



**Report of the Global Environment Facility  
to the Thirteenth Session of the Conference of the Parties  
to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification**

19 July 2017

## ***Table of Contents***

Abbreviations and Acronyms .....	iii
Executive Summary .....	iv
Introduction .....	1
Goals and Objectives of the Land Degradation Focal Area .....	1
Part I: GEF's Response to COP Decisions .....	2
Part II: Status of GEF Land Degradation Focal Area Portfolio .....	4
Programming Trends .....	5
Focal Area Objectives .....	5
Multifocal Area Programming .....	7
Geographical Trends .....	8
Part III: Sustainable Land Management Addressed through Other GEF Funding Windows .....	10
Cross-Cutting Capacity Development Program .....	10
Small Grants Program .....	10
Non-Grant Instruments .....	11
Multi-Trust Fund Projects .....	11
Part IV: Progress in GEF-6 Programming .....	12
Progress in Overall Programming of Land Degradation Focal Area Resources .....	12
Progress in Utilization of STAR Resources .....	13
Progress in Utilization of Set-Aside Resources .....	13
Part V: Portfolio Monitoring and Assessment .....	14
Progress towards GEF-6 Corporate Targets .....	14
Annual Portfolio Monitoring Reporting .....	14
Analysis of GEF-5 Focal Area Progress towards Targets .....	15
Land Degradation Focal Area Evaluation .....	15
GEF Support to Land Degradation Neutrality and Sustainable Development Goals .....	16
Part VI: Conclusions .....	17
Annexes .....	19
Annex 1. GEF-6 Land Degradation Focal Area Results-Based Management Framework .....	20
Annex 2. Land Degradation Focal Area Project Portfolio Approved in FY16 and FY17 .....	24
Annex 3. Land Degradation-Relevant Projects Approved under Other Windows in FY16 and FY17 .....	33
Annex 4. Summary of Approved Programs and Projects .....	37

## Abbreviations and Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AfDB	African Development Bank
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
CSP	Country Support Program
DLDD	Desertification, Land Degradation, and Drought
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FY	Fiscal Year
GEBs	Global Environmental Benefits
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
IAP	Integrated Approach Pilot
IADB	Inter-American Development Bank
IEO	Independent Evaluation Office of the GEF
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IUCN	International Union for the 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
NDVI	Normalized Difference Vegetation Index
NGI	Non-Grant Instruments
OPF	Operational Focal Point
PES	Payment for Ecosystem Services
PIF	Project Identification Form
PIR	Project Implementation Report
PPG	Project Preparation Grant
RBM	Results Based Management
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
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 thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in Ordos, China, from September 6 to 16, 2017. This is the sixth report prepared by the GEF to the COP in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the UNCCD Secretariat and the GEF Secretariat. This is the fourth time the GEF is reporting since the GEF Instrument was amended to list the UNCCD among the Conventions for which the GEF serves as a financial mechanism.
2. The report provides information on GEF activities in the GEF Land Degradation Focal Area (LDFA), specifically sustainable land management (SLM), for the period of July 2015 to June 2017. Activities in other GEF Focal Areas and funding windows related to SLM are also presented. The reporting period coincides with the second and third years of the Sixth GEF Replenishment Phase (GEF-6, from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2018) and therefore also informs on the cumulative progress 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 COP12 on Collaboration with the GEF. Details of the decisions and progress with responses and actions taken by the GEF Secretariat are presented in this report in Part I.

## Highlights of Land Degradation Portfolio Trends

### *Total GEF Programming*

4. A total of 60 projects were approved with funding from the LDFA and other related funding windows during the reporting period. The total GEF grant for these projects amounts to \$587.7 million, which leveraged \$3,225 million in co-financing. These resources were utilized by countries through eleven stand-alone LDFA projects using \$30.0 million, and 49 multi-focal area (MFA) projects using \$557.7 million of GEF resources.

**Table 1: GEF Programming in the Reporting Period (July 2015 to June 2017)**

Project Type	Number of Projects	GEF Resources (\$ Million)	Co-finance (\$ Million)
LDFA Stand-Alone	11	30.0	171.2
Multi-Focal Area	49	557.7	3,054.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>587.7</b>	<b>3,225.3</b>

5. The 49 MFA projects approved during the reporting period include \$93.2 million of LDFA resources. This investment was linked to \$464.5 million of GEF resources mobilized from other focal areas and incentive programs, including Biodiversity (\$234.3 million), Climate

Change (\$78.0 million), the Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) incentive program (\$148.5 million), International Waters (\$0.8 million), and Chemicals and Waste (\$2.9 million).

### *Regional Distribution*

6. The LDFA portfolio approved during the reporting period is represented by 53 national projects in 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 \$496.9 million were approved during the reporting period. The remaining \$90.8 million were programmed through six global and one regional projects designed to invest in coordinated actions by multiple countries (29 countries, most of them in Africa) or address specific thematic issues for SLM.

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

7. Twenty-three projects were approved during the reporting period by other GEF funding windows with LDFA relevance, including 19 projects through the Cross-Cutting Capacity Development (CCCD) Program, three projects through the Non-Grant Instruments (NGI) pilot program, and one multi-trust fund project with the Least Developed Country Fund (LDCF). Through those windows, \$39.5 million in grants and \$31.6 million in non-grant support were provided, leveraging \$270 million in co-finance.

### **Overall Progress in GEF-6**

#### *Overall Programming of LDFA Allocation*

8. Of the total \$431 million allocated to the LDFA during GEF-6, \$246.3 million has been programmed from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2017. This represents a LDFA utilization percentage of 57.1% of the allocation three years into GEF-6 (July 2014 to June 2018) and is in line with overall programming in GEF-6 across all focal areas.
9. The GEF Council, at its 51<sup>st</sup> meeting in October 2016, approved a measure to address the funding shortfall resulting from currency fluctuations<sup>1</sup>. The revised target for the LDFA allocation is currently expected to be around \$365 million, which is approximately 85% of the total allocation of \$431 million. Allocations for least developed countries, small island developing states, LDFA set-asides, and Enabling Activities are not affected.

#### *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 are directly allocated to 144 countries for land degradation. Through June 2017, \$178.0 million (51.4%) of the total LDFA STAR allocation has been utilized by 72 out of 144 countries.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.thegef.org/council-meeting-documents/update-gef-6-resource-availability-0>

## *Enabling Activity Financing*

11. The GEF announced its support for the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Target Setting Project (GEF ID #9365) at COP12 in Ankara in 2015. At COP12, 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. This project has been approved and has utilized the allocated \$3 million. In addition, a global support program in cooperation with the Global Mechanism is in preparation. Furthermore, countries can already apply for a \$70,000 Enabling Activity support provided through a separate umbrella project. So far, 54 countries have submitted their Operational Focal Point (OFP) endorsement letter as a precondition to receive the funds.

## **Portfolio Monitoring and Assessment**

12. Building on the focal area mandate and the opportunities for transformational impact, the GEF-6 focal area corporate target is an aggregate area of 120 million hectares (ha) under SLM coverage. This target includes potential coverage across crop, rangeland and forest landscapes in affected regions. The approved GEF-6 projects to date have a cumulative ex ante target of 73.4 million ha, approximately 61% of the corporate target, which points to satisfactory progress towards achieving the target. The LDFA projects approved during the reporting period are contributing 34.1 million ha, approximately 28% of the GEF-6 corporate target.
13. The Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) of the GEF has evaluated the LDFA assessing its relevance, performance, effectiveness, and value for money. The comprehensive study<sup>2</sup> encompasses GEF grant funding activities in agricultural lands, rangelands, degraded productive lands, desert lands, and combating deforestation and desertification. It covers 485 LDFA projects through an analysis of the results of 76 already completed projects, quality at entry assessments, and 20 key informant interviews.
14. The IEO study confirms 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 desertification, land degradation, and drought (DLDD) issues. It also created valuable lessons on programming and priorities in the affected regions, which will help to inform directions for the focal area in the GEF-7 replenishment phase.
15. The value for money analysis shows significantly reduced fragmentation and forest and vegetation losses. LDFA projects increased the normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI) by 0.03% and reduced forest loss by 1.3%. The greatest returns begin about 4.5 to 5.5 years after projects begin, suggesting the need for longer time horizons to observe benefits. The estimated carbon sequestered was 43.52 tons of carbon per ha, which

---

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.gefio.org/evaluations/land-degradation-focal-area-ldfa-study>

translates into a dollar return – considering only carbon sequestration – of \$1.08 per \$1.0 invested.

16. GEF's Annual Portfolio Monitoring Report 2016<sup>3</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 44 LDFA projects currently under implementation, 93% were rated moderately satisfactory or higher with regard to implementation progress, above the 75% corporate goal. In terms of achieving their development objective, 94% of the projects are achieving ratings of moderately satisfactory or higher, again above the 75% corporate goal.

## Conclusions

17. 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 wishing to set voluntary LDN targets as part of the SDGs, and to achieve them.

---

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/EN\\_GEF.C.51.03\\_APMR\\_0.pdf](https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/EN_GEF.C.51.03_APMR_0.pdf)

## Introduction

1. The Land Degradation Focal Area (LDFA) is the window of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for investing in projects and programs to combat land degradation, which directly supports the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). The LDFA fosters synergetic benefits with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and relevant international agreements on the sustainable use of international waters. It also contributes to the UN Forest Instrument of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF).
2. This report presents the detailed status of the GEF project and program portfolio for the LDFA, including LDFA stand-alone and multifocal area (MFA) projects, covering the period from July 2015 to June 2017. This period coincides with the second and third years of GEF-6. Details of programming trends are presented for focal area objectives and the five regional UNCCD Annexes.
3. 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.
4. The report further provides an update on the accumulated programming of resources in GEF-6, including utilization of the System for a Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR), LDFA set-asides, and financing for Enabling Activities under the UNCCD.
5. In addition to the synthesis on programming trends, the report presents details of the Conference of the Parties (COP) decisions and progress with responses and actions taken by the GEF Secretariat.
6. A synthesis of the focal area portfolio monitoring and assessment is presented, based on analysis of the now complete suite of GEF-5 tracking tools and evaluations of the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) of the GEF.

## Goals and Objectives of the Land Degradation Focal Area

7. The goal of the GEF LDFA is to contribute to arresting and reversing current global trends in land degradation, specifically desertification and deforestation. This is accomplished by investing in projects that promote and support good practices conducive to SLM, and that are able to generate global environmental benefits (GEBs) while supporting social and economic development at the local and national level. In addition, the focal area also supports the application of effective policies, legal and regulatory frameworks, capable institutions, knowledge sharing and monitoring mechanisms for advancing SLM.
8. The portfolio of GEF projects and programs implemented under the LDFA strategy is based on results-based management (RBM) framework that includes objectives, outcomes, outputs and indicators. The framework for GEF-6 includes four objectives, with target



outcomes and outputs (see Annex 1). The GEF-6 corporate target is 120 million hectares (ha) under SLM.

