the affected regions, which will help inform directions for the focal area in the ongoing implementation of the GEF-7 replenishment phase.

**ANNEX 1: LAND DEGRADATION FOCAL AREA PROJECT PORTFOLIO APPROVED IN THE REPORTING PERIOD**

**FY18 (Last Year of GEF-6)**

All amounts in \$ million (rounded)

GEF ID	Country	Agency	Project Title	Total GEF Grant <sup>28</sup>	LDFA Amount <sup>29</sup>	Co-finance	LDFA Focal Area Objectives	Other Focal Area Objectives
9239	Indonesia	IFAD	Integrated Management of Peatland Landscapes (IMPLI)	5.34	0.35	20.70	LD-3	BD-1, BD-4, CCM-2, SFM-3
9372	Sri Lanka	UNDP	Managing Together: Integrating Community-centered Ecosystem-based Approaches in Forestry, Agriculture and Tourism	3.69	0.85	28.45	LD-2	BD-4, SFM-1, SFM-3
9400	Tanzania	UNDP	Safeguarding Zanzibar's Forest and Coastal Habitats for Multiple Benefits	5.70	0.88	23.00	LD-2	BD-1, CCM-2,
9405	Niger	UNDP	Integrated Management of Oasis Ecosystems of Northern Niger (IMOENN)	5.07	1.10	34.30	LD-1, LD-2, LD-3	BD-4, CCM-2, SFM-2, SFM-3
9425	Sudan	UNDP	Strengthened Protected Areas System and Integrated Ecosystem Management	4.54	1.98	17.22	LD-1, LD-3	BD-1, BD-1,
9426	Namibia	UNDP	Namibia Integrated Landscape Approach for Enhancing Livelihoods and Environmental Governance to Eradicate Poverty	11.90	3.54	65.16	LD-3	BD-4, CCM-2, SFM-2, SFM-3
9431	Seychelles	UNDP	A ridge to Reef Approach for the Integrated Management of Marine, Coastal and Terrestrial Ecosystems	4.31	2.18	28.25	LD-2	BD-1, BD-3,

<sup>28</sup> This column includes GEF Financing plus Agency Fees. It does not include PPG and PPG Fees.

<sup>29</sup> This column includes GEF financing for Land Degradation only.



GEF ID	Country	Agency	Project Title	Total GEF Grant <sup>28</sup>	LDFA Amount <sup>29</sup>	Co-finance	LDFA Focal Area Objectives	Other Focal Area Objectives
9554	Philippines	FAO	Enhancing Biodiversity, Maintaining Ecosystem Flow, Enhancing Carbon Stocks through Sustainable Land Management	2.90	0.35	49.40	LD-2	BD-4, SFM-3
9558	Thailand	UNDP	Sixth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grant Programme	2.62	0.61	8.66	LD-3	BD-4, CCM-2,
9573	Liberia	CI	Conservation and Sustainable Use of Liberia's Coastal Natural Capital	4.32	0.89	10.00	LD-1	BD-4,
9575	Sudan	World Bank	Sustainable Natural Resources Management Project – Additional Financing	6.02	3.66	18.80	LD-3	CCM-2
9584	Philippines	UNDP	Integrated Approach in the Management of Major BD Corridors (IA-Biological Corridors)	13.37	0.85	67.50	LD-3	BD-1, BD-4, SFM-1, SFM-2
9589	Panama	CAF	Ecosystem-based Biodiversity Friendly Cattle Production Framework for the Darien Region of Panama	3.91	1.75	14.34	LD-1	BD-4,
9599	Djibouti	UNDP	Sustainable Management of Water Resources, Rangelands and Agro-pastoral Perimeters in the Cheikhetti Wadi Watershed	3.62	3.21	13.52	LD-1, LD-1	
9600	Indonesia	World Bank	Strengthening of Social Forestry	15.62	0.83	95.11	LD-2,	BD-4, SFM-1, SFM-2
9601	Regional	UNEP IADB	An Integrated Approach to Water and Wastewater Management Using Innovative Solutions and Promoting Financing Mechanisms in the Wider Caribbean Region	16.28	0.35	148.11	LD-1, LD-1	IW-2, IW-2, IW-3, IW-3
9604	Cameroon	UNEP	Removing Barriers to Biodiversity Conservation, Land Restoration and	3.43	1.17	19.00	LD-2, LD-3	BD-4

GEF ID	Country	Agency	Project Title	Total GEF Grant <sup>28</sup>	LDFA Amount <sup>29</sup>	Co-finance	LDFA Focal Area Objectives	Other Focal Area Objectives
			Sustainable Forest Management through Community-based Landscape Management					
9759	Macedonia	UNEP	Promoting Sustainable Land Management (SLM) through Strengthening Legal and Institutional Framework, Capacity Building, and Restoration of Most Vulnerable Mountain Landscapes	4.11	3.66	24.30	LD-2, LD-3	
9764	Burkina Faso	UNDP	Integrated and Sustainable Management of PONASI (Protected Area Landscape)	5.83	1.04	19.20	LD-1, LD-3	BD-1, CCM-2
9766	Chile	UNEP	Mainstreaming Conservation of Coastal Wetlands of Chile's South Center Biodiversity Hotspot through Adaptive Management	5.68	1.64	16.87	BD-4, LD-3	
9770	Regional	UNEP	Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme to Ensure Integrated and Sustainable Management of the Transboundary Water Resources of the Amazon River Basin Considering Climate Variability and Change	12.79	0.55	108.50	BD-4, CCM-2, IW-1, IW-2, IW-2, LD-1	
9772	Gambia	UNEP	Landscape Planning and Restoration to Improve Ecosystem Services and Livelihoods, Expand and Effectively Manage Protected Areas	6.23	2.94	19.79	BD-1, LD-2, LD-3	
9777	Haiti	UNDP/FAO	Sustainable Management of Wooded Production Landscapes for Biodiversity Conservation	6.80	0.88	36.00	BD-4, LD-1, LD-3	
9781	Cambodia	UNDP	Integrated Natural Resource	3.69	0.88	10.00	BD-1, LD-	

GEF ID	Country	Agency	Project Title	Total GEF Grant <sup>28</sup>	LDFA Amount <sup>29</sup>	Co-finance	LDFA Focal Area Objectives	Other Focal Area Objectives
			Management (INRM) in the Productive, Natural and Forested Landscape of Northern Region				1, LD-3	
9783	Guinea	UNDP	Integrated Management of Natural Resources in Middle and Upper Guinea	7.78	1.63	25.00	BD-1, CCM-2, LD-1	
9785	St. Kitts and Nevis	UNEP	Improving Environmental Management through Sustainable Land Management	3.38	2.15	14.50	LD-1, LD-2	BD-1, CCM-2
9793	Madagascar	UNEP	Conservation and Improvement of Ecosystem Services for the Atsinanana Region through Agroecology and the Promotion of Sustainable Energy Production	4.20	1.14	20.08	LD-1, LD-2	BD-4, CCM-1
9795	Azerbaijan	FAO	Forest Resources Assessment and Monitoring to Strengthen Forest Knowledge Framework	1.65	0.74	7.00	LD-2	CCM-2
9796	Belize	UNDP	Integrated Management of Production Landscapes to Deliver Multiple Global Environmental Benefits	5.64	1.67	15.08	LD-1, LD-3	BD-4
9798	Angola	FAO	Sustainable Land Management in Target Landscapes in Angola's Southwestern Region	3.00	2.64	12.00	LD-1, LD-3	
9806	Algeria	FAO	Rehabilitation and Integrated Sustainable Development of Algerian Cork Oak Forest Production Landscapes	3.79	0.86	23.74	LD-2	BD-4
9813	Ukraine	FAO	Integrated Natural Resources Management in Degraded Landscapes in the Forest Steppe and Steppe Zones	1.99	1.33	10.32	LD-3	CCM-2

GEF ID	Country	Agency	Project Title	Total GEF Grant <sup>28</sup>	LDFA Amount <sup>29</sup>	Co-finance	LDFA Focal Area Objectives	Other Focal Area Objectives
9825	Regional	UNEP	Large-scale Assessment of Land Degradation to Guide Future Investment in SLM in the Great Green Wall Countries	1.20	1.05	6.00	LD-4	
9836	Mauritius	UNDP	Mainstreaming Sustainable Land Management and Biodiversity Conservation	1.92	1.70	6.60	LD-3	
9846	Solomon Island	IUCN	EREPA – Ensuring Resilient Ecosystems and Representative Protected Areas	5.39	0.89	8.51	LD-3	BD-1, BD 1 BD-4
9857	Global	UNDP	GEF SGP Sixth Operational Phase – Strategic Implementation using STAR Resources – Tranche 2 (Part IV)	19.93	3.11	19.93	LD-1, LD-2	BD-1, BD-4, CCM-1, CCM-2, CCM-3
9861	Global	IUCN	Fostering Partnerships to Build Coherence and Support for Forest Landscape Restoration	0.71	0.63	0.72	LD-2	
9862	Jamaica	UNDP	Conserving Biodiversity and Reducing Land Degradation Using and Integrated Landscape Approach	6.87	2.14	43.92	LD-3	BD-4
9880	Fiji	FAO	Community-based Integrated Natural Resource Management Project	2.35	0.57	13.40	LD-3	CCM-2
9900	Global	WWF-US	Land Degradation Neutrality Fund Technical Assistance Facility	2.23	2.00	4.90	LD-4	
9903	Sierra Leone	UNDP	Sustainable and Integrated Landscape Management of the Western Area Peninsula	5.79	2.64	18.00	LD-2, LD-3	BD-1
9906	Regional	World Bank	West Africa Coastal Areas Resilience Investment Project	22.07	6.20	106.70	LD-2, LD-3	BD-4, IW-1, IW-3,
9915	Cambodia	UNEP	Global Support Programme II: Strengthening UNCCD Reporting –	2.00	1.83	1.95	LD-1	

GEF ID	Country	Agency	Project Title	Total GEF Grant <sup>28</sup>	LDFA Amount <sup>29</sup>	Co-finance	LDFA Focal Area Objectives	Other Focal Area Objectives
			Enhancing Implementation of the UNCCD					
9927	Cambodia	UNEP	Building Resilience of Cambodian Communities Using Natural Infrastructure and Promoting Diversified Livelihood	0.59	0.26	1.96	LD-1	IW-2, IW-3,
9928	Egypt	FAO	Sustainable Management of Kharga Oasis Agro-Ecosystems in the Egyptian Western Desert	1.15	0.59	9.00	LD-1	BD-3
9978	Dominica	UNEP	Strengthening Resilience of Agricultural Lands and Forests in Dominica in the Aftermath of Hurricane Maria	1.78	1.58	1.93	LD-1, LD-2, LD-3	
9980	Global	UNEP	GEF Support to UNCCDE 2018 National Reporting Process – Umbrella II	2.12	1.94	0.36	LD-EA	
9981	Global	UNEP	GEF Support to UNCCD 2018 National Reporting Process – Umbrella I	2.17	1.98	0.34	LD-1	
9984	Turkey	World Bank	Turkey Irrigation Modernization Project	2.19	2.00	398.00	LD-1, LD-4	
9993	Global	FAO	AVACLIM: Agro-ecology, Ensuring Food Security and Sustainable Livelihoods while Mitigating Climate Change and Restoring Land in Dryland Regions	1.25	0.44	6.11	LD-4	CCM-2
10003	Global	UNEP	GEF Support to UNCCD 2018 National Reporting Process – Umbrella III	2.17	1.98	0.37	LD-EA	
10007	São Tomé and Príncipe	UNDP	Enhancing Capacity for Biodiversity Conservation and Protected Area Management	4.72	0.91	11.76	LD-2	BD-1
10020	Lesotho	UNDP	Integrated Watershed Management	2.41	2.10	4.65	LD-1	

GEF ID	Country	Agency	Project Title	Total GEF Grant <sup>28</sup>	L DFA Amount <sup>29</sup>	Co-finance	L DFA Focal Area Objectives	Other Focal Area Objectives
			for Improved Agro-pastoral Livelihoods in the Sepabala Sub-catchment					
<b>10030</b>	Global	UNEP	GEF Support to UNCCD 2018 National Reporting Process – Umbrella IV	1.75	1.60	0.30	LD-EA	
<b>10041</b>	Regional	UNDP	Managing Coastal Aquifers in Selected Pacific SIDS	5.86	2.02	14.44	LD-3	IW-2,
<b>10046</b>	Vanuatu	FAO	Ecosystem Restoration and Sustainable Land Management in Tongoa Island	1.00	0.87	1.34	LD-1, LD-2	