9. The GEF-6 strategy builds on previous GEF replenishment phases, and emphasizes maximizing transformational impact through scaling-up and mainstreaming of SLM in national development pathways. The LDFA strategy also supports GEF's medium-term strategy called GEF 2020<sup>4</sup>, which emphasizes the need to address root causes of global environmental degradation through drivers-based approach and seeking synergy. All projects and programs are designed to contribute to the agreed GEBs and expected socio-economic benefits as follows:
  - (a) Agreed GEBs:
    - i. Improved provision of agro-ecosystems and forest ecosystem goods and services.
    - ii. Reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from agriculture, deforestation and forest degradation and increased carbon sequestration.
    - iii. Reduced vulnerability of agro-ecosystem and forest ecosystems to climate change and other human-induced impacts.
  - (b) Expected national socio-economic benefits:
    - i. Sustained livelihoods for people dependent on the use and management of natural resources (land, water and biodiversity).
    - ii. Reduced vulnerability to impacts of climate change of people dependent on the use and management of natural resources in agricultural and forest ecosystems.

## **Part I: GEF's Response to COP Decisions**

10. During the period covered by this report, substantial progress was made in responding to decisions taken at UNCCD COP12 in Ankara on Collaboration with the GEF and other decisions with relevance to the GEF.<sup>5</sup> Details of the decisions and progress with responses and actions taken by the GEF Secretariat are presented in Table 2.

---

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.thegef.org/publications/gef-2020-strategy-gef>

<sup>5</sup> [http://www2.unccd.int/sites/default/files/sessions/documents/ICCD\\_COP12\\_20\\_Add.1/20add1eng.pdf](http://www2.unccd.int/sites/default/files/sessions/documents/ICCD_COP12_20_Add.1/20add1eng.pdf)

**Table 2: GEF's Response to UNCCD COP12 Decisions of Relevance to GEF**

COP 12 Decisions	GEF's Response
Invites the GEF to continue its support for the implementation of the Convention under GEF-6 in the light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular target 15.3.	The GEF is responding to this decision, particularly through support to the voluntary Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) target setting program. Work is also in progress to support LDN implementation through several national projects as part of regular programming in GEF-6 (see Part V of this report). Summaries of projects supported to combat desertification and restore degraded land and soil have also been provided in Annex 4.
Also invites the donors to the GEF to consider providing increased support to address country priorities relating to the implementation of the Convention, in the light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular target 15.3, during the planning process for GEF-7.	To be considered by countries for the GEF-7 replenishment discussions.
Encourages Parties to engage in South–South cooperation under GEF-6 and invites the GEF to continue its support to Parties in this regard.	In progress as part of regular programming in GEF-6, which gives due consideration to South-South cooperation.
Also invites the GEF to consider enhancing its support to the GEF Small Grants Programme under GEF-7.	To be considered for the GEF-7 replenishment discussions.
Further invites donors to the GEF 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 GEF and the Convention's focal points and their constituencies, to advocate for a balanced allocation of funds among the Rio conventions.	To be considered by countries for the GEF-7 replenishment discussions.
Also invites the GEF to continue its GEF Country Support Programme, including GEF workshops aimed at strengthening the capacity of Parties to utilize GEF resources for the effective implementation of the Convention.	In progress as part of the regular work of the country support program. UNCCD focal points are supported to attend the ECWs, providing opportunity for enhanced synergy with other convention focal points. The GEF Secretariat has also started an Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) synergy session at each ECW, with participation of MEA Secretariat representatives including UNCCD.

COP 12 Decisions	GEF's Response
Invites the GEF, in the context of Enabling Activities under GEF-6, to consider technical and financial support for voluntary national land degradation neutrality target-setting.	GEF has allocated \$3 million of the available \$15 million budgeted for Enabling Activity support to specifically support LDN target setting through a global Enabling Activity project. The project was approved by the GEF Council as part of the Intersessional Work Program in April 2016.
Invites the GEF to report on the implementation of this decision as part of its next report to the Conference of the Parties.	Noted. The GEF is providing information on the implementation of COP decision.
Requests the UNCCD and GEF secretariats to continue consultations on the arrangements for the delivery of funding Enabling Activities for the sixth GEF replenishment phase (GEF-6) with a view to securing technical and financial support for the next reporting exercise, including in the area of progress reporting and national target-setting towards achieving LDN.	With official communication dated March 18, 2015, the GEF Secretariat proposed to the UNCCD Secretariat GEF-6 arrangements for support to eligible Country Parties on Enabling Activities during GEF-6. With official communication dated July 8, 2015, the UNCCD Secretariat welcomed the proposed arrangements. Based on this agreement, consultations with Parties were made during COP12. In several follow-up meetings with UNCCD and Global Mechanism staff, the ongoing arrangements were deemed satisfactory.
Invites the UNCCD secretariat to continue working with the secretariat of the GEF to revise the memorandum of understanding (MOU) in light of the text of the Convention, including its objective, as well as decisions from the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties, in particular 9/COP.12, paragraph 4, 8/COP.12, and 3/COP.12	In collaboration between the two secretariats, the MOU has been revised and updated as a draft to take into account decisions of the COP and was forwarded to the COP Bureau for clearance. Subsequently, the draft amendments were presented to the GEF Council for decision at 51 <sup>st</sup> GEF Council in October 2016, followed by a comment period until the end of January 2017. The final draft version of the MOU amendment is presented to this COP for decision.

## Part II: Status of GEF Land Degradation Focal Area Portfolio

11. During the reporting period, a total of 60 projects were approved with funding from the LDFA and other related funding windows. The total GEF grant for these projects amounts to US\$587.7 million.
12. These resources were utilized either as stand-alone LDFA projects or through MFA projects that combine LDFA resources with resources from other focal areas or incentive programs such as Biodiversity, Climate Change, International Waters, Chemicals and Waste, and the Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) incentive program.

13. Of the total GEF grant, \$123.2 million were allocated from the LDFA. The portfolio includes eleven stand-alone projects utilizing \$30.0 million of LDFA resources and 49 multi-focal area projects using \$93.2 million of LDFA resources. The multifocal area projects provide an additional amount of \$464.5 million, which means that every dollar of LDFA resources programmed through MFA projects could leverage \$3.8 from other GEF focal areas and incentives to address multiple objectives.
14. While the average GEF grant amount for a LDFA stand-alone project is \$2.7 million, it is \$11.3 million for MFA projects.

## Programming Trends

15. The LDFA portfolio of 60 projects for the reporting period includes 50 full-sized projects, nine medium-sized projects, and one Enabling Activity. While six out of nine medium-sized projects are stand-alone projects utilizing \$14.0 million of the focal area resources, only five of the 50 full-sized projects were stand-alone projects amounting to \$13.0 million of the LDFA resources. The Enabling Activity project accounted for \$3.0 million of the LDFA resources.
16. As shown in Table 3 below, 36 out of the 60 projects were approved in fiscal year (FY) 2016 and 24 projects in FY17, corresponding to the second and third years of the GEF-6 period. The total GEF grant of \$587.7 million<sup>6</sup> leveraged \$3.23 billion co-financing, with a co-financing ratio of 1 to 5.5. These resources were utilized by countries through eleven stand-alone LDFA projects using \$30.0 million and 49 MFA projects using \$557.7 million of GEF resources.

**Table 3: GEF Programming in the Reporting Period (FY16-FY17)**

Time Period	Project Type	Number of Projects	GEF Resources (\$ Million)	Co-finance (\$ Million)
July 2015 – June 2016 (2 <sup>nd</sup> Year of GEF-6)	LDFA Stand-Alone	4	10.0	27.6
	Multi-Focal Area	32	414.3	2,183.3
July 2016 – June 2017 (3 <sup>rd</sup> Year of GEF-6)	LDFA Stand-Alone	7	20.0	143.6
	Multi-Focal Area	17	143.4	870.8
	<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>587.7</b>	<b>3,225.3</b>

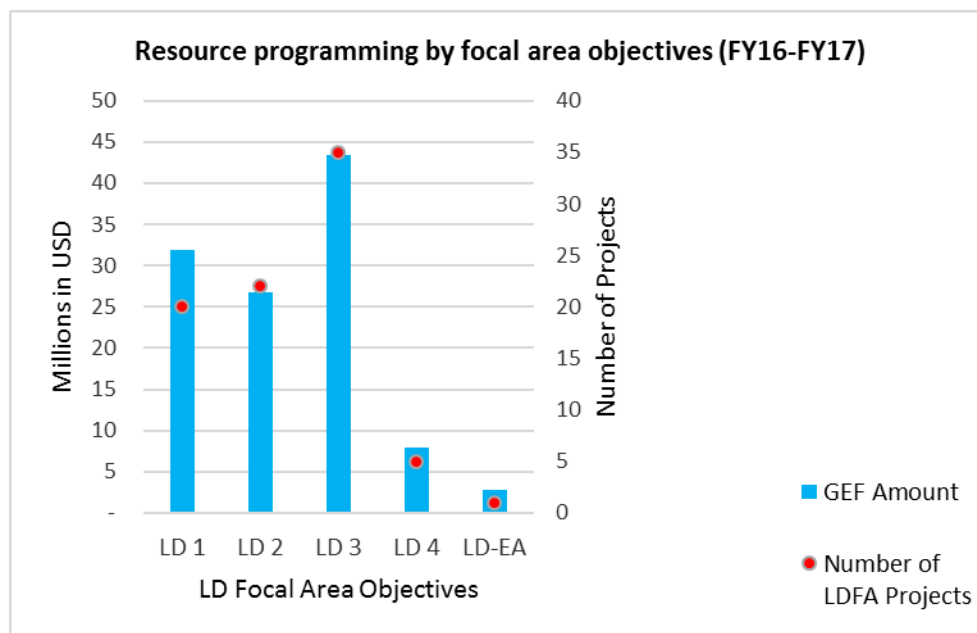
## Focal Area Objectives

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

<sup>6</sup> Figures include GEF Project Preparation Grants (PPG) and agency fees.

- (a) **LD-1: Agriculture and Rangeland Systems:** Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem services to sustain food production and livelihoods;
  - (b) **LD-2: Forest Landscapes:** Generate sustainable flows of forest ecosystem services, including sustaining livelihoods of forest dependent people;
  - (c) **LD-3: Integrated Landscapes:** Reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses in the wider landscape; and
  - (d) **LD-4: Maximizing Transformational Impact:** Maintain land resources and agro-ecosystem services through mainstreaming at scale.
18. Objective three (LD-3) accounted for the highest resource allocation with \$43.3 million programmed through 34 projects. Objective one (LD-1) also showed strong programming with \$31.9 million of the LDFA resources allocated through 20 projects, closely followed by objective two (LD-2) with \$26.7 million programmed through 22 projects. Objective four (LD-4) was addressed in six projects with \$7.8 million programmed. Several projects address more than one LD objective.

**Figure 1: Programming of LDFA Grants by GEF-6 Focal Area Objectives (FY16-FY17)**



19. A total of \$109.8 million were directed towards the four LDFA objectives, with an additional \$2.8 million going towards the LDFA Enabling Activities. These figures exclude Agency fees and Project Preparatory Grants (PPGs) as those cannot be assigned to the specific objectives.

## Multifocal Area Programming

20. As mentioned above, the LDFA portfolio includes 49 MFA projects and programs approved during the reporting period with a total amount of \$557 million. Table 4 shows the detailed contribution of different focal areas to these MFA projects. \$93.2 million of LDFA focal area resources were programmed through these MFA projects<sup>7</sup>. This investment was linked to \$464.5 million of GEF resources mobilized from other focal areas and incentive programs, including Biodiversity (\$234.3 million), Climate Change (\$78.0 million), the SFM incentive program (\$148.5 million), International Waters (\$0.8 million), and Chemicals and Waste (\$2.9 million).

**Table 4: Multifocal Area (MFA) Programming in the Reporting Period (FY16-FY17)**

Focal Area	MFA Programming (\$ Million)	Share of Focal Area on MFA programming (%)
Land Degradation	93.2	16.8
Biodiversity	234.3	42.0
Climate Change	78.0	14.0
SFM Program	148.5	26.6
International Waters	0.8	0.1
Chemicals & Waste	2.9	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>557.7</b>	<b>100.0</b>

21. The links 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 high programming of focal area resources in objectives LD-1, LD-2, and LD-3, which serve as a framework for cross-focal area linkages to enhance multiple GEBs, including increased landscape connectivity (Biodiversity focal area), carbon sequestration and reduction of land-based emissions of GHGs (Climate Change Mitigation focal area). LDFA objectives are also addressed through the SFM incentive program as well as the Integrated Approach Pilots (IAP) *Fostering Sustainability and Resilience for Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa* (GEF ID #9070) and *Taking Deforestation Out of Commodity Supply Chains* (GEF ID #9072).
22. Of the 49 multi-focal area projects included in the LDFA portfolio in the reporting period, 25 leveraged funding from the SFM incentive program, amounting to \$148.5 million. As expected, these projects were designed to improve conservation and sustainable use of forest landscapes through integration of SLM interventions. A large SFM incentive program investment of \$40.3 million was made in the *Amazon Sustainable Landscapes*

<sup>7</sup> Figures include GEF Project Preparation Grants (PPG) and agency fees.

*Program* (GEF ID #9272) with a focus on biodiversity conservation. Another significant investment of \$20.5 million of SFM incentives went into *The Restoration Initiative - Fostering Innovation and Integration in Support of the Bonn Challenge* (GEF ID #9264), a program focused on forest and landscape restoration.

## Geographical Trends

23. The LDFA portfolio is represented by 53 national projects in 50 countries across all five UNCCD Annexes – Africa, Asia, Latin America and Caribbean, Central and Eastern Europe, and North Mediterranean (see Table 5). For these five UNCCD regions, total GEF grants of \$496.7 million were approved during the reporting period. The remaining \$90.8 million were programmed through six global and one regional projects designed to invest in coordinated actions by multiple countries (29 countries, most of them in Africa) or address specific thematic issues for SLM.

**Table 5: Number of Projects and Total GEF Grants by UNCCD Annexes (FY16-FY17)**

Region	Number of Projects	Total GEF Grant (\$ Million)
Africa	10	74.9
Asia	19	139.9
Latin America and Caribbean	20	274.6
North Mediterranean	2	3.7
Central and Eastern Europe	2	3.8
Global projects	6	86.8
Regional projects	1	4.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>587.7</b>

## Africa Region

24. For the period covered by this report, the Africa region has programmed a total GEF grant of \$74.9 million through ten national projects in Rwanda, Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, Morocco, Mauritania, Eritrea, Chad, Kenya, and Madagascar. It is noteworthy that these projects are all MFA projects with eight of them receiving additional funding from the SFM incentive program.
25. In addition, the Africa region benefits significantly from global and regional projects and programs, with a large part of the \$90.8 million GEF investment going towards a number of African countries, including Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo DR, Egypt, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Sao Tome and Principe, Mali, and Tanzania. One of the global projects is *The Restoration Initiative – Fostering Innovation and Integration in Support of the Bonn Challenge* (GEF ID #9264) led by

IUCN in cooperation with FAO and UNEP, a program which includes eight child projects in seven African countries.

### **Asia Region**

26. With 19 projects and programs and a total GEF investment of \$139.9 million, Asia has a strong portfolio for the reporting period, including two stand-alone projects in Lebanon and Iraq and 17 MFA projects. Among the MFA projects is a large investment of \$36.6 million in *Green-Ag: Transforming Indian Agriculture for Global Environmental Benefits and the Conservation of Critical Biodiversity and Forest Landscape* (GEF ID #9243).
27. The projects and programs in Asia mainly address objective three of the LDFA strategy for GEF-6, which invests in reducing pressures on natural resources from competing land uses in the wider landscape. Fourteen 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. An example for this approach is the project in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar *Sustainable Management of Peatland Ecosystems in Mekong Countries* (GEF ID #9232).

### **Latin America and Caribbean Region**

28. The Latin America and Caribbean region is represented with twenty projects in this reporting period, accounting for a total GEF grant of \$274.6 million. This relatively high figure is explained by a significant investment of \$113 million into the *Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program* (GEF ID #9272), which includes \$3 million of LDFA resources to address SLM in productive landscapes. The project cohort in Latin America and Caribbean region also comprises a \$23.9 million investment in Mexico through the World Bank led project *Sustainable Productive Landscapes* (GEF ID #9555).
29. The MFA projects account for most of the LDFA resources programmed by countries in the Latin America and Caribbean region. These projects largely addressed objective one (LD-1) and three (LD-3) of the GEF-6 focal area strategy, and mainly leverage resources from the Biodiversity focal area and the SFM incentive program to enhance integrated management of landscapes at scale. The only LDFA stand-alone project is the *Sustainable Land Management in the Commonwealth of Dominica* (GEF ID #9667), focusing on LDFA objectives one, two, and three.

### **North Mediterranean Region**

30. Among the twelve countries included in this UNCCD Annex, only two countries are GEF eligible, Albania and Turkey. Both countries requested GEF resources for LDFA stand-alone projects. The full-size project in Turkey is *Contributing to Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Target Setting by Demonstrating the LDN Approach in the Upper Sakarya Basin for Scaling up at National Level* (GEF ID #9586) and the medium-sized project in Albania is *Promoting Sustainable Land Management (SLM) through Integrated Restoration of Ecosystems* (GEF ID #9477).



## **Europe and Central Asia Region**

31. Two medium-sized projects were approved in countries in the Europe and Central Asia Region with a total GEF grant of \$3.8 million. In Moldova, the *Climate Adaptation and Forestry Project* (GEF ID #9754) and in Georgia, *Generating Economic and Environmental Benefits from Sustainable Land Management for Vulnerable Rural Communities* (GEF ID #9730). Countries of this region requested most of their resources in the first year of GEF-6 and have largely utilized their STAR resources.

## **Regional and Global Programming**

32. During the reporting period, in total \$90.8 million of GEF grants were programmed through six global projects and one regional project. The global projects in this cohort address specific thematic or cross-cutting issues that are crucial for advancing focal area agendas beyond national boundaries. One example is the medium-sized project *Enabling the use of Global Data Sources to assess and Monitor Land Degradation at Multiple Scales* (GEF ID #9163), implemented by Conservation International (CI). The single regional project is a transboundary project in Egypt and Jordan *Healthy Ecosystems for Rangeland Development: Sustainable Rangeland Management for Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change Mitigation* (GEF ID #9407).

## **Part III: Sustainable Land Management Addressed through Other GEF Funding Windows**

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

33. In GEF-6, the CCCD program continues 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. Nineteen CCCD-relevant projects were financed during the reporting period, for \$25.0 million of GEF grants and \$25.7 million in co-financing. The portfolio consists of 19 individual country projects funded within the reporting period. A list of these projects is provided in Annex 3.

### **Small Grants Program**

34. The total amount of STAR resources approved for the Small Grants Program (SGP) in the reporting period was \$38.7 million, with \$8.3 million utilized by 20 countries from their LDFA allocations under the STAR. These resources provide grants to civil society organizations (CSOs), community-based organizations, and indigenous groups to support SLM activities. The LDFA resources were mostly allocated to objective one (LD-1) and objective two (LD-2) of the LDFA strategy supporting sustainable management of agro-ecosystems and production landscapes with forests and trees outside forests where

deterioration of ecosystems services and goods undermines the livelihoods of grassroots communities.

35. During the reporting period, there has been an increasing 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. This area continues to expand rapidly in number of projects and investment levels.

### Non-Grant Instruments

36. Drawing on its experience in utilizing debt, equity and risk mitigation products in the past, 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 is endowed with \$110 million, which can be used for projects that deliver global environmental benefits in one or several of GEF's areas of work, including biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation and chemicals and waste management. The funding size is flexible and ranges from \$2 million up to \$15 million per project.
37. 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-6 strategies that may be broadly adopted and can be scaled up; and (ii) entail high levels of co-financing and focus on areas other than climate change.
38. In this reporting period, three NGI projects were linked to LDFA objectives. These projects invested \$31.6 million in GEF resources, which leveraged a co-financing of \$222.8 million. The projects include the *Junior Equity for Agro-Forestry in the Moringa Agro-forestry Fund for Africa* (GEF ID #9051), which promotes sustainable land management in production landscapes in Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Mali, Tanzania, Zambia, and Congo DR; a *Risk Mitigation Instrument for Land Restoration in Latin America* (GEF ID #9277); and *Piloting Innovative Investments for Sustainable Landscapes by supporting the Tropical Forests and Agriculture Fund* (GEF ID #9719), a strategic partnership with the Norwegian government, the Sustainable Trade Initiative, and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). A list of these projects is provided in Annex 3 and a brief description can be found in Annex 4.

### Multi-Trust Fund Projects

39. In addition to LDFA stand-alone and multifocal 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 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The funds are focused on climate change adaptation but because of their emphasis on production systems and

vulnerability of human livelihoods, synergy with SLM can sometimes be achieved through projects funded jointly by the GEF trust fund and the LDCF and/or the SCCF.

40. In the reporting period, one project to highlight is the project in Bhutan: *Enhancing Sustainability and Climate Resilience of Forest and Agricultural Landscape and Community Livelihoods* (GEF ID #9199) funded jointly by the GEF trust fund with \$3.8 million and the LDCF with \$11.8 million.

## Part IV: Progress in GEF-6 Programming

### Progress in Overall Programming of Land Degradation Focal Area Resources

41. Of the total \$431 million allocated to the LDFA during GEF-6, \$246.3 million (57.1%) has been programmed through June 30, 2017 (see Table 6). This amount covers all grants utilized by countries through stand-alone LDFA projects, LDFA resources programmed through MFA projects, Enabling Activities, and the SGP. It also includes investments through global and regional projects designed to support country-level actions on SLM financed by LDFA set-asides.