**FY19 (First Year of GEF-7)**

All amounts in \$ million (rounded)

GEF ID	Country	Agency	Project Title	Total GEF Grant	LDFA Amount	Co-finance	LDFA Focal Area Objectives	Other Focal Area Objectives
10081	Uruguay	UNDP	Consolidating biodiversity and land conservation policies and actions as pillars of sustainable development	2.89	0.43	15.00	LD-1-1	BD-1-1, BD-2-7
10083 <sup>30</sup>	Sudan	World Bank	Sustainable Natural Resources Management Project -AF	1.50	1.37	20.70	LD-1-1, LD-1-4	CCA-1, CCA-2
10124	Costa Rica	UNDP	Seventh Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Costa Rica	2.27	0.89	5.48	LD-1-1	CCM-1-1, BD-1-1
10125	India	UNDP	Seventh Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in India	4.90	0.85	11.00	LD-1-1	BD-1-1; CCM-1-1,
10151	Georgia	FAO	Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality Targets of Georgia through Restoration and Sustainable Management of Degraded Pasturelands	1.94	1.78	12.19	LD-1-1, LD-2-5	
10169	Afghanistan	FAO	Combating land degradation and biodiversity loss by promoting sustainable rangeland management and biodiversity conservation in Afghanistan	6.46	4.07	36.08	LD-1-1, LD-1-4	BD-1-1,
10179	South Africa	IUCN	Mainstreaming Sustainable Land Management (SLM) for Large-Scale Impact in the Grazing Lands of Limpopo and Northern Cape provinces in South Africa	3.95	3.63	145.11	LD-1-1	
10184	Ecuador	FAO	LDN Target-Setting and Restoration of Degraded Landscapes in Western Andes and Coastal areas	4.83	3.21	26.46	LD-1-1, LD-1-2	
10188	Trinidad and Tobago	FAO	BIOREACH: Biodiversity Conservation and Agroecological Land Restoration in	4.10	2.00	28.88	LD-1-1, LD-1-3,	BD-1-1

<sup>30</sup> This project is a multi-trust fund project with LDCF. The LDCF financing for this project amounts to \$5 million.

GEF ID	Country	Agency	Project Title	Total GEF Grant	L DFA Amount	Co-finance	L DFA Focal Area Objectives	Other Focal Area Objectives
			Productive Landscapes of Trinidad and Tobago				LD-1-4,	
<b>10191</b>	Moldova	World Bank	Moldova Agriculture Competitiveness Project GEF Additional Financing	3.40	3.11	20.00	LD-1-1	
<b>10192</b>	Zambia	UNEP	Ecosystem conservation and community livelihood enhancement in North Western Zambia	5.84	3.56	37.00	LD-1-1, LD-1-2	BD-1-1
<b>10195<sup>31</sup></b>	Regional (Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Lucia)	FAO	CSIDS-SOILCARE Phase 1: Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) multicountry soil management initiative for Integrated Landscape Restoration and climate-resilient food systems	7.07	6.63	16.00	LD-1-4, LD-2-5, LD-1-1	CCA-2
<b>10198</b>	Regional (Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname)	World Bank, CI, CAF, WWF-US, FAO, IFAD, UNIDO, UNDP	Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program - Phase II	96.25	3.60	509.51	IP SFM Amazon	
<b>10201</b>	Global (Burundi, China, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Liberia, Malaysia, Mexico, Papua	World Bank, UNDP, FAO, CI, UNIDO, IFAD, WWF-US, UNEP, IUCN	Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration (FOLUR) Impact Program	232.46	35.85	1,746.45	IP FOLUR	

<sup>31</sup> This project is a multi-trust fund project with SCCF. The SCCF financing for this project amounts to US\$1 million.



GEF ID	Country	Agency	Project Title	Total GEF Grant	LDFA Amount	Co-finance	LDFA Focal Area Objectives	Other Focal Area Objectives
	New Guinea, Peru, Tanzania, Thailand, Ukraine, Vietnam)							
<b>10204</b>	India	UNEP, IUCN	Transforming agricultural systems and strengthening local economies in high biodiversity areas of India through sustainable landscape management and public-private finance	6.85	4.47	70.00	LD-1-1, LD-1-4,	BD-1-1
<b>10206</b>	Global (Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Malawi, Mongolia, Mozambique Namibia, Tanzania, Zimbabwe)	FAO, World Bank, IUCN, WWF-US	Sustainable Forest Management Impact Program on Dryland Sustainable Landscapes	104.47	29.91	809.14	IP SFM Drylands	
<b>10208</b>	Regional (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Congo DR, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon)	UNEP, IUCN, WWF-US, World Bank, UNDP	The Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program (CBSL IP)	62.34	3.92	387.38	IP SFM Congo	
<b>10216</b>	Dominican Republic	World Bank	Dominican Republic: Integrated productive landscapes through land use planning; restoration; and sustainable intensification of rice crops in the Yaque Norte and Yuna Watersheds	4.45	2.44	16.17	LD-1-1, LD-1-3, LD-2-5	BD-1-1
<b>10220</b>	Honduras	UNDP, FAO	Protecting biodiversity and recovering degraded ecosystems - RECOVER Honduras	10.80	1.73	56.20	LD-1-1, LD-1-4	BD-1-1, BD-2-7

**ANNEX 2: LAND DEGRADATION-RELEVANT PROJECTS APPROVED UNDER OTHER FUNDING WINDOWS IN THE REPORTING PERIOD**

All amounts in \$ million (rounded)

GEF ID	Country	Agency	Project Title	Total GEF Grant <sup>32</sup>	Co-finance	LD Focal Area Objectives <sup>33</sup>	Other Focal Area Objectives
9815	South Sudan	UNEP	Systemic, Institutional and Individual Capacity for the Implementation of the Rio Conventions in the Republic of South Sudan	1.09	2.25	n/a	CCCD 1, CCCD-2, CCCD-3
9914	Global	IUCN	CPIC Conservation Finance Initiative - Scaling up and Demonstrating the Value of Blended Finance in Conservation	8.99 (non-grant)	102.81	n/a	BD-4

<sup>32</sup> This column includes GEF Financing plus Agency Fees. It does not include PPG and PPG Fees.

<sup>33</sup> While not receiving any specific Land Degradation Focal Area funding, these projects will contribute to LD related targets.

**L DFA Approved Projects and Programs, FY18 (Fourth Year of GEF-6)**

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**9239 Indonesia: Integrated Management of Peatland Landscapes in Indonesia (IMPLI) (IFAD)**

The project supports an integrated approach for intersectoral coordination and engagement to address major threats to Indonesia's peatland ecosystems. GEF financing is aimed at scaling up the implementation of the Indonesian National Peatland Regulations through the establishment of an innovative multi-stakeholder institutional framework for sustainable peatland management. The project will also enhance integrated management and biodiversity conservation and community livelihood in one of the key peatlands in the Giam Siak Kecil Peatland Landscape in Riau Province, a key biodiversity area, and contribute to local, national, and regional knowledge exchange on sustainable peatland management. Building on earlier GEF investment on peatland management in Indonesia under GEF-4 (regional project) and GEF-5 (national policy level project), this GEF-6 project is expected to ensure sustainability of peatland management through implementation of national- and regional-level institutional and financial frameworks. Expected global environmental benefits of the project include the improved management of over 1.2 million hectares of peatland landscape, and over 3.8 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e in GHG emissions reductions from improved peatland management.

**9372 Sri Lanka: Managing Together: Integrating Community-centered, Ecosystem-based Approaches into Forestry, Agriculture and Tourism Sectors (UNDP)**

The project will strengthen protection of globally significant biodiversity in Sri Lanka through mainstreaming of conservation and sustainable practices into land use planning and sectoral decision-making in the forestry, agriculture, and tourism sectors. The project will focus on measures that ensure future land use and production sector practices and decision-making do not compromise biodiversity and ecosystem functions. Measures will include strengthened capacity for avoiding, mitigating, and offsetting biodiversity loss, compliance monitoring and enforcement, and an improved coordination and governance framework for better management of biodiversity. Further, the project will also promote the implementation of sustainable forest and land management, and the improvement of tourism sector practices in the north and north-central region and developing incentives for communities and private sector to engage in production practices that are in line with best practices to manage and conserve biodiversity. The project targets a forest landscape of 457,000 hectares with potential carbon benefits of 4.5 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e avoided emissions.

**9400 Tanzania: Safeguarding Zanzibar's Forest and Coastal Habitats for Multiple Benefits (UNDP)**

The project aims to implement a landscape approach to safeguard Zanzibar's terrestrial and coastal forest habitats for multiple benefits. The project will strengthen Zanzibar's policy and

institutional framework for effective biodiversity and ecosystem management, expand the network of Community-Managed Forest Areas (COFMAs) to cover an additional 15,000 hectares, improve effectiveness of the network of protected areas and COFMAs covering a total of 80,000 hectares, and restore and rehabilitate 60,000 hectares of degraded forest and mangroves. Zanzibar is a semi-autonomous part of Tanzania, composed of the Zanzibar Archipelago in the Indian Ocean, 25-50 km off the coast of the mainland. The project will contribute 3.3 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e of GHG emissions mitigation. Zanzibar shares many of the sustainable development challenges facing most Small Island Developing States, because of its small size, remoteness, narrow resource and export base, and high dependency on imported fossil fuels. Nature-based activities account for a large share of economic activity and job opportunities, and negative impacts from unsustainable use of natural resources significantly exacerbate the sustainable development challenges. By expanding and strengthening the operations of community-managed conservation areas and enabling rural communities to gain income from conservation, this innovative project will support Zanzibar in achieving its development goals and other global initiatives aiming to reduce poverty and support sustainable, resilient, and low-carbon development.

#### **9405 Niger, Integrated Management of Oasis Ecosystems of Northern Niger (IMOENN) (UNEP)**

The project aims to sustainably manage a unique ecological and socioeconomic complex to find a balance between ecosystem conservation and land productivity for agriculture and livestock. The project will focus on the development of an enhanced enabling environment for oasis and arid valley forests ecosystem conservation in Niger, and the design of an Integrated Landscape Planning for Oasis and Arid Valley Forests in Air Massif supporting the communes. Activities will include Oasis and Arid Valley Forests Ecosystem Conservation Measures, inspired by the Bonn Challenge and the Forest Landscape Restoration principles to restore ecological connectivity between forest complexes, and improve SLM in agricultural lands. The project will produce global environmental benefits including the restoration and conservation of 40,000 hectares of oasis and arid valley forest ecosystems (20,000 hectares of degraded classified forests under active management, 19,000 hectares of degraded annual crop area under SLM, and 1,000 hectares of degraded land reforested), and carbon benefits of 3.2 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e.

#### **9425 Sudan: Strengthened Protected Areas System and Integrated Ecosystem Management in Sudan (UNDP)**

The project aims to strengthen the national Protected Area (PA) system and promote integrated ecosystem management in adjacent areas to reduce threats to biodiversity, mitigate land degradation, sustain ecosystem services, and improve people's livelihoods. The project will assist in the improvement of the institutional capacity for the expansion of the protected areas system, designate at least two new PAs, and upgrade one sanctuary to a national park or biosphere reserve, improve management effectiveness in three existing terrestrial PAs and two existing marine PAs, and invest in Integrated Natural Resource Management in the periphery of Sudan's PAs. The target PAs will allow the conservation of several species, ranging from

Vulnerable to Critically Endangered like the Nubian ibex, Dorcas gazelle, and marine turtles (green, hawksbill, leatherback, and olive-ridley). When South Sudan gained sovereignty in 2012, Sudan was left with four national parks, two game reserves, and three game sanctuaries. PAs are affected by increasing trespassing by nomads and their livestock, poaching, and illegal extractive activities. Trespassing by livestock is not only competing with wildlife for resources but could also introduce epidemics and invasive alien plants and cause wildfires. Changes in land use patterns in areas surrounding PAs has resulted in fragmentation of wildlife habitats reducing chances of wildlife survival. The project will maintain globally significant biodiversity on 2.5 million hectares of landscapes and bring 667,000 hectares under SLM.