**Table 6: Status of LDFA Resource Utilization for GEF-6 (as of June 2017)**

	<b>Allocation (\$ Million)</b>	<b>Amount Programmed (\$ Million)</b>	<b>Share of Allocation Utilized (%)</b>
Total LDFA Allocation	431	246.3	57.1%
LDFA STAR Allocation	346	178.0	51.4%
LDFA Set-asides	85	68.3	80.3%

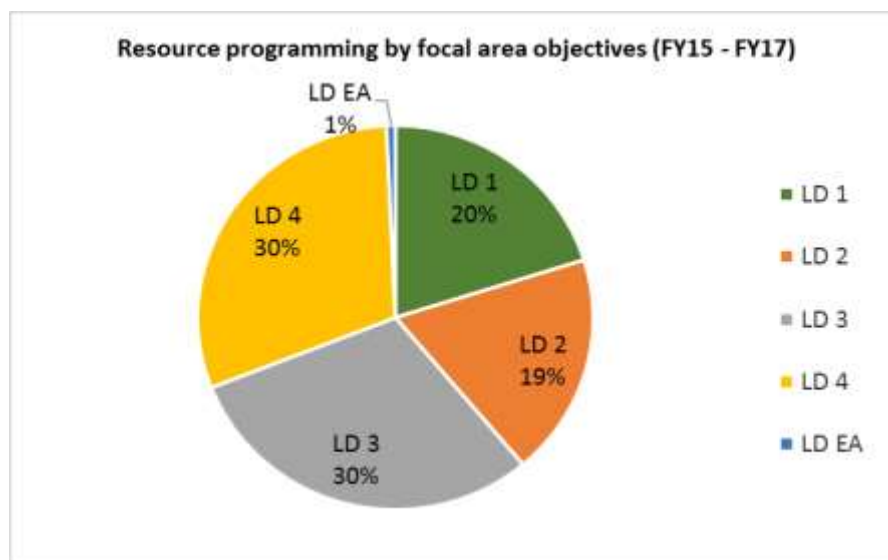
42. The LDFA utilization percentage of 57.1% after three years into the four-year period of GEF-6 (July 2014 to June 2018) is in line with overall programming in GEF-6 across all focal areas.
43. The GEF Council, at its 51<sup>st</sup> meeting in October 2016, approved a measure to address the funding shortfall resulting from currency fluctuations.<sup>8</sup> The revised target for the LDFA allocation is currently expected to be around \$365 million, which is approximately 85% of the total allocation of the \$431 million shown in Table 6 above. Allocations for least developed countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS), LDFA set-asides, and Enabling Activities are not affected as per the GEF Council decision.

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.thegef.org/council-meeting-documents/update-gef-6-resource-availability-0>

## Progress in Utilization of STAR Resources

44. As indicated in Table 6 above, through June 2017, \$178.0 million (51.4%) of the LDFA STAR allocation has been utilized by 72 out of 144 countries.
45. The 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 and any other focal areas. All other countries can make marginal adjustments between the different focal area allocations of up to \$2 million between the three focal areas.
46. 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. The Enabling Activity share is expected to increase significantly once countries request the funds for the upcoming reporting period.

**Figure 2: Programming of GEF-6 LDFA Resources by Focal Area Objectives**



## Progress in Utilization of Set-Aside Resources

47. Out of the \$85 million LDFA set-aside resources available in GEF-6, \$68.3 million (80.3%) have been utilized. This includes \$40 million for the programmed through the GEF-6 Integrated Approach Pilot (IAP) Program *Fostering Sustainability and Resilience for Food Security in Sub-Saharan Africa* (GEF ID #9070), which works with small-scale farmers to sustainably increase yields thereby increasing food security for millions of poor people, while preventing desertification, improving land health, and sequestering carbon. Set-asides also include \$20 million for the SFM incentive mechanism and \$10 million for LDFA thematic priorities, of which \$5.3 million have been utilized to promote coherence

in regional and global programs such as the *Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management* (CACILM II, GEF ID #9094).

48. In GEF-6, all GEF eligible country Parties to the UNCCD are given the opportunity to access a total of \$15 million of GEF resources for Enabling Activities to support implementation of the Convention. Based on consultation with the UNCCD Secretariat, an amount of \$3 million has been allocated for LDN target setting support, \$2 million for global support to reporting and monitoring, and \$10 million for country obligations with regard to reporting in 2018.
49. The allocated \$3 million were utilized through the *Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Project* (GEF ID #9365), which was announced at the COP12 in Ankara. In addition, a global support program in cooperation with the Global Mechanism is in preparation. Furthermore, countries can already apply for a \$70,000 Enabling Activity support provided through an umbrella project managed by UNEP. So far, 54 countries have submitted their Operational Focal Point (OFP) endorsement letter to UNEP as a precondition to receive the funds.

## Part V: Portfolio Monitoring and Assessment

### Progress towards GEF-6 Corporate Targets

50. 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 ha under SLM coverage. This estimate includes potential coverage across crop, rangeland and forest landscapes in affected regions. Up to now, approved GEF-6 projects have a cumulative ex ante target of 73.4 million ha (61% of the GEF corporate target), which points to fully satisfactory progress towards achieving the set target. FY16 and FY17 LDFA projects are contributing 34.1 million ha, which is 28% of the GEF-6 corporate target.
51. The cohort of projects approved during the reporting period is also expected to contribute to GEF-6 corporate GHG mitigation targets. The expected GHG mitigation benefits from the 60 projects total more than 500 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e, which is about 66% of the GEF-6 corporate target for climate change.<sup>9</sup> 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, to be monitored throughout project implementation period.

### Annual Portfolio Monitoring Reporting

52. According to the GEF's Annual Portfolio Monitoring Report 2016<sup>10</sup>, the LDFA stand-alone project portfolio is contributing significantly to meeting and surpassing the GEF corporate

---

<sup>9</sup> This significant contribution can largely be attributed to two projects: *Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program* (GEF ID #9272) and *The Restoration Initiative - Fostering Innovation and Integration in Support of the Bonn Challenge* (GEF ID #9264).

<sup>10</sup> [https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/EN\\_GEF.C.51.03\\_APMR\\_0.pdf](https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/EN_GEF.C.51.03_APMR_0.pdf)

targets, in terms of implementation progress and their respective development objective. Of the 44 projects currently under implementation, 93% were rated moderately satisfactory or higher with regard to implementation progress, above the 75% corporate goal. In terms of achieving their development objective, 94% of the projects are achieving ratings of moderately satisfactory or higher, again above the 75% corporate goal.

## Analysis of GEF-5 Focal Area Progress towards Targets

53. Focal area tracking tools are an important component of projects submitted to the GEF for incremental financing. The focal area tracking tools are a means to capture information on key indicators during project design and implementation. The tracking tools are submitted three times during the project cycle: at final project endorsement, at mid-term evaluation, and at project closure together with the terminal evaluation. LDFA tracking tools were launched at the start of GEF-5 and for the first time the aggregated results for the GEF-5 project cohort can be reported.
54. The GEF Secretariat analyzed the available set of 117 GEF-5 LDFA tracking tools submitted at CEO endorsement to extract key performance data of the GEF-5 LDFA portfolio. These 117 projects include direct interventions on more than 50 million ha of production landscapes benefiting 40 million of rural people, including 25 million defined as poor, half of them being women. Within the project cohort, 80 projects included positive results in terms of vegetation cover (89 million ha), a third of the projects included gains in carbon (143 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e in avoided emissions and/or carbon sequestration), and half of the projects included benefits for natural habitats (25.6 million ha). These projects contribute significantly to GEF-5 corporate targets by providing 89% of the SLM target, 42% of the Biodiversity mainstreaming target, and 29% of the climate change mitigation target in terms of avoided GHG emissions.
55. The analysis of the GEF-5 LD tracking tools confirms that investing in SLM to control and prevent land degradation in production landscape is an essential and cost-effective way to deliver multiple GEBs while creating local and national socio-economic benefits. The results have been published in a paper<sup>11</sup> presented at the Land and Poverty Conference in Washington D.C. in March 2017.

## Land Degradation Focal Area Evaluation

56. The Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) of the GEF has evaluated the LDFA assessing its relevance, performance, effectiveness, and value for money.<sup>12</sup> The comprehensive study covers GEF grant funding activities in agricultural lands, rangelands, degraded productive lands, desert lands, and combating deforestation and desertification. The study is also available as a brief version with illustrations.<sup>13</sup> It covers 485 LDFA projects through an analysis of the results of 76 already completed projects, quality at entry assessments, and

---

<sup>11</sup><https://www.conftool.com/landandpoverty2017/index.php?page=browseSessions&presentations=show&search=sinnassamy>

<sup>12</sup> [https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/EN\\_GEF.ME\\_C.52\\_Inf.02\\_Land\\_Degradation\\_May\\_2017.pdf](https://www.thegef.org/sites/default/files/council-meeting-documents/EN_GEF.ME_C.52_Inf.02_Land_Degradation_May_2017.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.gefio.org/evaluations/land-degradation-focal-area-ldfa-study>



20 key informant interviews. It also includes a value for money analysis of LDFA projects to understand the efficiency of GEF investments in this focal area.

57. Main findings include the following:

- (a) *Highly relevant.* The LDFA, more than other GEF focal areas, concentrates on tackling the local socioeconomic drivers of land degradation. Especially with partner agencies, like the multilateral development banks, which focus on improving the socioeconomic condition of beneficiaries, the LDFA is highly relevant. The focal area is also highly relevant to country needs in all regions, especially Africa. Lastly, the LDFA's gradual alignment with the framework for LDN supports UNCCD development plans, which similarly are moving toward land degradation.
- (b) *Effective in producing global environmental benefits.* The value for money analysis shows there have been important reductions in fragmentation and forest and vegetation losses. LDFA projects increased the normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI) by 0.03% and reduced forest loss by 1.3%. The greatest returns begin about 4.5–5.5 years after projects begin, suggesting the need for longer time horizons to observe benefits. The estimated carbon sequestered was 43.52 tons of carbon per ha, which translates into a dollar return – considering only carbon sequestration – of \$1.08 per \$1.0 invested.
- (c) *Greater scope leads to greater benefits.* MFA projects generally provide more substantial global environmental benefits than single-focal area projects. Case studies also demonstrate that projects that target the entire production chain, improving socioeconomic outcomes as well, provide greater sustainability in environmental outcomes. Results from completed projects also show a correlation between project funding and the subsequent project outcome and sustainability ratings. Projects with total funding ranging between \$10 and 20 million consistently outperformed others.
- (d) *Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) tools should be strengthened.* Development of the tracking tools needs further improvement, though it has been simplified in GEF-6. Yet, while still vital to improving the M&E system, this development does not address the fundamental problem, which is that the M&E system does not currently track long-term project outcomes. Often, these long-term outcomes would occur many years after the completion of a project—such as reforestation, an inherently long process. The ramifications of this hinder the GEF's ability to disseminate lessons learned and best practices to countries and development partners.