**9426 Namibia: Namibia Integrated Landscape Approach for Enhancing Livelihoods and Environmental Governance to Eradicate Poverty (NILALEG) (UNDP)**

This project will promote an integrated landscape management approach in key agricultural and forest landscapes, reducing poverty through sustainable nature-based livelihoods, protecting and restoring forests as carbon sinks, and promoting Land Degradation Neutrality. Namibia has developed an interesting network of conservancies and community forests to complement its network of national parks, but the system is deficient on forest areas, which provide a range of important ecosystem services and functions which are pivotal for sustaining rural livelihoods and sequestering carbon. The project will focus on strengthening institutional coordination and governance mechanisms for an integrated landscape management approach (ILMA), implementing ILMA in target landscapes, and implementing sustainable financing mechanisms in view of upscaling ILMA. The project will deliver Global Environment Benefits including the improved management of 10,000 hectares of protected landscapes, improved management of 148,000 hectares under SLM, and 0.6 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e in GHG emissions avoided.

**9431 Seychelles: A Ridge-to-Reef Approach for the Integrated Management of Marine, Coastal and Terrestrial Ecosystems in the Seychelles (UNDP)**

The project aims to preserve the healthy functioning of terrestrial and marine ecosystems for economic development and social well-being in the Seychelles. The Seychelles economy is primarily dependent on tourism and fishing, including a large tuna export industry and significant numbers of local inhabitants active in local small-scale commercial and artisanal fishing. Deforestation, fire, drainage, development activities, including agriculture on hillsides without the use of appropriate soil conservation measures, and land reclamation are the major causes of land cover changes contributing to land degradation and erosion. The project will expand and strengthen the system of terrestrial and marine protected areas along the West Coast of Mahe, Parslin, and Curieuse, and strengthen management of upland Key Biodiversity Areas to enhance the flow of ecosystem services through the Ridge-to-Reef (R2R) approach (policies, legal and regulatory frameworks, SLM, SFM, capacity building of farmers, monitoring). Results from the R2R approach will be disseminated through knowledge management and inter-sectoral coordination. The project will deliver Global Environment Benefits including the reduction of land degradation in a significant landscape, the improvement of forest ecosystem services, and the management of marine and terrestrial Key Biodiversity Areas and their

surroundings. The project will maintain globally significant biodiversity on 15,800 hectares of land and seascapes, bring 11,800 hectares of production land under SLM, and mitigate 473,000 t of CO<sub>2</sub>e in carbon emissions.

**9554 Philippines: Enhancing biodiversity, maintaining ecosystem flows, enhancing carbon stocks through sustainable land management and the restoration of degraded forestlands (FAO)**

The project aims to deliver multiple and integrated environmental, livelihood, and development benefits through the promotion of the cost-effective and sustainable restoration of the biological and productive capacities of two degraded forest land ecosystems in the Philippines: the Cordillera Administrative Region and Carballo area in the north of Luzon island, and Eastern Mindanao respectively. The project will generate multiple and integrated environmental and social benefits through ecosystem restoration, including carbon sequestration of 3.6 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e, and will ensure that approaches are scaled at the national level. The Cordillera and Carballo areas in the Luzon mountains are an Endemic Bird Areas and overlap with priority areas for biological connectivity. The Eastern Mindanao region contains one of the largest remaining blocks of tropical lowland rainforest in the Philippines, with at least 370 species of forest vertebrates, birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles, of which almost half are endemic. Plant diversity is also high, with more than 2,300 species, which represents 31 percent of the total species known for the Philippines.

**9558 Thailand: Sixth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Program in Thailand, (UNDP)**

The project proposes to carry out participatory, multi-stakeholder, landscape management in rural and peri-urban or suburban areas aimed at enhancing social and ecological resilience through community-based, community-driven projects to conserve biodiversity, optimize ecosystem services, manage land—particularly agro-ecosystems—and water sustainably, and mitigate climate change. Using the knowledge and experience gained from global and national landscape level initiatives delivered by SGP, this project will pilot landscape planning and management processes in four regions of Thailand. The project will also build on experience and lessons learned from previous SGP operational phases in Thailand, assist community organizations to carry out and coordinate projects in pursuit of outcomes they have identified in landscape plans and strategies. Coordinated community projects in the landscape will generate ecological, economic and social benefits that will produce greater and more sustainable global environmental benefits.

**9573 Liberia: Conservation and Sustainable Use of Liberia's Coastal Natural Capital (CI)**

The project aims to improve the conservation and sustainable use of Liberia's coastal natural capital by mainstreaming the value of these natural assets into Liberia's development plans. The project will carry out Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) in coastal ecosystems by means of the UN System of Environmental Economic Accounting (UN-SEEA), the World Bank Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES), or the GIZ methods for programs

in Africa. In addition, the project will assist in innovative financing schemes for conserving coastal natural assets and develop and implement community incentives to conserve and sustainably manage coastal ecosystems. The Liberian coast is critical habitat for biodiversity including four endangered species of marine turtle that feed in the waters and breed on beaches and in estuaries. Despite this richness, national planning and development agencies are unlikely to be persuaded by intrinsic value arguments for conservation on their own. One way of altering the current development trajectory in Liberia is to take stock of coastal natural resources, as well as the ecosystem services that are valuable for people (i.e. timber, fuelwood, and medicines, and they protect shorelines from storms and tidal surges). Doing so will uncover ways to restore and protect nature more effectively and at a larger scale than ever before. The project will maintain globally significant biodiversity on 10,000 hectares of land and seascapes, bring 5,000 hectares of production land under SLM.

**9575 Sudan: Sudan Sustainable Natural Resources Management Project (SSNRM) - Additional Financing (World Bank)**

The project aims to expand the coverage of the current soil, land, and water management interventions under the GEF-5 Sahel and West Africa Program in support of the Great Green Wall Initiative) to three new states; the Northern State, the River Nile State, and in North Kordofan State. These new target areas have climatic conditions similar to the three states where the project is currently being implemented. The additional finance will: bring approximately 15,000 hectares of land under forest and range management; promote community rehabilitation of degraded lands and forest (including establishment of wind shelterbelts); provide improved seeds that are drought tolerant as a coping mechanism against variations in seasonal rainfall; support the rehabilitation of Gum Arabic belt; establish a Wildlife Management and Conservation Plan for a biosphere reserve in Al Baja area; and lead to mitigation of 2 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e of GHG emissions. Enriching planting, natural regeneration, and sand dune stabilization in the new project areas will be instrumental to increasing the resilience of the rural communities. The additional finance will also support climate risk mitigation interventions such as the use of early warning and seasonal weather forecasts as developed by the National Meteorology Agency.

**9584 Philippines: Integrated Approach in the Management of Major Biodiversity Corridors (UNDP)**

The project seeks to operationalize integrated management of two biological corridors in the Philippines (one on Central Mindoro island and the other in Eastern Mindanao province) to generate multiple benefits, including effective conservation of globally significant biodiversity, reduced deforestation and degradation, and enhanced livelihoods. The two target corridors represent distinct biodiversity and forest formations and are located in different biogeographic zones. Both lack a landscape-level approach that provides for effective conservation of globally significant biodiversity and ecosystems, resulting in fragmentation, soil erosion, increasing threats, and degradation of land, forest, and other natural resources on which communities rely. The two Corridors contain a total of 16 key biodiversity areas, for a total of 185,046

hectares of old growth forests, or about 10 percent of all that remains in terrestrial corridors in the Philippines. The project will lead to carbon benefits of 11.2 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e through avoided deforestation and carbon sequestration.

**9589 Panama: Ecosystem-based, Biodiversity-friendly Cattle Production Framework for the Darien Region of Panama (CAF)**

The project will establish an ecosystem-based, biodiversity-friendly cattle production framework for the Darien Region of Panamá. To change agricultural practices, the project will support the adoption of conservation-oriented silvopastoral systems in cattle farms (carefully managed systems that combine agriculture, cattle, and timber) through training for extension workers, support to farmers, and exchanges among farmers. They will also develop an eco-labeling system to create demand and shorten supply chains for beef from these farms. At the same time, CAF will work with the Agricultural Development Bank of Panama to provide the needed loans for farmers to make these changes and help the bank and its staff learn about sustainable production systems and how their loan operations can support them. The project will also support the inter-ministerial development of a biodiversity-friendly land use plan and information system for the region.

**9599 Djibouti: Sustainable Management of Water Resources, Rangelands, and Agro-Pastoral Perimeters in the Cheikhetti Wadi Watershed of Djibouti (UNDP)**

The project aims to develop an integrated model for the restoration of agropastoral ecosystem services in the Cheikhetti Wadi watershed to reduce land and water degradation, improving self-sufficiency in basic living needs of vulnerable rural communities and creating conditions to enable its replication. The rangelands in Djibouti are especially susceptible to degradation due to inappropriate land-use practices exploiting an already highly vulnerable resource as well as climate related difficulties such as extended droughts. The main activities will lead to land rehabilitation and aquifer replenishment in the Cheikhetti Wadi watershed. A comprehensive and inter-sectoral approach is needed to prevent severer damage to ecosystems and to optimize economic output across borders. The project will bring 50,000 hectares of production landscapes under SLM.

**9600 Indonesia: Strengthening of Social Forestry in Indonesia (World Bank)**

This project will improve community management of forests and conserve globally important biodiversity. Working with the Indonesian government, the project targets the transfer and improved management of 300,000 hectares of degraded lands and to protect forests in social and environmental priority areas by providing technical assistance to communities, formalizing land use access, and supporting livelihood activities. These activities would also lead to carbon benefits of approximately 10 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e. The Government of Indonesia's National Social Forestry program targets the identification of eligible communities and forest lands in order to adjudicate, demarcate, and transfer 12.7 million hectares of these areas to community ownership for forest management purposes by 2019. To date, only a small portion of these



forests has been demarcated and even less have been transferred to communities. GEF-financed activities will be leveraged by a \$22.40 million Forest Investment Program project being implemented by the World Bank.

**9601 Regional (Barbados, Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, St. Kitts And Nevis, St. Lucia, Mexico, Panama, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Vincent and Grenadines): CReW+: An Integrated Approach to Water and Wastewater Management Using Innovative Solutions and Promoting Financing Mechanisms in the Wider Caribbean Region (IADB/UNEP)**

The project aims to address the degradation of the Caribbean marine environment, primarily through the management of untreated wastewater. Such discharge of untreated wastewater has become a serious concern for maintaining natural marine ecosystems. Throughout the Region, industries and municipalities discharge liquid wastes through the same sewers as domestic and commercial nonindustrial waste, resulting in high levels of industrial chemicals and heavy metals in sewage. This proposed regional project that brings together 18 countries will focus on decentralized-rural wastewater treatment technologies, strengthened governance mechanisms, and improved knowledge management and advocacy, as well as on adequate responses to unattended impacts of industrial pollution in the wastewater streams and treated effluents and by-products. The Caribbean Sea generates more than \$3 billion annually from tourism and fisheries, and hence is highly dependent on healthy marine ecosystems to sustain both these sectors. The proposed investment is, therefore, highly relevant and carries great political importance to the individual countries as well as the region as a whole.

**9604 Cameroon: Removing Barriers to Biodiversity Conservation, Land Restoration and Sustainable Forest Management Through Community-Based Landscape Management – COBALAM (UNEP)**

Cameroon's biodiversity endowment is outstanding. This microcosm of the African biodiversity is threatened by unsustainable agricultural practices, increased competition for land between agriculture and pastoralism, and forest degradation and deforestation. Although considerable progress has been made in the protection of these assets, burdensome bureaucratic processes, a lack of social and enterprise capacity, insufficient financial resources, and weak markets have limited the development of Community Based Natural Resource Management. The project aims to improve biodiversity conservation and sustainable forest management in the Western Highlands of Cameroon. This area is characterized by high endemism, and unique montane ecosystems that are also home of local communities that depend on traditional agriculture. The project will improve the protection status of 4,000 hectares in the Western Highlands through the codification and formal recognition of "Sacred Forests" located in Key Biodiversity Areas as High Conservation Value Forests, as well as develop the land-use and management plans in three priority landscapes covering 46,000 hectares. Activities will also include the implementation of Sustainable-Land and Forest Management practices with local CSOs.