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

58. As decided at COP 12 in Ankara, striving to achieve SDG target 15.3 is a strong vehicle for driving implementation of the UNCCD, within the scope of the Convention. At that same COP, Parties were invited to formulate voluntary targets to achieve LDN in accordance with their specific national circumstances and development priorities. As a result, since COP 12, more than 100 countries have started to establish voluntary targets for LDN. In

addition, the GEF has been invited by the COP to provide support to the voluntary LDN target setting effort.

59. The GEF has responded to the request for LDN target setting and implementation support since the UNCCD COP12. Besides the support through the *Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Project* (GEF ID #9365), several approved and proposed LDFA projects in GEF-6 increasingly focus on achieving voluntary LDN targets. Examples of approved projects within this reporting period include a project in Lebanon titled *Land Degradation Neutrality of Mountain Landscapes in Lebanon* (GEF ID #9388) and in Turkey titled *Contributing to Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Target Setting by Demonstrating the LDN Approach in the Upper Sakarya Basin for Scaling up at National Level* (GEF ID #9586).
60. The GEF is also supporting national efforts to achieve LDN by maintaining and improving the productivity of land resources through SLM practices, and restoring productive lands that have been degraded. This shift took place midway in GEF-6 in response to COP 12 decisions, and is therefore not included in the preceding GEF-6 programming directions. The projects in Albania (GEF ID #9477), Benin (GEF ID #9383), Chad (GEF ID #9417), Georgia (GEF ID #9730), and the regional project in Jordan and Egypt (GEF ID #9407) include specific components supporting the implementation of LDN targets.
61. Based on recent experience, the LDFA stands ready to continue to support implementation of projects striving to achieve LDN and address 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 stands ready to also strengthen landscape restoration activities. While SLM practices are intended to help avoid and reduce land degradation, landscape restoration will help reverse degradation processes.
62. 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 VI: Conclusions

63. In the reporting period of July 2015 to June 2017, 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 34.1 million ha of land under SLM (28% of the GEF-6 corporate target).
64. 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.



65. There continues to be high demand and utilization rate of GEF resources by eligible countries for projects to support implementation of the Convention. Total LDFA programming is progressing in line with GEF-6 programming across all focal areas.
66. The evaluations by GEF's IEO as well as the portfolio monitoring analysis confirmed the high relevance of the LDFA: (1) with regard to the mandates of the GEF partner agencies; (2) concerning country needs in all regions, especially Africa; and (3) 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 desertification, land degradation, and drought (DLDD) issues. They also generated valuable lessons on programming and priorities in the affected regions, which will help to inform directions for the focal area in the GEF-7 replenishment phase.

## Annexes

## Annex 1. GEF-6 Land Degradation Focal Area Results-Based Management Framework

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

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

**Global Target:** 120 million ha under Sustainable Land Management

**Indicators:**

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

**Gender Indicators:**

Focal Area projects will use and incorporate GEF Gender Indicators, which will be monitored and aggregated at the Focal Area portfolio and Corporate levels.<sup>14</sup>

---

<sup>14</sup> Refer to the core GEF Gender Indicators identified under the gender section of the Strategic Positioning Paper for GEF-6 replenishment. The five Gender Indicators are:

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

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

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

Objectives	Program Priorities	Expected Outcomes and Indicators
LD-2: Forest Landscapes: Generate sustainable flows of forest ecosystem services, including sustaining livelihoods of forest dependent people	Program Priority3: Landscape Management and Restoration	<p>Outcome 2.1: Support mechanisms for forest landscape management and restoration established Indicator 2.1: Types of innovative mechanisms, institutions, legal and regulatory frameworks functioning to support SFM and restoration</p> <p>Outcome 2.2: Improved forest management and/or restoration Indicator 2.2 Land area under sustainable forest management and/or restoration practices</p> <p>Outcome 2.3: Increased investments in SFM and restoration Indicator 2.3: Value of resources flowing to SFM from diverse sources (e.g. PES, small credit schemes, voluntary carbon market)</p>
LD-3: Integrated Landscapes: Reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses in the wider landscape	Program Priority 4: Scaling-up sustainable land management through the Landscape Approach	<p>Outcome 3.1: Support mechanisms for SLM in wider landscapes established Indicator 3.1: Demonstration results strengthening cross-sector integration of SLM</p> <p>Outcome 3.2: Integrated landscape management practices adopted by local communities Indicator 3.2: Application of integrated natural resource management (INRM) practices in wider landscapes</p> <p>Outcome 3.3: Increased investments in integrated landscape management Indicator 3.3: Increased resources flowing to INRM and other land uses from divers sources</p>

Objectives	Program Priorities	Expected Outcomes and Indicators
LD-4: Maximizing transformational impact: maintain land resources and agro-ecosystem services through mainstreaming at scale	Program Priority 5: SLM Mainstreaming in Development	<p>Outcome 4.1: SLM mainstreamed in development investments and value chains across multiple scales Indicator 4.1: Increased investments in SLM</p> <p>Outcome 4.2: Innovative mechanisms for multi-stakeholder planning and investments in SLM at scale Indicator 4.2: Innovative mechanisms, institutions, legal and regulatory frameworks functioning to support SLM\</p>

## Annex 2. Land Degradation Focal Area Project Portfolio Approved in FY16 and FY17

*FY16 (Second Year of GEF-6)*

All amounts in \$ million

GEF ID	Country	Agency	Project Title	Total GEF Grant	LDFA Amount	Co-finance	LDFA Focal Area Objectives	Other Focal Area Objectives
9059	Guatemala	UNDP	Promoting Sustainable and Resilient Landscapes in the Central Volcanic Chain	12.19	2.49	45.83	LD-2	BD-1; BD-4; SFM-1; SFM-2
9092	Peru	FAO	Sustainable Management of Agro-Biodiversity and Vulnerable Ecosystems Recuperation in Peruvian Andean Regions Through Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems GIAHS Approach	10.29	0.88	68.85	LD-3	BD-3; BD-4; SFM-3
9153	Uruguay	FAO	Climate-smart Livestock Production and Land Restoration in the Uruguayan Rangelands	2.34	0.61	12.03	LD-1	CCM-2
9163	Global	CI	Enabling the use of Global Data Sources to Assess and Monitor Land Degradation at Multiple Scales	1.99	1.80	10.02	LD-4	
9167	Mexico	UNDP	Sixth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Mexico	4.86	0.44	8.04	LD-1	BD-4; CCM-2
9190	Uzbekistan	FAO	Sustainable Management of Forests in Mountain and Valley Areas	3.51	0.66	13.00	LD-2	SFM-3; CCM-2
9193	Kazakhstan	UNDP	Conservation and Sustainable Management of Key Globally Important Ecosystems for Multiple Benefits (Resubmission)	8.87	1.79	24.00	LD-3	BD-1; SFM-1; SFM-2

GEF ID	Country	Agency	Project Title	Total GEF Grant	LDFA Amount	Co-finance	LDFA Focal Area Objectives	Other Focal Area Objectives
9205	Kazakhstan	UNDP	Sixth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Kazakhstan	2.93	0.88	3.00	LD-2	BD-2; CCM-2
9208	Palau	UNDP	Integrating Biodiversity Safeguards and Conservation into development in Palau	4.65	0.52	17.58	LD-2, LD-3	BD-2; BD-4; SFM-1; SFM-3
9231	Pakistan	UNDP	Pakistan Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program (Resubmission)	5.11	0.88	12.95	LD-3	BD-1; SFM-1; SFM-1; SFM-3
9232	Regional <sup>15</sup>	IUCN	Sustainable Management of Peatland Ecosystems in Mekong Countries	3.18	0.38	9.45	LD-3	BD-1; BD-4; CCM-2; SFM-3
9241	Kenya	UNDP	Sixth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Kenya	3.92	0.44	4.82	LD-1	BD-4; CCM-1
9243	India	FAO	Green-Ag: Transforming Indian Agriculture for Global Environmental Benefits and the Conservation of Critical Biodiversity and Forest Landscapes	36.62	4.22	494.12	LD-1, LD-3	BD-3; BD-4; CCM-2; SFM-1
9248	Bolivia	UNDP	Sixth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Bolivia	4.03	0.83	5.35	LD-3	BD-4; CCM-2
9262	Honduras	UNDP	Agroforestry Landscapes and Sustainable Forest Management that Generate Environmental and Economic Benefits Globally and Locally	14.52	1.73	48.20	LD-2	BD-1; BD-4; SFM-1
9264	Global <sup>16</sup>	IUCN,	TRI The Restoration Initiative -	59.39	11.32	201.45	LD-2;	BD-4; CCM-2;

<sup>15</sup> Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar



GEF ID	Country	Agency	Project Title	Total GEF Grant	LDFA Amount	Co-finance	LDFA Focal Area Objectives	Other Focal Area Objectives
		FAO, UNEP	Fostering Innovation and Integration in Support of the Bonn Challenge				LD-3	SFM-3; SFM-4
9267	Myanmar	ADB	Rural Productivity and Ecosystems Services Enhanced in Central Dry Zone Forest Reserves	5.14	1.50	46.25	LD-2; LD-3	BD-4; CCM-1; CCM-2; SFM-3
9270	Malaysia	IFAD	Sustainable Management of Peatland Ecosystems in Malaysia (SMPEM)	10.28	0.17	47.85	LD-3	BD-1; BD-4; CCM-2; SFM-2
9272	Regional <sup>17</sup>	World Bank, WWF-US, UNDP	Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program	123.88	6.26	682.98	LD-1; LD-2; LD-3	BD-1; BD-4; CCM-2; SFM-1; SFM-2; SFM-3; SFM-4
9285	Afghanistan	FAO	Community-based Sustainable Land and Forest Management in Afghanistan	11.56	3.91	54.25	LD-1	BD-4; CCM-2; SFM-3
9330	Madagascar	World Bank	Sustainable Agriculture Landscape Project	14.98	0.93	100.00	LD-3	BD-1; BD-4; CCM-2; SFM-3
9331	Pakistan	UNDP	Sixth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Program in Pakistan	2.94	0.88	3.02	LD-2	BD-4, CCM-2
9361	Vietnam	UNDP	Mainstreaming Natural Resource Management and Biodiversity Conservation objectives into socio-economic development planning and	7.31	0.44	30.00	LD-3	BD-1; BD-3; BD-4; SFM-1; SFM-3

<sup>16</sup> Central African Republic, Cameroon, China, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sao Tome and Principe, Tanzania, Congo DR