**9759 Macedonia: Promoting Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Through Strengthening Legal and Institutional Framework, Capacity Building and Restoration of Most Vulnerable Mountain Landscapes (UNEP)**

The project will strengthen Macedonian national policy and institutional capacity for SLM and contribute to achieving the national land degradation neutrality target with integrated landscape management in the northwestern montane ecosystems. The project will develop a coherent and coordinated approach to reduce pressures on land from competing land uses in forestry and pasture through reversal of land degradation and development of instruments and mechanisms for integrated land use management. The project will contribute to achieving the voluntary UNCCD LDN target in through developing the LDN baseline and revising the institutional framework to include LDN considerations. Specifically, the GEF investment will facilitate strengthened policy, legal, and regulatory frameworks that will harmonize state legislation, develop guidelines for best land use practices, and develop a National Integrated Soil Management Strategy. Adoption of SLM and SFM practices will reduce land degradation and secure ecosystem services over an area covering directly 15,000 hectares in three targeted municipalities and benefit 120,000 people.

**9764 Burkina Faso: Integrated and Sustainable Management of PONASI Protected Area Landscape (UNDP)**

The project aims to safeguard critical wildlife habitat, biodiversity, and ecosystem services in the PONASI Complex of Burkina Faso through integrated landscape management. The project introduces for the first time in Burkina Faso a landscape approach to biodiversity conservation and productive land management that includes bio-carbon conservation. This project will move from a site-focused conservation model towards an effective and integrated land and resource-use governance model at the landscape level. Furthermore, with the generation of revenue for local communities through eco-tourism, better soil productivity and viable diversification of income sources, the project should result in the reduction of poaching. Global environmental benefits will include the improved management of 952,000 hectares of land, including 436,057 hectares of protected areas, corridors, and community-managed hunting zones, 6,000 hectares under sustainable land management, and 4 million tCO<sub>2e</sub> emissions avoided.

**9766 Chile: Mainstreaming Conservation of Coastal Wetlands of Chile's South Center Biodiversity Hotspot through Adaptive Management of Coastal Area Ecosystems (UNEP)**

This project will conserve and restore coastal landscapes including wetlands and adjacent watershed territories, integrating them into local development through their sustainable management and use. The project will promote cohesive, cross-sectoral management of natural resources, mainstreaming SLM and biodiversity conservation in wetland ecosystems through landscape planning, strengthening stakeholder capacity, and removing barriers that hinder the ecological functioning of coastal wetlands. The project will work in four pilot sites selected for their biodiversity importance and relevance for local development: 1) Coquimbo District: Elqui River; 2) Valparaiso District: Mantagua wetland; 3) O'Higgins District: Cahuil wetland; and 4) Araucania District: Queule wetland. The project will introduce sustainable

financing mechanisms for habitat conservation, such as biodiversity compensation payments, certification, eco-labelling, and Clean Production Agreements. The project will improve the management of 180,000 hectares of habitat for globally important biodiversity and improve sustainable land management on 21,000 hectares.

**9770 Regional (Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, Venezuela) Implementation of the Strategic Action Program to ensure Integrated and Sustainable Management of the Transboundary Water Resources of the Amazon River Basin Considering Climate Variability and Change (UNEP)**

This project will implement the Strategic Action Program to promote Integrated Water Resources Management in the Amazon Basin. The Amazon Basin constitutes the most biodiverse and complex hydrographic river basin in the world, and accounts for more than half the world's tropical rainforest which, combined with the intense evaporation and absorption of atmospheric carbon, makes the region a defining factor in global climate. The Amazon Basin faces numerous challenges for the integrated management of its transboundary water resources in the context of present trends in socio-economic development and anthropogenic and climate impacts. The basin is a unique water system that crosses national borders of eight countries—Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela—all of which consider this integrated work vital to the urgent needs of the population and to promote the sustainable development and conservation of the Amazon Region. The project has a small LDFA component, which will bring 100,000 hectares of land under improved management for biodiversity benefits.

**9772 The Gambia: Landscape Planning and Restoration to Improve Ecosystem Services and Livelihoods, and Expand and Effectively Manage Protected Areas (UNEP)**

This project proposes a mix of integrated land use planning and Indigenous Community Conserved Areas to provide a new and strengthened model for community land and forest management in The Gambia. The Local Government Area (LGA) of Kuantaur will serve as a pilot for potential replication around the country. The project will focus on improved institutional/policy environment, enabling framework for districts within Kuantaur LGA to implement SLM practices across landscapes, implementation of integrated plans and strengthening of protected area management within Kuantaur LGA, and expansion of protected areas in ecologically important areas of The Gambia. The project will produce Global Environment Benefits, including the reduction of land degradation impacts with 1,000 hectares of agricultural lands under SLM and 500 hectares under land rehabilitation/reforestation, and protection of critically important biodiversity in close to 30,000 hectares of terrestrial and marine conserved areas.

**9777 Haiti: Sustainable Management of Wooded Production Landscapes for Biodiversity Conservation (UNDP)**

This project will support the generation of multiple environmental and social benefits through sustainable wood production in landscapes in the Massif la Selle, Massif du Nord, and Grande Riviere du Nord In Haiti. Due to a lack of incentives and land tenure insecurity, among other issues, shade coffee and cocoa production has diminished recently. This practice has been important for biodiversity and management in Haiti, since the trees that provide the shade represent much of the remaining tree cover in this part of the world. The project aims to support sustainable land management for the production landscapes cited above. It will do so mainly by focusing on developing enabling conditions to support the conservation of compatible tree-based production systems as part of sustainable landscape mosaics. This project will work through building capacities of more than 6,000 farmers, using farm schools to demonstrate best practices.

**9781 Cambodia: Integrated Natural Resource Management (INRM) in the Productive, Natural, and Forested Landscape of Northern Region of Cambodia, UNDP**

This project will promote integrated landscape management for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, natural resources, and ecosystem services in the northern region of Cambodia. The project will develop systemic and institutional capacity for integrated landscape management and effective management of protected areas and surrounding production landscapes. The project will support the development of a supportive regulatory environment for land-use plans and sustainable land management that incorporates biodiversity considerations and the implementation of land use plans through capacity building and sustainable livelihood activities. The project will also support improved management of protected areas through participatory approaches and increased financial resources for protected area management. The project will maintain globally significant biodiversity on 450,000 hectares of forest landscapes and bring 845 hectares of agricultural land under SLM.

**9783 Guinea: Integrated Management of Natural Resources in Middle and Upper Guinea (UNDP)**

This project aims to promote a landscape approach to natural resource management in an area threatened by dramatic deforestation mainly because of slash and burn agriculture, with additional long-term risks (hydropower, timber, and mining), in a country that was deeply affected by the Ebola hemorrhagic fever. This project focuses on an area that harbors the largest population of chimpanzees in West Africa with 5,000 chimpanzees. The project will improve the management of 815,300 hectares of terrestrial landscapes, including the Bafing-Faleme protected area (315,200 hectares), surrounded by classified forests and corridors by focusing on integrated landscape management, operationalization of the Bafing-Faleme Protected Area and buffer zone management, and establishing the eco-village model in the protected area buffer zone. The project will produce Global Environment Benefits, with 10,000 hectares under SLM, enhancing vegetation cover, protecting water resources and conserving soils. Decreased deforestation will lead to GHG emissions avoided estimated at 7 million tCO<sub>2e</sub>, whereas the clean cooking technologies will contribute another 55,000 tCO<sub>2e</sub> emission avoided.

**9785 St. Kitts and Nevis: Improving Environmental Management through Sustainable Land Management in St. Kitts and Nevis (UNEP)**

The project will support St. Kitts and Nevis as the country transitions away from monocrop agriculture towards sustainable resource use policies and practices. This will not only provide economic opportunities, but also sustain ecosystem services and globally significant biodiversity. The project will support the rehabilitation and protection of carbon-rich and biodiverse forest and mangrove ecosystems, and the restoration and maintenance of soil ecosystem services, water supply, and carbon stocks through sustainable and climate smart agriculture and agroforestry. The project is targeting degraded lands as well as two key biodiversity areas, and will explore a number of innovative measures for SLM, such as the use of assisted natural regeneration and the promotion of farmer field schools as an approach to transfer knowledge to producers. Technologies and approaches promoted by the project, in particular those targeting the agricultural and forestry sectors, can be immediately adapted and replicated to the entire country, and will be integrated into key policy documents such as the National Physical Development Plan and the Nevis Physical Development Plan, as well as important norms and standards such as the Building Codes. The project will bring 700 hectares under SLM and generate carbon benefits of 88,000 t CO<sub>2</sub>e.

**9793 Madagascar: Conservation and Improvement of Ecosystem Services for the Atsinanana Region through Agroecology and the Promotion of Sustainable Energy Production (UNEP)**

The project will promote a stronger inter-sectoral coordination, planning, and capacity-building on integrated natural resource management in four communes of the Vohibinany and Vatomaniry districts in Madagascar. A rural energy assessment will help quantify the energy situation and a wood energy services strategy will be developed, including the use of bamboo. A training plan will target the local communities to disseminate improved cook stove technologies and their use and test a pilot gasification generator. Lessons will ensure upscaling into other municipalities in the Atsinanana region. The project will produce Global Environment Benefits including: the restoration and management of 4,000 hectares of high conservation value forests in a landscape surrounding several protected areas (Zahamena National Park, Mangerivola Special reserve, Marolambo National Park, and the classified forest of Vohibola); the classified forests under active management; 19,000 hectares of degraded annual crop area under SLM; 1,000 hectares of degraded land reforested; and carbon benefits of 3.2 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e.

**9795 Azerbaijan: Forest Resources Assessment and Monitoring to Strengthen Forest Knowledge Framework in Azerbaijan (FAO)**

The project aims to introduce SFM into Azerbaijan in order to increase social and economic benefits from forests, to improve the quality of existing forests, and to increase carbon sequestration. This will be done through a Forest Resource Information Management System to provide country-wide, reliable, up-to-date information on forest resources and multifunctional forest management leading to carbon sequestration, improvement in forest and tree resources,

and their contribution to local livelihoods. The project will also develop guidelines and extension material to raise awareness of environmental concerns and the role of forests in mitigating climate change, and seeking civil and private support that would be effective at the political level. Expected global environmental benefits of the project includes 22,100 hectares under SLM, and 3.1 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e in GHG emissions reductions.

#### **9796 Belize: Integrated Management of Production Landscapes to Deliver Multiple Global Environmental Benefits (UNDP)**

The objective of the project is to mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable land/water management into production landscapes in Belize. Specifically, the project will work to reduce deforestation and increase connectivity and biodiversity-friendly land uses by farmers within the Belize River watershed (central Belize); focus on strengthened governance and financial structures of the conservation biodiversity and ecosystem services; develop financial incentive mechanisms for farmers to implement better practices using resources from exit and cruise ship taxes and; support on-the-ground activities to help farmers implement improved practices such as conservation agreements and native plant nurseries. The project will maintain globally significant biodiversity on 607,000 hectares of mixed landscapes and bring 15,000 hectares of agricultural land under SLM.

#### **9798 Angola: Sustainable Land Management in Target Landscapes in Angola's Southwestern Region (FAO)**

The project aims to reverse land degradation trends in selected landscapes in southwestern Angola, including the provinces of Namibe, Cunene, Huila, and Benguela, where a combination of poor soils, rainfall variability, and inappropriate management of natural resources are having a large impact on livelihoods. The project will help manage 80,000 hectares under SLM, including rangelands, miombo forests, and Angolan montane forest-grasslands mosaics. The project will focus on three components; i) agro-ecological zoning integrated planning; ii) sustainable management and rehabilitation of landscapes; and iii) economic and financial leverage approaches to SLM. The third component addresses UNCCD COP decisions on Land Degradation Neutrality and will help to institutionalize quantified national objectives for SLM. The project will facilitate developing capacities and systems for natural resource management and agriculture (GIS, Agro-Ecological Zoning). The Farmer Field Schools and Agro-Pastoral Field Schools will reinforce local ownership and bottom up approaches and will bring 80,000 hectares under SLM.