<sup>17</sup> Brazil, Colombia, Peru

GEF ID	Country	Agency	Project Title	Total GEF Grant	LDFA Amount	Co-finance	LDFA Focal Area Objectives	Other Focal Area Objectives
			management of Biosphere Reserve in Viet Nam					
9365	Global	IUCN	Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Project	3.00	2.75	2.90	LD-EA	
9369	Ecuador	CI	Implementation of the Strategic Plan of Ecuador Mainland Marine and Coastal Protected Areas Network	6.34	0.44	29.10	LD-2	BD-1
9391	Global	IUCN	The Global Environmental Commons. Solutions for a Crowded Planet	2.18	0.30	2.33	LD-4	BD-4, CCM-1, IW-1
9406	St. Lucia	UNEP	Integrated Ecosystem Management and Restoration of Forests on the South East Coast of St. Lucia	4.88	1.02	25.80	LD-2	BD-1; CCM-1; CCM-2; SFM-3
9407	Regional (Egypt, Jordan)	UNEP	Healthy Ecosystems for Rangeland Development (HERD): Sustainable Rangeland Management for Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change Mitigation	4.00	3.51	9.00	LD-1; LD-2; LD-3	
9413	Brazil	UNEP	Realizing the Biodiversity Conservation Potential of Private Lands	9.85	1.44	38.80	LD-2; LD-3	BD-4; SFM-1; SFM-2
9416	Costa Rica	UNDP	Conserving Biodiversity through Sustainable Management in Production Landscapes in Costa Rica	7.39	0.86	25.20	LD-2; LD-3	BD-4; SFM-1
9417	Chad	IUCN	Restoring Ecological Corridors in Western Chad for Multiple Land and	5.87	0.89	19.00	LD-3	SFM-3; CCM-2

GEF ID	Country	Agency	Project Title	Total GEF Grant	LDFA Amount	Co-finance	LDFA Focal Area Objectives	Other Focal Area Objectives
			Forests Benefits - RECONNECT					
9424	Dominican Republic	UNDP	Mainstreaming Conservation of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Productive Landscapes in Threatened Forested Mountainous Areas	8.98	0.70	54.00	LD-3	SFM-3; BD-4
9429	Cuba	UNDP	Incorporating Multiple Environmental Considerations and their Economic Implications into the Management of Landscapes Forests and Production Sectors in Cuba	10.50	0.99	37.80	LD-4	BD-4; BD-4; SFM-1
9434	Timor-Leste	CI	Securing the Long-term Conservation of Timor-Leste Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services through the Establishment of a functioning National Protected Area Network and the Improvement of Natural Resource Management in Priority Catchment Corridor	3.68	1.33	14.10	LD-1	BD-1; SFM-1; SFM-2
9460	Ecuador	UNDP	Sixth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Program in Ecuador	2.00	0.63	4.13	LD-3	BD-4
9477	Albania	UNEP	Promoting Sustainable Land Management (SLM) through Integrated Restoration of Ecosystems	1.00	0.86	5.65	LD-1; LD-3	

**FY17 (Third Year of GEF-6)**

All amounts in \$ million

GEF ID	Country	Agency	Project Title	Total GEF Grant	LDFA Amount	Co-finance	LDFA Focal Area Objectives	Other Focal Area Objectives
<b>9265</b>	Vietnam	World Bank	Mekong Delta Integrated Climate Resilience and Sustainable Livelihoods Project	6.46	0.45	310.00	LD-1; LD-3;	CCM-2; SFM-1; SFM-2
<b>9266</b>	Eritrea	UNDP	Restoring Degraded Forest Landscapes and Promoting Community-based, Sustainable and Integrated Natural Resource Management in the Rora Habab Plateau, Nakfa Sub-zoba, Northern Red Sea Region of Eritrea	9.08	2.88	23.50	LD-3	BD-4; SFM-3; CCM-2
<b>9294</b>	Mauritania	FAO	Integrated Ecosystem Management Program for the Sustainable Human Development in Mauritania	9.05	2.28	23.15	LD-1	BD-1; BD-3; CCM-2; SFM-3
<b>9388</b>	Lebanon	UNDP	Land Degradation Neutrality of Mountain Landscapes in Lebanon	5.16	4.62	17.26	LD-2; LD-4	
<b>9537</b>	Morocco	FAO	Revitalizing Oasis Agro-ecosystems through a Sustainable, Integrated and Landscape Approach in the Draâ-Tafilalet Region (OASIL)	9.56	4.25	41.27	LD-1	BD-3; CCM-1; CCM-2
<b>9555</b>	Mexico	World Bank	Sustainable Productive Landscapes	23.88	1.81	139.30	LD-3	BD-4; CCM-2; SFM-2

GEF ID	Country	Agency	Project Title	Total GEF Grant	LDFA Amount	Co-finance	LDFA Focal Area Objectives	Other Focal Area Objectives
9719	Global	UNEP	Piloting Innovative Investments for Sustainable Landscapes	2.24	2.00	52.00	LD-3	
9730	Georgia	UNEP	Generating Economic and Environmental Benefits from Sustainable Land Management for Vulnerable Rural Communities of Georgia	1.64	1.45	4.56	LD1; LD2	
9409	Sri Lanka	UNEP	Healthy Landscapes: Managing Agricultural Landscapes in Socio-ecologically Sensitive Areas to Promote Food Security, Well-being and Ecosystem Health	2.20	0.62	8.68	LD-3	BD-3
9667	Dominica	UNEP	Sustainable Land Management in the Commonwealth of Dominica	2.00	1.77	14.70	LD-1; LD-2; LD-3	
9754	Moldova	World Bank	Climate Adaptation & Forestry Project	2.19	2.00	20.00	LD-1; LD-3	
9293	Mali	AfDB	Scaling up a Multiple Benefits Approach to Enhance Resilience in Agro- and Forest Landscapes of Mali's Sahel Regions (Kayes, Koulikoro and Ségou)	9.53	2.32	60.20	LD-1; LD-3	CCM-2; CW-2; SFM-2
9366	Cote d'Ivoire	UNEP	Sustainability and Scaling Up Approaches for Transformational Management, Restoration and Conservation of Forests	3.15	0.66	27.06	LD-1; LD-2	BD-1; BD-4; SFM-1; SFM-2; SFM-3

GEF ID	Country	Agency	Project Title	Total GEF Grant	LDFA Amount	Co-finance	LDFA Focal Area Objectives	Other Focal Area Objectives
			Landscapes and Biodiversity in Cote d'Ivoire (SSATMARC – FOLAB)					
9383	Benin	AfDB	Sustainable Forest Management and Conservation Project in Central and South Benin	2.90	0.45	15.93	LD-2	BD-1; CCM-2; SFM-1; SFM-2
9385	Rwanda	UNDP	Forest Landscape Restoration in the Mayaga Region	6.85	1.08	25.77	LD-2	BD-4; CCM-1; CCM-2; SFM-3
9389	Mongolia	UNDP	Ensuring Sustainability and Resilience (ENSURE) of Green Landscapes in Mongolia	8.78	2.90	34.00	LD-3	BD-1; BD-4; SFM-3
9437	Nepal	WWF-US	Integrated Landscape Management to Secure Nepal's Protected Areas and Critical Corridors	7.36	2.23	42.62	LD-2; LD-3	BD-4; SFM-2
9441	Colombia	FAO/UNIDO	Contributing to the Integrated Management of Biodiversity of the Pacific Region of Colombia to Build Peace	8.30	0.71	35.30	LD-3	BD-1; BD-4; SFM-1; SFM-2
9577	Grenada	UNDP	Climate Resilient Agriculture for Integrated Landscape Management	4.12	2.71	13.69	LD-1; LD-3	BD-2; BD-4
9580	St. Vincent and Grenadines	UNDP	Conserving Biodiversity and Reducing Land Degradation Using a Ridge-to-Reef Approach	4.17	1.64	10.49	LD-3	BD-1
9583	Argentina	UNDP	Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Land	9.91	3.72	41.75	LD-3;	BD-4

GEF ID	Country	Agency	Project Title	Total GEF Grant	LDFA Amount	Co-finance	LDFA Focal Area Objectives	Other Focal Area Objectives
			Management (SLM) into Development Planning: Making Environmental Land Use Planning (ELUP) Operational in Argentina				LD-4	
9586	Turkey	FAO	Contributing to Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Target Setting by Demonstrating the LDN Approach in the Upper Sakarya Basin for Scaling up at National Level	2.72	2.38	13.60	LD-3	
9745	Iraq	FAO	Sustainable Land Management for Improved Livelihoods in Degraded Areas of Iraq	4.05	3.54	21.48	LD-1	
9774	Global <sup>18</sup>	UNDP	GEF SGP Sixth Operational Phase- Strategic Implementation Using STAR Resources Tranche 1, Mainly in LDCs and SIDs (Part III)	18.03	4.12	18.03	LD-1; LD-2	BD-1; BD-2; CCM-1; CCM-2; CCM-3

<sup>18</sup> Argentina, Burkina Faso, Bhutan, Belarus, Colombia, Cabo Verde, Dominican Republic, Eritrea, Gambia, Jamaica, Madagascar, Mali, Malaysia, Nepal, Panama, Congo DR

### Annex 3. Land Degradation-Relevant Projects Approved under Other Windows in FY16 and FY17

All amounts in \$ million

GEF ID	Country	Agency	Project Title	Total GEF Grant	Co-finance	LDFA Amount	LD Focal Area Objectives	Other Focal Area Objectives
<b>6971</b>	Mali	UNDP	Generating Global Environment Benefits through Improved Environmental Information, Planning and Decision Making Systems	1.20	2.55			CCCD 1; CCCD 3
<b>6973</b>	Guyana	UNDP	Strengthening Technical Capacities to Mainstream and Monitor Rio Convention Implementation through Policy Coordination	1.20	1.28			CCCD 1
<b>9051</b>	Regional	AfDB	Moringa Agro-forestry Fund for Africa (Non-Grant Instruments)	13.08	50.80	12.00	LD-1; LD-2; LD-3	
<b>9114</b>	Serbia	UNDP	Capacity Development for Improved Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)	1.10	0.98			CCCD 2; CCCD 3
<b>9199</b>	Bhutan	UNDP	Enhancing Sustainability and Climate Resilience of Forest and Agricultural Landscape and Community Livelihoods (multi-trust fund: GEF/LDCF)	15.71	42.63			CCA 1; CCA 2; CCA 3; BD 1; SFM 2
<b>9277</b>	Regional (LAC)	IADB	Risk Mitigation Instrument for Land Restoration (Non-Grant Instruments)	16.35	120.00	15.00	LD-2; LD-3	
<b>9300</b>	Madagascar	UNDP	Strengthening National Capacities to Meet Global Environmental Obligations	2.19	2.00			CCCD 1; CCCD 2;