#### **9806 Algeria: Rehabilitation and Integrated Sustainable Development of Algerian Cork Oak Forest Production Landscapes (FAO)**

The project will promote sustainable management and utilization of the cork oak forest ecosystems in Algeria while conserving the globally important biodiversity contained within those forests. This project will demonstrate and replicate forestry best practices that includes the creation of an inclusive stakeholder platform of cooperation between research,

government, and communities to support and maintain the sustainable management of cork oak forest ecosystems. The activities focus on pilot sites in eastern Algeria that will place approximately 20,000 hectares of high biodiversity cork oak forests under sustainable management regimes, thereby securing the conservation of the existing globally important biodiversity as well as the conservation of associated land and water resources. The project will also scale up best practices over the territory to achieve a target of 350,000 hectares under sustainable land management in production systems. The sustainable forest management is also likely to lead to increased sequestration of carbon that will be explored during the project implementation.

### **9813 Ukraine: Integrated Natural Resources Management in Degraded Landscapes in the Forest-Steppe and Steppe Zones of Ukraine (FAO)**

The project aims to promote restoration of degraded landscapes in the forest-steppe and steppe zones of Ukraine through upscaling of integrated natural resources management (INRM) practices. To remove barriers to scaling up, the project has been designed around three components that will: i) create an enabling environment for INRM in Ukraine at national and sub-national level; ii) restore the productivity and resilience of production landscapes through INRM; and iii) ensure learning and sharing of lessons learned through effective project monitoring and evaluation and adaptive management. The expected Global Environment Benefits are improved provision of ecosystem services through SLM measures with scaling up on a total of 230,800 hectares; sequestration of carbon in black soils/chernozem soils and shelterbelts amounting to a total of 365 496 tCO<sub>2</sub>e; and improved living conditions of local communities in the targeted areas, including benefitting approximately 75,700 people with upscaling potential to 363,300 people, of which roughly 52 percent are women.

### **9815 South Sudan: Systemic, Institutional and Individual Capacity for the Implementation of the Rio Conventions in the Republic of South Sudan (UNEP)**

The proposed crosscutting capacity development project targets a set of systemic, institutional, and individual capacities to advance South Sudan on a path towards environment friendly and sustainable development. The expected outcome of the project is that South Sudan's institutional capacities for sustaining global environmental outcomes, as defined by the Rio Conventions and related SDGs, are strengthened. The objective is to enhance national capacities to deliver and sustain global environmental outcomes within the framework of sustainable development priorities. This objective will be achieved via three components: i) the development of a coordinated environmental knowledge and information management system, leading to enhanced management of environmental information and knowledge for use in decision-making, planning and reporting; ii) the strengthening of consultative management structures and mechanisms for the Rio Conventions and relevant SDGs, leading to enhanced institutional capacity and stakeholder participation for the sustained implementation of Rio conventions and relevant SDGs; and iii) the integration of key provisions of Rio Conventions in national policies and legislation, leading to national policies that include provisions for

mainstreaming biodiversity conservation, climate change risk and adaptation, and sustainable land and forest management.

**9825 Regional (Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Niger, Senegal): Large-scale Assessment of Land Degradation to Guide Future Investment in SLM in the Great Green Wall Countries (UNEP)**

The goal of the Great Green Wall Initiative (GGWI) goal is to reverse land degradation and desertification in the Sahel and Sahara, boost food security, and help local communities adapt to climate change. This project aims to improve scientific measurement of the ecological impacts of land degradation conditions, trends and, SLM practices, considering the future framework of LDN. The project will generate knowledge to support large-scale investment and decision making in the GGWI region. The project is based on two components: i) a comprehensive analysis of LD processes and SLM practices and programs in four countries in the GGWI region and; ii) Monitoring and knowledge management systems for LD and SLM in the selected GGWI countries. The project will produce knowledge, methods, and scientific results that will help in combatting desertification, land degradation and drought, to reduce the vulnerability of dryland communities and increase food, water, and energy security in the participating countries. In addition, the project also has a small on-the ground component that will bring 4,000 hectares under SLM.

**9836 Mauritius: Mainstreaming Sustainable Land Management and Biodiversity Conservation in the Republic of Mauritius (UNDP)**

The project proposes the adoption of a comprehensive, inter-sectoral approach to scale-up SLM technologies to improve management and conservation of production landscapes, while providing downstream benefits in riverine, coastal, and marine habitats. This will require that SLM considerations are mainstreamed into sectoral priorities and site level actions, which will generate local and global environmental benefits and increase resilience to the deleterious impacts of climate change. Through this action, Mauritius will aim to achieve land degradation neutrality in productive lands within a wider approach to sustainable landscape management and rehabilitation. The project is built on the three following components: i) Strengthening policy and institutional framework for the promotion of SLM; ii) Implementing SLM technologies for improved management and conservation of production landscapes, and; iii) Gender mainstreaming, knowledge management, and M&E. The project is expected to generate more than 2,000 hectares under SLM including 1,400 hectares of agriculture lands, 110 hectares of degraded forests/woodlands, and 500ha of lands around rivers. These hectares under SLM will generate carbon stocks estimated to 870,000 tCO<sub>2e</sub>.

**9846 Solomon Islands: Ensuring Resilient Ecosystems and Representative Protected Areas in the Solomon Islands (IUCN)**

The project seeks to support effective ecosystem management for healthy, complementary networks of protected, productive and restored landscapes in Guadalcanal, Malaita, Rennell-Bellona, and Temotu. The project will support integrated terrestrial ecosystem management and restoration, declaration of terrestrial protected areas and their effective management, and



improved land management in rural production landscapes. Building on the experiences of IUCN, the project involves extensive community consultations and processes needed to successfully develop land use plans including protected areas in highly biodiverse areas of the Solomon Islands. The project will also pilot more sustainable productive activities and restoration practices in areas of importance for biodiversity. The expected global environment benefits are to maintain globally significant biodiversity on 50,000 hectares of landscapes and bring 10,00 hectares of production land under SLM.

**9857 GEF SGP Sixth Operational Phase- Strategic Implementation using STAR Resources, Tranche 2 (Part IV) (UNDP)**

The project will support community and local solutions that complement national and global level action to safeguard the global environment. This Part IV project includes 24 countries which have endorsed supplementary STAR funding aiming to sustain and increase involvement of communities and civil society in advancing the impact of the SGP and ensuring safeguarding the global environment from the bottom up. Among the 24 countries, there are 16 Small Island Developing States and Least Developing Countries where SGP plays an important role in building necessary capacity for conserving the global environment. This project will focus on the following strategic initiatives: i) Community Landscape and Seascape Conservation; ii) Climate Smart Innovative Agroecology, and; iii) Low Carbon Energy Co-Benefits. The grant-making at the country level will be implemented based on the SGP Country Program Strategies (CPS) for GEF-6 that have been prepared by each country to enable more strategic and integrated investments at the country and landscape/seascape levels. In all countries, the CPS development process has been undertaken in a consultative manner to identify SGP's value added within the priority global environmental issues to guide SGP grant-making and ensure its complementarity with other donor and country-supported initiatives.

**9861 Global: Fostering Partnerships to Build Coherence and Support for Forest Landscape Restoration (IUCN)**

The proposed project will serve as a Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) Joint Initiative and will initiate CPF activities structured along three objectives—Knowledge, Enabling Policy, and Resource Mobilization—to achieve greater impact on restoration efforts at global, regional, and national levels through strengthened CPF leadership and partnerships. Specific project components include mainstream forest landscape restoration (FLR) into national, regional, and international policy frameworks, and facilitate creation of a coherent in-country enabling environment for FLR; increasing effectiveness and efficiency of resource mobilization for FLR; and identifying and implementing opportunities for generating enhanced synergies among CPF-member FLR programs, including forming partnerships and developing technical capacities on FLR-related science, technology, and innovation. The project will play a key role in supporting effective implementation of the United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF) and its six Global Forest Goals and associated targets, particularly Global Forest Goal 6: “enhance cooperation, coordination, coherence and synergies on forest-related issues at all levels, including within the UN System and across CPF member organizations.”

### **9862 Jamaica: Conserving Biodiversity and Reducing Land Degradation Using an Integrated Landscape Approach (UNDP)**

The project aims to enhance conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services through mainstreaming of biodiversity into planning policies and practices into Jamaica's productive landscapes and key sectors. Targeted interventions will include building systemic and institutional capacity for integrated landscape management at the national level, and the application of landscape planning and management in key biodiversity areas and one of three biological corridors. The project will also focus on mainstreaming biodiversity into sustainable livelihoods activities and developing and enhancing knowledge management for SLM and biodiversity conservation. Of particular importance is the integration of conservation and biodiversity mainstreaming with cultural and traditional practices of the Maroon population. The project will also support long-term sustainability of natural resource management through directly impacting the governance and regulatory framework for land-use planning, capacity building, and institutional strengthening. The project will maintain globally significant biodiversity on 55,000 hectares of landscapes and bring 2,500 hectares of production land under SLM.

### **9880 Fiji: Community-based Integrated Natural Resource Management (FAO)**

The project will promote community-based integrated natural resource management at the landscape level to reduce land degradation, enhance carbon stocks, and strengthen local livelihoods. Forest degradation has been quite high in the provinces of Ra and Tailevu due to subsistence agriculture, pastoral practices, and illegal and unregulated logging. This project will set up training programs on climate-smart agriculture as well as agroforestry, forest protection, and improved management measures implemented through development of this sector in a sustainable manner in coordination with other sectors affecting the forest, such as forestry and protected areas. Demonstration projects will be implemented in key mining areas to provide grassroots training opportunities that showcase and test best mining practices. Global environmental benefits delivered by this project will include the improved conservation of 6.5 million hectares of high conservation-value forests, the improved management of 7.6 million hectares of forests via SFM to maintain their carbon storage functions, and the phasing out of 10 metric tons of mercury.

### **9900 Global: Land Degradation Neutrality Fund Technical Assistance Facility (WWF)**

The LDN Fund Technical Assistance Facility (TAF) is being created to support projects seeking investment from the LDN Fund. The TAF will provide grants to support the structuring of SLM projects with a proven business model including environmental and social risk management, social benefits, added value (additional resources to usual channels), and favorable risk-return profile. This GEF project will target GEF-eligible countries and in particular poor countries and countries with low capacity (e.g. LDCs and SIDS) and is built on two main components. First, to improve technical and operational processes of LDN-eligible projects to improve both

productivity and rentability; second, to ensure knowledge management and M&E for adaptive management and long term TAF support. The sub-projects financed by the LDN fund will produce multiple global environment benefits generated by SLM and land restoration techniques. This project also provides upstream support to operationalize the LDN TAF, secure an innovative financing mechanism, and increase investments in SLM.

### **9903 Sierra Leone: Sustainable and Integrated landscape management of the Western Area Peninsula (UNDP)**

The project aims to remove systemic and institutional barriers to sustainable, integrated landscape management in Sierra Leone at the national and local levels. Activities will target the development of incentives for making investments in biodiversity conservation and sustainable land use practices economically attractive. The project will focus on sustainable multi-use landscape management in 66,500 hectares of the Western Area Peninsula Multi-Use Landscape, and on financing frameworks for sustainable management through the development of government revenue streams and operationalization of new financing mechanisms integrating the value of the ecosystem services. The project will introduce a different perspective by emphasizing the value of biodiversity and sustainable management, and by appealing to youth and other groups that can drive innovation. Global Environmental Benefits will include the protection of globally important biodiversity, including critically endangered chimpanzees and other threatened primate species, as well as other vulnerable, endemic and rare species.

### **9906 Regional (Benin, São Tomé and Príncipe, Togo): Investments Towards Resilient Management of the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem (World Bank)**

The project aims to implement regional actions to enhance coastal resilience in a subset of the countries within the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem. The programmatic approach of the overall project (with GEF funds fully blended with IDA funds) aims to help countries integrate infrastructure and natural resources management to enhance their resilience in the face of environmental degradation, including coastal erosion, and climate change. This first project is part of a step-wise World Bank-funded program that provides technical assistance and offers finance for multi-sectoral solutions such as land management and spatial planning, infrastructure, natural habitat management, and pollution management. The approach encourages countries to engage in technical assistance first, in order to unbundle the complex coastal development challenges into actionable priorities. Specifically, the proposed GEF support within the larger project will invest in actions that address the loss of ecosystem integrity through the destruction and alteration of wetland habitats (e.g. mangroves) due to agricultural expansion (in Togo/Benin); and coastal habitat destruction due to floods and coastal erosion (in São Tomé and Príncipe). Interventions aim at diversifying the local economies and restoring ecosystems while providing opportunities for sustainable growth.