GEF ID	Country	Agency	Project Title	Total GEF Grant	Co-finance	LDFA Amount	LD Focal Area Objectives	Other Focal Area Objectives
			with the Framework of Sustainable Development Priorities					CCCD 3; CCCD 4
9314	Comoros	UNDP	Strengthening of multisector and decentralized environmental management and coordination to achieve the objectives of the Rio Conventions in the Union of Comoros	1.70	1.60			CCCD 2
9319	Cuba	UNDP	Integrating Rio Global Environmental Commitments into National Priorities and Needs through the Improvement of Information Management and Knowledge for Planning and Decision Making	1.68	1.94			CCCD 2
9334	Egypt	UNDP	Enhancing National Capacities for Improved Public Participation for Implementing Rio Conventions	1.14	0.99			CCCD 4
9335	Uganda	UNDP	Strengthening Institutional Capacity for Effective Implementation of Rio Conventions in Uganda	1.04	1.05			CCCD 1; CCCD 2
9341	Timor-Leste	UNDP	Strengthening Targeted National Capacities to Improve Decision-making and Mainstream Global Environmental Obligations into National Development Priorities	1.64	2.60			CCCD 1; CCCD 2
9390	Liberia	UNDP	Strengthening National Capacities to Meet Global Environmental Obligations	1.70	1.50			CCCD 1; CCCD 3;

GEF ID	Country	Agency	Project Title	Total GEF Grant	Co-finance	LDFA Amount	LD Focal Area Objectives	Other Focal Area Objectives
			with the Framework of Sustainable Development Priorities					CCCD 5
9467	Antigua and Barbuda	UNDP	Monitoring and Assessment of MEA Implementation and Environmental Trends in Antigua and Barbuda	1.02	0.80			CCCD 1;
9502	Guinea-Bissau	UNDP	Strengthening Natural Resource Valuation Capacities for Improved Planning and Decision-making to Conserve the Global Environment	1.10	2.20			CCCD 1; CCCD 4
9506	Sudan	UNDP	Strengthening Targeted National Capacities for Improved Decision Making and Mainstreaming of Global Environmental Obligations	1.15	1.00			CCCD 1; CCCD 2; CCCD 3; CCCD 5
9511	Djibouti	UNDP	Strengthening National Capacities for Improved Decision Making and Mainstreaming of Global Environmental Obligations	1.15	1.29			CCCD 1; CCCD 2; CCCD 3; CCCD 4
9651	Somalia	UNDP	Strengthening National Capacities for Improved Decision Making and Mainstreaming of Global Environmental Obligations	1.15	2.25			CCCD 2; CCCD 3; CCCD 4
9719	Global	UNEP	Piloting Innovative Investments for Sustainable Landscapes (Non-Grant Instrument)	2.24	52.00	2.00	LD-3	

GEF ID	Country	Agency	Project Title	Total GEF Grant	Co-finance	LDFA Amount	LD Focal Area Objectives	Other Focal Area Objectives
9744	Iraq	UNEP	Establishing a Functional Environmental Information System for the Synergistic Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) for Iraq	1.30	0.61			CCCD 1; CCCD 2
9747	Mauritania	UNEP	Building Core Capacity for the Implementation, Monitoring and Reporting of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in the Context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Mauritania	1.10	0.55			CCCD 1; CCCD 3
9808	Botswana	UNEP	Building Core Capacity for the Implementation, Monitoring and Reporting of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and Relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Botswana	1.11	0.30			CCCD 1; CCCD 3
9809	Benin	UNEP	Building Core Capacity for Implementation, Monitoring and Reporting of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and Relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Benin	1.31	0.30			CCCD 1; CCCD 3

## Annex 4. Summary of Approved Programs and Projects

---

### LDFA Approved Projects in FY2016 (Second Year of GEF-6)

---

#### **9059 Guatemala: Promoting Sustainable and Resilient Landscapes in the Central Volcanic Chain (UNDP)**

The project's objective is to mainstream biodiversity conservation and SLM objectives into the production landscapes of the Central Volcanic Mountain Range in Guatemala, contributing to the well-being of local populations and the delivery of multiple global environmental benefits. The project has two components: (1) Development of an enabling environment for the delivery of multiple global environmental benefits through models of sustainable agriculture/forestry production and economic incentives derived from improved markets and ecosystem services, and (2) Delivering multiple environment benefits by connecting core protected areas within sustainably managed production landscapes in the central volcanic chain in Guatemala.

Key global environmental benefits will include: (i) Stable populations of indicator species (mammals, birds, amphibians, and plants) forest/agricultural landscapes after seven years (project duration), (ii) Biological corridors (34,792 ha) provide connectivity to forest remnants and contribute to the conservation to biological important areas of the Central Volcanic Mountain Range of Guatemala, (iii) Improved forest cover in forest/agricultural landscapes of the central volcanic range (71,320 ha), and (iv) Carbon sequestration: 178,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e (reforestation, restoration, and sustainable agroforestry and agricultural systems).

#### **9092 Peru: Sustainable Management of Agro-Biodiversity and Vulnerable Ecosystems Recuperation in Peruvian Andean Regions Through Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems Approach (FAO)**

The overall objective of this project is to conserve in-situ and to sustainably use globally-important agro-biodiversity through the preservation of traditional agricultural systems, the integrated management of forests, water, and land resources, and the maintenance of the ecosystem services in selected Andean regions. The project proposes that the long-term solution for agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use is to reverse the loss of ecosystem integrity in key agrobiodiversity regions in order to ensure healthy agro-ecosystems in which agrobiodiversity can be sustained.

The project will contribute to deliver the following GEBs : (i) conservation and sustainable uses of agro-biodiversity species, associated traditional knowledge and ancestral heritage systems; ii) increased genetic diversity of globally significant cultivated plants; (iii) incorporation of 300,000 ha of productive landscapes under sustainable land management; (iv) integrated resource management and sustainable productive practices adopted by local communities in the productive landscapes of 7 departments, with women representing 30% of beneficiaries (in those ha); (v) 83,000 ha of forest resources are restored in the productive landscape including the services these confer to agro-production, agro-forestry and agro-biodiversity; (vi) incorporation of 300,000 ha of productive landscape integrating biodiversity conservation and sustainable use unto their management plans by meeting national or third party certification, or supported by other objective data; and (vii) mainstreaming of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity,

sustainable forest and land management into regional plans, zoning frameworks and watershed management plans of seven departments.

### **9153 Uruguay: Climate-smart Livestock Production and Land Restoration in the Uruguayan Rangelands (FAO)**

The objective of this project is to promote climate-smart practices in the livestock sector of Uruguay to mitigate climate change and restore degraded lands. The proposed project aims to introduce and disseminate Climate-Smart Livestock Management (CSLM) systems and practices that yield greater economic benefits while reducing land degradation and GHG emissions, and increasing carbon sequestration. The project will focus on small and medium-sized farms based on extensive systems on natural grasslands. The estimated GHG emissions reduction from lower emissions intensity in meat production and carbon sequestration is 100,000-300,000 tons of CO<sub>2e</sub> directly and 1-3 million tons CO<sub>2e</sub> indirectly. The project will also lead to 35,000 ha under SLM directly, and 400,000 ha indirectly.

The project focuses on climate smart agriculture, addressing the nexus of food security, climate change and sustainable resource management. This is one of the first GEF projects that addresses climate-smart livestock management for GHG emissions reduction. While the project will first pilot transfer of technologies and practices with 60 small and medium farmers, it will scale up through the broad dissemination of these practices and wider capacity development. It will also feed into the recently launched National program of Technology Transfer and Diffusion, which aims to upgrade management practices among agricultural producers, and develop of a national CSLM policy framework. In addition, the project will lead to the development of a NAMA on the livestock sector, a priority of the Government of Uruguay.

### **9163 Global: Enabling the use of Global Data Sources to assess and Monitor Land Degradation at Multiple Scales (CI)**

The project's objective is to provide guidance, methods and a toolbox for assessing and monitoring status and trends in land degradation using remote sensing technology which can be employed to inform land management and investment decisions as well as to improve reporting to the UNCCD and the GEF. The project's goal is to derive an approach that can yield one or two simple metrics in the form of continuous satellite images that, when tracked over years, correlate well with trends of degradation. With such products, methods and a toolbox can be created to enable countries to report trends in land degradation to the UNCCD and the GEF. The innovation is the use of new data to enable multi-scale monitoring of trends in land cover and land degradation. The approach combines data from commercial satellites and publicly available data that have not previously been available.

Stakeholders include those in the international community, the GEF, UNCCD, STAP, and the European Space Agency (ESA) and those at the national level in Kenya, Senegal, Tanzania, and Uganda, the four pilot countries where the project will test its methods. This also includes relevant national agencies in these countries, the project executing partners Vital Signs, NASA, and Lund University, and GEF Food Security Integrated Approach Pilot (IAP) project partners. The project will also benefit other countries through involvement in capacity building and eventually have global reach through the development of new, user-friendly methods for monitoring land degradation trends within the context of LDN reporting.

### **9167 Mexico: Sixth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Mexico (UNDP)**

The project aims at enhancing the resilience of the ecosystems through the synergistic implementation of a set of community livelihood practices in the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor in Mexico. Community organizations will implement grant projects aligned with large ecosystem, micro-regional and landscape and seascape sustainable management plans to be reviewed and approved by the SGP National Steering Committee, with the technical and financial support of other stakeholders involving federal government entities, state and local government, as well as pivot organizations, producers' associations, academia and other partners. Community-driven grant projects will focus on adoption of production practices or systems that conserve biodiversity through sustainable use, maintain or enhance ecosystem services (e.g. pollination, soil fertility) and/or reduce loss of carbon through biomass burning, for example, by intensifying agricultural production through agroforestry systems, permaculture and other innovative agro-ecological approaches.

An essential outcome is to replicate and enhance previous experience of community based on the ground implementation of the UNFCCC, UNCBD, and UNCCD in the four large ecosystems of southeastern Mexico that have been building on previous experience since the beginning of the SGP in Mexico. The premise of upscaling in this context is that the aggregate of community adopters of successful SGP-supported technologies, practices and systems from previous SGP phases have been slowly acquiring critical mass to reach a tipping point of adoption more broadly by rural constituencies of adaptive practice and innovation. The SGP has been able to facilitate this aggregation process by accompanying community organizations over the years, building networks of producers, establishing vertical linkages from producer to market, and advocating policy support from local, state and federal governments.

### **9190 Uzbekistan: Sustainable Management of Forests in Mountain and Valley Areas (FAO)**

Approximately 9 million ha (20% of the country's surface) of land are classified as forest land in Uzbekistan, of which about 3 million ha are still covered with forests, mostly desert forests (Saxaul), mountain forests (Juniper), and valley forests (Tugai). Forest degradation has been ongoing in the country since at least a century due to expansion of agricultural land and overgrazing. The project is the first GEF project in the country that specifically focuses on the introduction of SFM to address those drivers. The objective of the project is to introduce SFM and thereby sequestering carbon and improving the quality of forest resources for its productive functions. Component (1) will establish an operational forest assessment and monitoring system at national level; component (2) focuses on the introduction of multifunctional management practices over 121,750 ha in 4 locations across Uzbekistan, and component 3 is concerned with ensuring the sustainability and up-scaling of SFM. Estimated carbon benefits of the project are in the range of 3.2 to 4.6 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e over a five-year period.