**9914 Global: CPIC Conservation Finance Initiative - Scaling up and Demonstrating the Value of Blended Finance in Conservation (IUCN)**

The Coalition for Private Investment in Conservation (CPIC) was launched at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in September 2016, with the intent of increasing deal flow into global priority conservation projects. The core of the CPIC model is the development of investment blueprints that create models for investable conservation projects in five sectors: i) sustainable agriculture; ii) coastal fisheries; iii) coastal resilience; iv) green infrastructure for water; and (v) forest landscape restoration and conservation. The proposed project will seek to improve the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity by demonstrating innovative finance-blending models to increase return-seeking private investment in conservation. The project is composed of the following components: execution of proof-of-concept CPIC-generated deals using blended finance; and knowledge generated for use of grant/non-grant instruments to incentivize private investment in conservation. The project seeks to maintain globally significant biodiversity in 10 million hectares of landscapes, bring 400,000 hectares under SLM, and generate carbon benefits of 300,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e.

**9915 Global: Global Support Programme II: Strengthening UNCCD Reporting – Enhancing Implementation of the UNCCD (UNEP)**

The project aims to enable country Parties to establish sound reporting and monitoring systems to report under the UNCCD Strategy. Specifically, the project will enable country Parties to prepare national reports for the 2017-2018 reporting; build capacity for the countries to manage data related to UNCCD progress indicators, in particular the quantitative and geospatial data related to the three bio-physical indicators; and complement the analysis of the country reporting efforts on SO4 (finance flows) and disseminate results and lessons learned about the assessment of financial flows and opportunities for the implementation of the UNCCD. For this global project, support is provided to countries through regional capacity building workshops and technical backstopping.

**9927 Cambodia: Building Resilience of Cambodian Communities Using Natural Infrastructure and Promoting Diversified Livelihood (UNEP)**

This project is designed to strengthen threatened coastal ecosystems and communities in one of the most vulnerable regions of the world, Prey Nob in Cambodia. This project will make the case for natural infrastructure, in particular healthy mangroves, as a critical ecosystem for building resilience and improving livelihoods. The project includes identification analysis of hotspot areas, drivers of mangrove destruction, and cost-benefit assessment on investing in coastal infrastructure; pilot efforts to protect and restore mangroves and to create alternative livelihood opportunities to shift stakeholders into more sustainable practices; and will coordinate with relevant national and regional coastal resilience initiatives, such as the South China Sea Large Marine Ecosystem. Through these efforts the project will ensure coastal ecosystem conservation and will build resiliency in Prey Nob. These experiences will be shared with other initiatives for scaling up nationally, regionally and globally. The project will maintain

globally significant biodiversity on 3,650 hectares and bring 2,650 hectares of production land under SLM.

**9928 Egypt: Sustainable Management of Kharga Oasis Agro-Ecosystems in the Egyptian Western Desert (FAO)**

The project objective is to "ensure sustainable food production systems that help maintain and progressively improve land and soil quality and agro-biodiversity in oasis agro-ecosystems of the Egyptian Western Desert. The project will seek to build an enabling environment for sustainable land, water, and agro-biodiversity management contributing to productive oasis agro-ecosystems; demonstrate effective and efficient SLWM and agro-biodiversity conservation practices to improve oasis agro-ecosystems in two pilot sites to sustain food production and livelihoods; and engage in knowledge management for scaling up and scaling out project results. The project will deliver global environmental benefits by improving the management and sustainable use of oasis ecosystems with 3,000 hectares under SLM and an improved status of three targeted species (Crop Wild Relatives) on 700 hectares.

**9978 Dominica: Strengthening Resilience of Agricultural Lands and Forests in Dominica in the Aftermath of Hurricane Maria (UNEP)**

The primary objective of the project is to strengthen resilience in the landscape surrounding Morne Trois Pitons National Park through participatory forest rehabilitation/restoration, sustainable agricultural practices, and the development of livelihoods options. The key interventions in support of this project are restoration and rehabilitation of denuded forest areas around Morne Trois Pitons National Park; promotion of sustainable agriculture in areas around Morne Rois Pitons National Park; and institutional strengthening, education, and training to address land degradation. The project will improve sustainable land management of 750 hectares to benefit biodiversity.

**9980 Global (Maldives, Philippines, Iraq, Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Palau, and Myanmar, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Serbia, Macedonia, and Ukraine, Chad, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Botswana, and Swaziland, Albania): GEF Support to UNCCD 2018 National Reporting Process – Umbrella II (UNEP)**

The objective is to enable country Parties to collect necessary biophysical and socioeconomic data, establish sound reporting and monitoring systems at national levels and report against the UNCCD Strategy. This Umbrella II project has two main components: national estimates and baselines of metrics/proxies of indicators for UNCCD reporting; and 2018 report including LDN target settings. The project combines several innovations by: i) proposing a mixed support of training, technical assistance, remote assistance, and communication; ii) combining the 2018 reporting with LDN targets; and iii) testing new software (PRAIS3 and Trends.Earth). This Umbrella II project includes outreach activities to contribute to the mainstreaming of SLM and LDN in the development agenda.

**9981 Global (Angola, Burundi, Benin, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Cabo Verde, Egypt, Eritrea, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Comoros, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, São Tomé and Príncipe, Tanzania, South Africa, Zambia, Congo DR): GEF Support to UNCCD 2018 National Reporting Process - Umbrella I (UNEP)**

This GEF Support to UNCCD 2018 national reporting process, Umbrella I, will help 28 African countries fulfill their obligations under the UNCCD. The objective is to enable country Parties to collect necessary biophysical and socioeconomic data, establish sound reporting and monitoring systems at national levels, and report against the UNCCD Strategy. This Umbrella Project I has three main components: national estimates and baselines of metrics/proxies of indicators for UNCCD reporting; 2018 report including LDN target settings; and making HelpDesk Service operational to support access to resources for 2018 reporting. The project combines several innovations by: 1) proposing a mixed support of training, technical assistance, remote assistance, and communications; 2) combining the 2018 reporting with LDN targets; and 3) testing new software (PRAIS3 and Trends.Earth). This Umbrella I project will offer the opportunities for each country to develop outreach and communication supports/events and improve the mainstreaming of SLM and LDN in the development agenda.

**9984 Turkey: Turkey Irrigation Modernization Project (World Bank)**

The fully blended World Bank/GEF Turkey Irrigation Modernization Project includes two sub-components funded by a GEF grant. GEF-funded activities will promote sustainable agricultural land management practices to reduce the drivers of land degradation in Turkey by: i) mainstreaming at the national level an irrigation Management Information System (MIS), called SUTEM, in all of its 378 Water User Associations (WUA), covering an irrigated area of 3.08 million hectares, encouraging evidence based multi-stakeholder decision making for better land and water management; and ii) piloting a solar-powered groundwater irrigation system in Bolvadin, Afyon, with the potential of scaling up in other regions of Turkey, to demonstrate how such approaches can provide an alternative that reduces irrigation costs to farmers, reduces GHG emissions, limits groundwater abstraction, and creates incentives for water savings through introduction of volumetric metering. The project will bring about 3 million hectares under SLM and will also generate a small amount of 4,300 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in carbon benefits.

**9993 Global (Burkina Faso, Brazil, Ethiopia, India, Morocco, Senegal, South Africa): AVACLIM: Agro-ecology, Ensuring Food Security and Sustainable Livelihoods while Mitigating Climate Change and Restoring Land in Dryland Regions (FAO)**

The project aims to promote agro-ecological approaches in drylands to restore degraded land, mitigate climate change, and improve food security. In this regard, the project seeks to strengthen stakeholders' capacities on agro-ecology and support the integration of agro-ecology into development planning, and policies. The project is committed to disseminating best practices and learning to scale-up agroecological practices and technologies in a community of practice. The project is structured around the following components: i) Building

partnerships for experience sharing and capacity building of agro-ecology practitioners at the local level; ii) Assessment of existing initiatives for evidence-based decision-making at the national, local, and landscape levels; iii) Advocacy for informed decision-making (internationally and nationally). The estimated global environment benefits are 200,000 hectares of Sustainable Land Management and 319,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e sequestered as direct benefits (24,000,000 hectares and 38,280,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e as indirect benefits).

**10003 Global (Dominica, Belize, Haiti, Jamaica, Guyana, Suriname, Grenada, St Vincent and Grenadines, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, Barbados, Honduras, El Salvador, Bolivia, Dominican Republic, Chile, Trinidad and Tobago, Antigua and Barbuda, Venezuela, Uruguay, Costa Rica, Colombia, Guatemala, Libya, South Sudan, Mongolia, Mexico, Somalia, Bhutan, Seychelles, Burkina Faso): GEF Support to UNCCD 2018 National Reporting Process - Umbrella III (UNEP)**

This GEF Support to UNCCD 2018 national reporting process, Umbrella III, will help 31 countries fulfill their obligations under the UNCCD. The objective is to enable country Parties to collect necessary biophysical and socioeconomic data, establish sound reporting and monitoring systems at national levels and report against the UNCCD Strategy. This Umbrella III project has two main components: national estimates and baselines of metrics/proxies of indicators for UNCCD reporting; and 2018 report including LDN target settings. The project combines several innovations by: i) proposing a mixed support of training, technical assistance, remote assistance, and communication; ii) combining the 2018 reporting with LDN targets; and iii) testing new software (PRAIS3 and Trends.Earth). This Umbrella III project will offer the opportunities for each country to develop outreach and communication supports/events and improve the mainstreaming of SLM and LDN in the development agenda.

**10007 São Tomé and Príncipe: Enhancing Capacity for Biodiversity Conservation and Protected Area Management (UNDP)**

The project seeks to enhance operational capacity for protected area management and SLM to safeguard globally important terrestrial and marine biodiversity of São Tomé and Príncipe (STP). STP in its entirety is identified as a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA), and the island of Príncipe, its islets, and the surrounding marine areas (more than 71,000 hectares) have been classified as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve since 2012. Through interventions at the project sites, Obô Natural Park in São Tomé and Obô Natural Park in Príncipe, the project will focus on enhancing the capacity for protected area management and biodiversity conservation; implementing an effective biodiversity conservation and protected area site management framework; promoting SLM in multi-use buffer zones; and facilitating participatory monitoring evaluation and knowledge management. The project will deliver global environmental benefits including the improved management of nearly 41,200 hectares of landscapes and seascapes, and more than 15,700 hectares under sustainable land management. A partnership with NGOs such as Birdlife International, Flora & Fauna International, and Oikos could potentially allow the GEF project and the EU financed ECOFAC program to work in close collaboration.

**10020 Lesotho: Integrated Watershed Management for Improved Agro-Pastoral Livelihoods in the Sepabala Sub-Catchment (UNDP)**

The project will bring an innovative river basin approach in Lesotho to address land and ecosystem degradation, enhance the flow of agroecosystem goods and services, and improve the livelihoods of agro-pastoral communities in the Sepabala Watershed in the Lower Senqu Basin. About 60 percent of Lesotho's land surface is classified as rangelands. However, Lesotho is also home to a unique wetlands system found mostly in the eastern alpine areas (Drakensberg Afroalpine Heathland). These wetlands are a key contributor to the water system of the Southern Africa region. The project will integrate 34,500 hectares of lands under sustainable land and water management interventions, leading to increased productivity of rangelands, increased tree and vegetative cover, improved soil and water retention capacity, improved soil fertility, and an increased resilience of ecosystems and landscapes against droughts and floods. The project will benefit nearly 15,000 persons living in the Sepabala sub-catchment.

**10030 Global (Kiribati, Tuvalu, Samoa, Cambodia, - Togo, Morocco, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Uganda, Tunisia, Lesotho, Senegal, Mauritius, Algeria, Rwanda, Sudan, - Peru, Cuba, Ecuador, Panama, Paraguay, Montenegro, Azerbaijan, Lebanon, Turkey): GEF Support to UNCCD 2018 National Reporting Process - Umbrella IV (UNEP)**

This project will help 25 countries fulfill their obligations under the UNCCD. The objective is to enable country Parties to collect necessary biophysical and socioeconomic data, establish sound reporting and monitoring systems at national levels and report against the UNCCD Strategy. This Umbrella III project has two main components: national estimates and baselines of metrics/proxies of indicators for UNCCD reporting; and 2018 report including LDN target settings. The project combines several innovations by: i) proposing a mixed support of training, technical assistance, remote assistance, and communication; ii) combining the 2018 reporting with LDN targets; and iii) testing new software (PRAIS3 and Trends.Earth). This Umbrella III project will offer the opportunities for each country to develop outreach and communication supports/events and improve the mainstreaming of SLM and LDN in the development agenda.

**10041 Regional (Marshall Islands, Palau, Tuvalu): Managing Coastal Aquifers in Selected Pacific SIDS (UNDP)**

The project will improve the use, management, and protection of coastal aquifers in Republic of alau, Tuvalu, and the Republic of Marshall Islands to enhance water security in the context of a changing climate. Small Island Developing States often rely on shallow coastal aquifers that are recharged by rainfall, and are at higher risk of impact directly from human activities which are exacerbated by the changing climate. The project will inform adaptive groundwater management to protect vulnerable coastal aquifers and strengthen national water governance and Integrated Water Resource Management. The project will deliver Global Environment Benefits by reducing the vulnerability of the three countries to climate variability and climate-related risks, through instituting changes in land-use practices that will protect these essential groundwater resources.



### **10046 Vanuatu: Ecosystem Restoration and Sustainable Land Management in Tongoa Island (FAO)**

The primary objective of the project is to effectively restore degraded landscapes and implement climate-resilient sustainable land management practices in Tongoa Island. The key interventions in support of this project are: i) strengthen local enabling environment for ecosystem restoration and sustainable land management; ii) implement community-based ecosystem restoration and sustainable land management and iii) engage in monitoring, evaluation and sharing of key lessons for replication and upscaling. The project will bring 900 hectares under sustainable land management.

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### **L DFA Projects and Programs Approved in FY19 (First Year of GEF-7)**

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### **10081 Uruguay: Consolidating Biodiversity and Land Conservation Policies and Actions as Pillars of Sustainable Development (UNDP)**

The project will strengthen the systemic, financial, and institutional capacity for biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management, enhancing the effectiveness and sustainability of protected area management, stewardship of private lands, and human well-being. The project will strengthen the enabling legal, financial, and institutional environment for biodiversity conservation and LDN; and in doing so improve management of protected areas and production lands in three pilot areas: the Santa Lucía River watershed, the Eastern Coastal Zone, and the Serranías del Este and Quebradas del Norte. Knowledge and lessons learned from implementation will be systematized, allowing for replication and upscaling in other landscapes and sectors beyond the pilot areas. The project will deliver multiple global environmental benefits by improving the effective management of 229,495 hectares of terrestrial protected areas and 95,319 hectares of marine protected areas; restoring 16,000 hectares of land; placing 106,000 hectares of landscapes under improved practices to benefit biodiversity; and mitigating 60,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e.

### **10083 Sudan: Sustainable Natural Resource Management Project- Additional Financing (World Bank)**

This is a LDCF and GEFTF Multi Trust Fund project that proposes to blend the objectives of sustainable natural resource management with enhanced resilience of climate vulnerable communities in two provinces of Sudan. Total grant amount for this project is \$6.5 million with resources from the GEF TF (\$1.5 million) and the LDCF (\$5.0 million). The project proposes innovative climate resilient technologies and engagement of women cooperatives and the private sector in testing and scaling up adaptation and landscape management approaches. The project also builds on the previous project in Sudan focusing on land degradation and by scaling up the project in two additional provinces. By bringing a focus on adaptation it will address the

immediate priorities of Government of Sudan and ensure a high value for GEF's past investments. The proposal is well aligned with Sudan's Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plan and has been endorsed by the Sudan government through a rigorous stakeholder consultation process. The project will bring 150,000 hectares under improved management to benefit biodiversity and restore 12,000 hectares of degraded agricultural land.

#### **10124 Costa Rica: Seventh Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Costa Rica (UNDP)**

The project will enable communities and organizations in the Jesus Maria, Barranca, and lower Grande de Tarcoles river basins, as well as, the Paso Las Lapas Biological Corridor of Costa Rica to take collective action, through a participatory landscape planning and management approach, to enhance socio-ecological resilience. These biologically significant landscapes, which cover approximately 181,000 hectares, are threatened by changes in land use and progressive degradation of natural resources (biodiversity, habitat, soil, water, etc.) over-exploitation, pollution, introduction of exotic invasive species, and climate change. The project will support specific community-based actions in each landscape by financing small-scale projects that include restoration of degraded soils and reforestation of habitats to improve connectivity; transformation of farming systems to more sustainable production practices; strengthening of community voluntary environmental inspection groups; efforts to prevent and manage wildfires through the conformation, training, and equipping of voluntary fire brigades and Payment for Environmental Services schemes, among others. All these actions will be supported by multi-stakeholder groups in each selected landscape that will incorporate Community-Based Organizations, local government, national agencies and Ministries, NGOs, the private sector, and other relevant actors. The project will restore 7,300 hectares of land, bring 8,200 hectares under improved management, and create carbon benefits of 2,300 tCO<sub>2</sub>e.

#### **10125 India: Seventh Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in India (UNDP)**

The project aims to enable communities and organizations in the most vulnerable and least developed areas of India to take collective action through a participatory landscape planning and management approach aimed at enhancing socio-ecological resilience from innovative livelihoods producing local and global environmental benefits. The focus will be on the most vulnerable and least developed districts of the three broad landscapes: i) highlands of the North-East; ii) drylands of the central region; and iii) coastal regions. One landscape in each region will be selected for focused intervention, based on criteria that will include existence of biodiversity of global importance, trends and patterns regarding threats and degrees of threat, appropriate policy frameworks at local and state levels, and other factors. The community grants to be selected by the multi-stakeholder National Steering Committee will aim at enhancing the communities' skills, capacities, and resources required to enhance ecosystem services, improve the sustainability and productivity of agroecosystems, deploy efficient energy technologies, and manage waste in a way that realizes multi-focal area benefits in the three target landscapes. Thus, the grants will continue to promote sustainable livelihoods as the

means for communities to generate global environmental benefits, as well as the knowledge and capacities to sustain them. The project will restore 10,000 hectares of land, bring 60,000 hectares under improved management, and directly create carbon benefits of 50,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e.

**10151 Georgia: Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality Targets of Georgia through Restoration and Sustainable Management of Degraded Pasturelands (FAO)**

The project will support national efforts to implement LDN targets of Georgia through restoration and sustainable management of degraded pasturelands. The Government is committed to addressing livestock sector challenges through a holistic approach that addresses food security, economic competitiveness, land reform, and sustainable land management. The approach focuses on reversing land degradation and sustainably increasing land productivity and efficiency, which involves a tiered approach working at the landscape level in two districts. The project will seek to integrate natural resources planning, taking into account local livelihoods, biodiversity and land degradation, climate change, and environmental security. The project will bring 20,000 hectares of rangelands under SLM and restore 700 hectares of rangelands, thereby directly generating carbon benefits of 116,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e.

**10169 Afghanistan: Combating Land Degradation and Biodiversity Loss by Promoting Sustainable Rangeland Management and Biodiversity Conservation in Afghanistan (FAO)**

The project will combat land degradation and biodiversity loss by promoting sustainable rangeland management and biodiversity conservation in vulnerable landscapes of eastern Afghanistan (Khost, Laghman, and Nuristan provinces), which are among the poorest and most biologically diverse provinces of the country. The project will help to restore productivity in degraded pasture systems in high-altitude drylands, contributing to LDN targets, while generating biodiversity benefits for the existing and proposed protected areas (i.e. the Nuristan National Park), taking into account enhanced habitat connectivity in the wider landscape through community-based land use planning approaches. The project will restore 40,000 hectares of degraded rangelands and forests and bring 100,000 hectares under sustainable management to benefit 50,000 people in local communities in the target area.

**10179 South Africa: Mainstreaming Sustainable Land Management (SLM) for Large-Scale Impact in the Grazing Lands of Limpopo and Northern Cape provinces in South Africa (IUCN)**

The project aims to implement SLM practices in selected landscapes which suffer the highest rates of vegetation loss and land degradation in the country due to overgrazing, bush clearance for cultivation, settlement, and exploitation of wood and non-timber forest products. The project will focus on building capacity and better governance of public institutions for designing and implementing SLM practices, develop market and finance opportunities for scaling up successful land management practices, and establishing a learning and policy forum. The project will partner with the private sector and financing institutions to mobilize investments and develop innovative solutions for LDN. In terms of global environmental benefits, the project

aims to restore 157,000 hectares of lands and improve land management on 875,000 hectares. The project will benefit more than 1.1 million people, 57 percent being women.

**10184 Ecuador: LDN Target-Setting and Restoration of Degraded Landscapes in Western Andes and Coastal Areas in Ecuador (FAO)**

The project will promote sustainable land and forest management for the recovery and restoration of prioritized landscapes that sustain environmental services and food security and establish support mechanisms for achieving and monitoring LDN. The investments will focus on three different areas including forests, croplands, grasslands, and pasture, covering in total around 0.7 million hectares and hosting ecosystems of global importance, which are particularly threatened by deforestation and land degradation. The project will strengthen the enabling environment for LDN Monitoring and Target-Setting, promote SLM/SFM practices and develop innovative incentive mechanisms that encourage the adoption of sustainable practices in agricultural and forest landscapes. It will deliver Global Environment Benefits by restoring 4,000 hectares of forested lands, putting 33,000 hectares of landscapes under improved practices, and mitigating over 12 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e. 6,000 direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender are expected to benefit from the project through improved access to incentives and services.

**10188 Trinidad and Tobago: BIOREACH: Biodiversity Conservation and Agroecological Land Restoration in Productive Landscapes of Trinidad and Tobago (FAO)**

The project will promote biodiversity conservation, restore degraded lands and improve livelihoods of rural communities in targeted productive landscapes. This project will work in and around areas of biodiversity significance that are threatened by agriculture to develop multi-stakeholder management and planning, sustainable agricultural practices and land management, and green value chains for sustainable products. Some of these areas are home to long term squatters who have received government permission and, therefore, need support to move from short term, often environmentally degrading agriculture to long term sustainable practices such as agroforestry. Trinidad and Tobago imports most of its food, so this project will also work to improve farmer field schools and create value chains for these sustainable products. At the same time, the project will support actions to directly support threatened species such as reforestation of key riparian corridors, species recovery plans, and invasive species and fire management. This project will support the improved management of 1,000 hectares of productive lands and the restoration of 1,500 hectares.

**10191 Moldova: Moldova Agriculture Competitiveness Project GEF Additional Financing (World Bank)**

The project will enhance the competitiveness of the country's agri-food sector by supporting the modernization of the food safety management system, facilitating market access for farmers, and mainstreaming agro-environmental and SLM practices. GEF financing will support scaling up of baseline SLM activities with the aim of combating land degradation and increasing land productivity. The project is fully aligned with the GEF-7 Land Degradation Strategy along

the cross-cutting objective of harnessing private capital and expertise to finance SLM investments. It makes a further push on private sector engagement in switching towards SLM practices and technologies, solid co-financing investments, and actively participating in knowledge sharing and dissemination programs. The project will generate global environmental benefits by bringing 100,000 hectares under SLM, restoring 2,000 hectares of degraded land, and thereby sequestering 390,000 tCO<sub>2e</sub>.

**10192 Zambia: Ecosystem Conservation and Community Livelihood Enhancement in North Western Zambia (UNEP)**

The project aims to strengthen community-based sustainable management of dryland forest landscapes in the North West Province (NWP) where deforestation is a major problem. Deforestation rates are estimated at around 20,000 hectares per year in NWP; rural poverty is a key driver of land-use changes and unsustainable levels of natural resource use. The country is already experiencing the effects of climate change, and future trends are towards higher temperatures, with an increased frequency and intensity of droughts and floods, affecting food and water security, and livelihoods. The proposed project will help to develop the enabling regulatory and planning framework for Community Forest Management Areas (CFMAs) and Participatory Forest Management Areas (PFMAs), support landscape restoration, sustainable value-chain approaches, and promote sustainable agricultural practices to improve productivity, gender equality, and climate resilience in CFMAs and PFMAs. In terms of global environmental benefits, the project will conserve 80,000 hectares of High Conservation Value Dryland Forests, support SLM on 20,000 hectares of production landscapes, and restore 5,000 hectares of degraded lands.

**10195 Regional (Regional, Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Lucia) CSIDS-SOILCARE Phase 1: Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Multi-country soil management initiative for Integrated Landscape Restoration and climate-resilient food systems (FAO)**

The project will enable seven Caribbean SIDS (Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica and Saint Lucia) to achieve climate-resilient LDN. The SIDS are ecologically fragile and vulnerable to adverse impacts of climate change as well as unsustainable agriculture and forestry practices that are leading to land degradation. This project will review and update regional and national policy, legal, institutional, and knowledge frameworks and establish regional financing mechanisms for effective LDN implementation; support country level land rehabilitation, SLM, sustainable soil management and climate smart agriculture interventions; and enhance food production systems through innovations in agriculture and livestock production systems. It will mainstream climate resilience practices at a regional scale by supporting relevant regional climate modeling, identifying climate resilient SLM technologies and practices, mainstreaming adaptation in SLM policies and plans, and supporting regional capacity-building and knowledge management activities for climate-resilient SLM. It will also enable regional institutions working on adaptation and SLM to work more closely together. The project is expected to impact 80,000 hectares of land, directly benefit least 5,000 people, train

1,000 people regionally on climate risks and adaptation options, and deliver carbon benefits of mitigating the equivalent of 5.8 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e over the project lifetime. This is a multi-trust fund project with the SCCF. The SCCF financing for this project amounts to \$1 million.

**10198 Regional: Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program (ASL2) (World Bank – CI – FAO – IFAD – UNDP – UNIDO – CAF – WWF-US)**

Conserving the Amazon biome is of critical global, regional, and local importance. As approximately half of the Amazon is under some form of legal protection (protected area or indigenous territory), such protection needs to be reinforced against human and climatic risks. The remaining half requires improved territorial planning and sustainable management to avoid forest loss, provide livelihoods for indigenous peoples and local communities, and serve as the basis for sustainable social and economic development of the Amazon countries. The ASL2 Program includes Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, and Suriname, which together cover approximately 92 percent of the basin.

The ASL2 Program is founded on the logic that the ecological resilience of the Amazon biogeographical region can be maintained if: i) protected areas' size, management and financing are increased so that a representative area of the Amazon is effectively conserved under various regimes (protected areas, indigenous lands, etc.); ii) management of productive landscapes between protected areas is improved, in particular that agriculture, forest and degraded lands and fresh water systems are adequately managed, with zero illegal deforestation tolerance, and increased productivity and adoption of land sparing approaches; iii) governance and incentives for protected and productive landscapes are enhanced through adoption of national policies and strategies which support sustainable development and aim to minimize deforestation and loss of ecosystem services; and iv) key technical and institutional stakeholder capacity and regional cooperation are strengthened. A collaborative approach that combines these four elements with national and regional action can constitute the foundation of a truly integrated ecosystem management approach in the region and deliver global environmental benefits, including close to 32 million hectares of protected lands under improved management, more than 18,000 hectares of land restored, over 16 million hectares of landscapes under improved practices, more than 29.8 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e. Finally, this program will directly benefit an estimated 32,000 people.

**10201 Global: Food Systems, Land Use, and Restoration Impact Program (FOLUR) (World Bank – UNDP – IFAD – WWF-US – CI – UNIDO- UNEP – FAO)**

This Impact Program seeks to promote a transformational shift in agricultural land use and food systems that are major drivers of environmental degradation around the world. Agriculture as we know it today has a huge environmental foot print across many domains. How the world's food system and land use evolve over the coming few decades will therefore have major implications for the health of the planet. This is why the GEF must focus on reducing the threats from where and how food is produced to deliver on its mandate to produce global environmental benefits. In this regard, key land management obstacles have to be tackled in a

holistic way and at ecologically relevant scales. Landscape-scale interventions based on comprehensive land use planning are necessary to foster a transformational change in food systems and land use that is more environmentally sustainable.

The first cohort of the Impact Program includes 18 countries that have been selected based on their demonstration of strong alignment with the program vision and their high potential to generate global environmental benefits through investments in promoting transformational change. The countries are: China, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Peru, Ukraine, Vietnam, Kazakhstan, Liberia, Burundi, Colombia, Ghana, Guatemala, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Tanzania, Thailand. The Impact Program will benefit participating countries by helping them to reconcile competing social, economic, and environmental objectives of land management, and move away from unsustainable sectoral approaches. Specifically, the GEF support will help countries meet the growing demand for increased crop and livestock production, while reducing the risk of further expansion of farmland, erosion of genetic diversity, overexploitation of land and water resources, overuse of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, and inefficient practices that lead to deforestation, biodiversity loss, land degradation, and greenhouse gas emissions.

The FOLUR Impact Program is expected to deliver significant global environmental benefits including 1.2 million hectares of terrestrial protected areas under improved management for conservation and sustainable, 1.8 million hectares of land restored, 38.9 million hectares of landscapes under improved practices; and 209 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e of GHG emissions mitigated. With a strong emphasis on inclusion and gender equality, the Program will directly benefit to around 5 million people, including Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and CSOs.

#### **10204 India: Transforming Agricultural Systems and Strengthening Local Economies in High Biodiversity Areas of India Through Sustainable Landscape Management and Public-Private Finance (UNEP-IUCN)**

The project will reduce land degradation and conserve biodiversity in agricultural landscapes in the Indian states of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka by promoting sustainable agricultural production, supply chains, and public-private finance. The project has been structured according to four components: i) enabling institutional, fiscal, and strategic frameworks, at the national and state levels, that promote sustainable agricultural landscapes contributing to LDN and biodiversity conservation; ii) scaling up of sustainable agriculture and landscape management for attaining LDN, biodiversity conservation and inclusive economic growth among rural producers in priority agricultural landscapes of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh; iii) strengthening market mechanisms and public-private finance for long-term adoption of SLM practices and increased investment in priority landscapes in the two project states; and iv) knowledge management and national outreach on sustainable farming, sustainable land management zero-budget natural farming, and land degradation neutrality, and biodiversity conservation. At the farm level, the project will build commitment to sustainable farming by demonstrating a positive benefit-cost ratio for farmers, enabling their access to technical and financial services and generating market commitment to source sustainably produced

commodities. In the wider landscape, the project will facilitate effective participatory governance to plan and manage land use in forested, fallow, and productive areas through conservation and optimization of ecosystem service flows from biodiverse areas around farmlands, SLM, and restoration. The GEBs resulting from this investment will include 150,000 hectares of restored lands, 1.8 million hectares of landscapes under improved management, and directly benefit over 1.7 million people.

#### **10206 Global: Sustainable Forest Management Impact Program on Dryland Sustainable Landscapes (FAO – World Bank – IUCN – WWF-US)**

Drylands extend over more than 40 percent of the Earth's landmass, are affected by some of the world's most pressing environmental and development challenges and have been historically neglected in terms of coordinated investments. Drylands are home to around two billion people (over 25 percent of the world's population), contain 44 percent of the world's agricultural land (58.4 percent of that in Africa) and supply about 60 percent of the world's food production. They also contain some of the most fragile and threatened ecosystems on the planet, including over one quarter of global biodiversity hotspots and many threatened and endemic species. Drylands also provide much of the world's grain and livestock, many tree products and vegetable species, as well as globally important agro-biodiversity.

The objective of the Dryland Sustainable Landscapes Program is to avoid, reduce, and reverse further degradation, desertification, and deforestation of land and ecosystems in drylands, through the sustainable management of production landscapes. The Program will transform the management of drylands in selected regions and countries, establishing the basis for the scaling out of sustainable dryland management to regional and global levels. The program framework enables participating countries to address DLDD issues. The program will focus specifically on three dryland regions: the Miombo and Mopane ecosystems of southern Africa (participating countries: Angola, Botswana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Zimbabwe), the savannas of west Africa (Burkina Faso) and the temperate grasslands, savannas and shrublands of Central Asia (Kazakhstan and Mongolia).

In terms of global environmental benefits, the program will bring 12 million hectares under sustainable land management, including 1.2 million hectares primarily benefitting biodiversity and avoiding deforestation of 240,000 hectares of high conservation value forests (HCVF). In addition, the program will improve the management effectiveness in 1.6 million hectares of protected areas and restore 1.2 million hectares of degraded land in the drylands. All these activities will result in GHG emission reductions of in total 81 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e.

#### **10208 Regional: Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program (UNEP – World Bank – WWF-US – IUCN)**

The Congo Basin is globally important for climate regulation, rainfall patterns, carbon storage, biodiversity conservation, and provisioning multiple services for human communities and forest dependent people. The Congo Basin is still in relatively good health, with intact forests, and low



deforestation and forest degradation rates, mainly driven by small-scale agriculture. However, the vast natural resources are threatened by unsustainable exploitation, including mining, industrial agriculture (palm oil, coffee, cocoa, rubber), oil exploration and exploitation, commercial logging, charcoal fuel wood, and bush meat hunting. Given that the Congo Basin spans six countries, a key driver of program success is the extent of regional cooperation among countries, on which the survival of the Basin depends on

The objective of the Congo Basin Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program (CBSL Impact Program) is to catalyze transformational change in conservation and sustainable management of the Congo Basin through landscape approaches that empower local communities and forest dependent people, and through partnership with the private sector. Actions will address immediate problems related to biodiversity loss and lack of tenure and land rights for forest dependent people, but also aim to prepare the region for dealing with increasing threats in the near future, as the development of infrastructure and large-scale agribusiness plantations with the risks of irreversible damage to the integrity and functioning of the Congo Basin Forest ecosystem. An alternative development pathway for the basin that relies on local planning and governance systems, sustainable non-timber forest product value-chains with local stakeholders and the private sector, as well as the valuation of ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration and freshwater provisioning, needs to be part of the response to conserve large patches of intact forests, globally important biodiversity, regional climate, and GHG emission from forest and peatland degradation and destruction.

In terms of global environmental benefits, the CBSL Impact Program will improve the management effectiveness of 20 protected areas covering more than 7 million hectares, create 600,000 hectares of new protected areas, restore 500,000 hectares of forest and forest lands, and improve land management practices on more than 4.3 million hectares of landscapes. All these activities will result in GHG emissions reductions of 121 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e and target 358,000 direct beneficiaries, more than half being females (53 percent).

### **10216 Dominican Republic: Integrated Productive Landscapes through Land Use Planning, Restoration, and Sustainable Intensification of Rice Crops in the Yaque Norte and Yuna Watersheds (World Bank)**

The project will strengthen integrated landscape management in targeted watersheds and expand the area under improved land use practices in targeted watersheds. Inadequate land use planning and natural resource management has caused an imbalance between needs of agriculture and the impact on environment, leading to degradation of land and ecosystems. The GEF project will focus on improving the enabling environment for integrated landscapes management; scaling up sustainable rice intensification systems (SRI) by small and medium size producers to improve productivity, water use efficiency and biodiversity conservation through reduced use of agrochemicals; and restoration of biodiversity and hydrological ecosystem services in upper watersheds. In terms of global environmental benefits, the project is expected to restore 554 hectares land, improve SLM practices on 4,507 hectares, and deliver climate co-benefits of mitigating the equivalent of 500,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e over the project lifetime.

**10220 Honduras: Protecting Biodiversity and Recovering Degraded ecosystems - RECOVER Honduras (UNDP)**

The project aims to conserve biodiversity through improved connectivity, reduction of threats, and effective management of protected areas and biological corridors in Northern Honduras. The project will strengthen the enabling and territorial governance framework for biodiversity conservation and improved connectivity between protected areas/key biodiversity areas in production landscapes, and mainstreaming biodiversity and SLM practices into production landscapes. The project will enhance the management effectiveness and financial sustainability of six protected areas and consolidate biological corridors that are being subjected to non-sustainable production practices that result in the loss of biodiversity and land degradation. This project will deliver Global Environment Benefits by improving the management of 299,634 hectares of terrestrial protected areas, improving the management of 50,000 hectares of production landscapes, and restore 30,000 hectares of degraded agricultural land and forests.