### **9193 Kazakhstan: Conservation and Sustainable Management of Key Globally Important Ecosystems for Multiple Benefits (UNDP)**

The project focuses on conservation and sustainable management of three threatened ecosystems, which are outstanding for their biodiversity values, role in protecting land and water resources and services to local communities. These are (1) mountain forests and grasslands of Altai, Saur, Dzungaria, Ala-Tau and Tian Shan, (2) Riparian/Tugai forests and river floodplain ecosystems of

the Charyn, Ile and Syr Daria river deltas, and (3) Saxaul shrubs and deserts of Balkhash Lake district. Building on strong national baseline economic development program and co-financing, the project concentrates on addressing the suite of key root-causes of degradation of the conservation-important ecosystems, such as gaps in the representation of the protected area system with respect to coverage of habitat of globally important species (including the Snow Leopard), under-estimated valuation of ecosystem services, disengagement of the private sector and local communities from ecosystem management and restoration.

Through the Community Ecosystem Management Program this project is promoting engagement of communities and particularly the private sector in sustainable management and restoration of ecosystems important for their biodiversity and land integrity functions. Furthermore, this project is the first in the region which promotes full valuation of mountain, Tugai and Saxaul ecosystem services, and integration of the ecological values into the economic land use decision making.

#### **9205 Kazakhstan: Sixth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Kazakhstan (UNDP)**

The GEF Kazakhstan Country Programme objective is to build the social-ecological resilience of steppe and desert landscapes of Kazakhstan by securing global environmental benefits from community-based management of biodiversity, ecosystem function, and land, water and biomass resources. The project is designed to achieve this objective and generate the expected outcomes and related outputs. The main component is “Resilient rural landscapes of steppe and desert ecosystems for sustainable development and global environmental protection”, where GEF's support will provide small grants to NGOs and community organizations for the development and implementation of landscape-level planning frameworks that focus on the economic potentials of safeguarding and maintaining ecosystem services in target ecosystems. The project will develop at least six landscape management plans that encompass the lands of several rural communities in target landscapes in pursuit of strategic landscape outcomes related to biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management, climate change adaptation and mitigation and integrated water resources management in desert and steppe ecosystems.

#### **9208 Palau: Integrating Biodiversity Safeguards and Conservation into development in Palau (UNDP)**

This project is a crucial complement to Palau's Ridge to Reef project from GEF-5 advancing natural resource management systems and practices across the country. Nationally, this project will advance land use planning systems. It will also work on mainstreaming biodiversity in different sectors, including importantly in the rapidly growing tourism industry with both minimum standards and green certification. The project will also develop a national framework for invasive species management to prevent and control further introductions of invasive species.

In addition, this project will focus on Babeldaob Island (75% of the country's land mass and most of the forest) on sustainable forest management, fire management, identification and protection of 15,000 ha of High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF), sustainable ecotourism, and biodiversity-friendly land and forest management practices. In the Southern lagoon states, this project will address threats to biodiversity and ecosystem function through development, implementation and enforcement of seascape spatial mainstreaming plans. This project will work closely with the tourism industry in a variety of ways both as a partner implementation as well as a source of resources.

### **9231 Pakistan: Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program (UNDP)**

The project takes an integrated, systemic, multi-focal areas approach at the landscape level by addressing biodiversity, land degradation, and SFM. The project contributes to implementing integrated sustainable forest and land management in over 4.1 million ha, which will result in securing major snow leopard landscapes in the country. This will include 60,000 ha of SFM, 250,000 ha of SLM, and 20,000 ha of new protected areas. The project local communities through a livestock insurance scheme and wildlife deterrent systems to reduce human-wildlife conflicts.

The landscape level management approach for conservation and sustainable use of natural resources by involving multi-stakeholders at both federal and provincial levels is a novel approach in the context of Pakistan. The project also takes a strong gender/social responsive approach by ensuring both women and men participation in relevant activities. Development and implementation of appropriate institutional structure and financial strategy are planned to ensure long term sustainability of the initiatives.

### **9232- PIF Regional (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar): Sustainable Management of Peatland Ecosystems in Mekong Countries (IUCN)**

The project aims at sustainably managing peatland ecosystems to conserve biodiversity and reduce GHG emissions by: (1) strengthening capacity and national planning at all levels for sustainable peatland management (e.g. development of national strategies and action plan, incorporate provision in relevant national and sector policies); (2) expansion of protected peatland ecosystems; (3) demonstration of sustainable peatland management in key priority sites; and (4) enhance regional cooperation on targeted capacity development and knowledge products. The project is expected to contribute to sustainable peatland management in total over 130,000 ha of landscape (both protected areas and outside), and significantly reduce GHG emission from the targeted peatlands through improved management. Estimated GHG emission is 894,300 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e.

The project is one of the first projects to focus on peatland identification and management in the Northern ASEAN countries. It is expected to resolve a significant information gap and actions that are required to address the drivers of peatland degradation and management in the target countries. With the focus on both policy and site level interventions with empowerment of indigenous peoples and local communities, the project is expected to have a tangible impact to start up and strengthen sustainable peatland management in the target countries.

### **9241 Kenya: Sixth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Kenya (UNDP)**

The project addresses environmental degradation in three selected locations of Kenya (the World Heritage Site of the Kenya Lakes System in the Great Rift Valley; the marine ecosystem of Southern Kenya in Kwale County; and the sacred MijiKenda Kaya forests of Coastal Kenya), which are largely driven by the weak organizational capacities of communities and community organizations to collectively take action in building and maintaining resilience of these socio-ecological landscapes. The project will develop and implement adaptive land/seascape management strategies that build social, economic and ecological resilience built upon and maintained through the production of global environmental and local sustainable development benefits. To pursue achievement of the outcomes of these adaptive land/seascape management



strategies, community organizations will implement grant projects reviewed and approved by the SGP National Steering Committee, supported by multi-stakeholder agreements involving local government, the private sector, NGOs, academe and other partners, and evaluated periodically and systematically as part of the broader collective process of adjusting management strategies to new information, knowledge, capacities and conditions.

#### **9243 India: Green-Ag: Transforming Indian Agriculture for Global Environmental Benefits and the Conservation of Critical Biodiversity and Forest Landscapes (FAO)**

Building on the National Mission for Sustainable and other key government programs, this GEF project is intended to shift the existing scenario by leveraging governmental, private sector, and other resources and initiatives to catalyze transformative change for India's agriculture sector to support achievement of national and global environmental benefits and conserve critical biodiversity and forest landscapes in the country. The project's overall objective will be realized through the implementation of two components: (1) strengthening enabling environment (enhanced policies and institutions to mainstream multiple environmental benefits in agriculture and land-use); and (2) demonstrate concrete on-the-ground conservation improvements at priority landscapes both at policy and practice levels.

Concrete policy change is expected through the development of a common vision for sustainable agriculture, which will enable the Government of India to mainstream conservation and achievement of GEB's across the policy platform that currently determines the direction and impact of the nation's agricultural sector. The process of generating the common vision, under a multi-sectoral platform, will be used to inform and improve concrete existing agricultural policies and programs, including those that are indirectly promoting unsustainable agriculture practices (e.g. fertilizers, energy, etc.). Furthermore, the project will develop and implement a national level "Green Landscape Conservation Strategies" that will improve agricultural practices in high value biodiversity conservation and forest landscapes.

The global environmental benefits expected from this project include: (i) a total of 1.17 million ha of improved biodiversity conservation status within 5 protected areas as result of sustainable agriculture and SFM practices, (ii) habitat improvements at 5 ecosystems: measured by reduction of agricultural and forest degradation threats, and improved status of globally significant species, (iii) 100,000 ha utilizing and conserving genetic diversity of at least 10 globally significant traditional and/or endemic plant and animal species or varieties, (iv) 400,000 ha of currently degraded productive landscapes under SLM, (v) 150,000 ha of high conservation value forest lands under SFM, and (vi) 26.9 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e sequestered or avoided through improved agricultural practices.

#### **9248 Bolivia: Sixth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Bolivia (UNDP)**

The project will be implemented in five priority areas in three biodiversity rich eco-regions - Gran Chaco, Chiquitania and Pantanal - in mosaic production/conservation landscapes under a mixed category regime: National Parks (NPs) and National Natural Areas with Integrated Management (NAIMs). Strategic partnerships with the state and other allies are required to ensure that there is long term empowerment and capacities are strengthened for community based and non-governmental organizations to maintain and include more beneficiaries and strengthen local governance. The Government of Bolivia has allocated GEF 6 STAR funding to

enhance and extend achievements of the SGP GEF 5 strategy, in line with national priorities, policies and agendas. During this new phase, the project aims to achieve further articulation of communities with their landscapes, strengthen governance schemes, and provide an active role for organizations to participate in PA/NAIM management in which they may be catalysts and protagonists of their livelihood improvement and increasing resilience.

This project uses participatory and multi-stakeholder approaches to address landscape management in the three biomes to enhance social and ecological resilience through community-driven projects to conserve biodiversity, optimize ecosystem services, manage land, in particular agro-ecosystems, and water sustainably, and mitigate climate change.

**9262 Honduras: Agroforestry Landscapes and Sustainable Forest Management that Generate Environmental and Economic Benefits Globally and Locally (UNDP)**

The project will develop economic and social alternatives in the project area as a long-term solution to strengthening the connectivity between protected areas and productive landscapes. This includes actions that contribute to biodiversity conservation, sustainable management of forests, enhancement of carbon stocks, protection of water sources, and protection of agro-ecosystems. The project will link sustainable agricultural production, sustainable management of forests, including carbon sequestration and biodiversity conservation. The key result will be a national policy for biological corridors articulated with the Forestry Policy that facilitates connectivity between 1.27 million ha of production landscapes and 287,802 ha of protected areas to consolidate the dry/humid biological corridor.

This project includes a scheme that will generate external contributions through carbon sequestration, benefit distribution mechanisms for protected areas derived from bird-watching activities and agro-tourism, and the strengthening of productive agricultural and agroforestry chains, such as coffee and cacao, among others. Although the types of productive systems vary depending on the region, the potential for sustainable coffee and cacao has already been identified as a key area for extension work with producer associations, and regionally through the South-south cooperation program to exchange knowledge.

**9264 Global (Central African Republic, Cameroon, China, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sao Tome and Principe, Tanzania, Congo DR): The Restoration Initiative - Fostering Innovation and Integration in Support of the Bonn Challenge (IUCN, FAO and UNEP)**

The Program has been designed to make a significant global contribution to restoring ecosystem functioning and improving livelihoods through the restoration of priority degraded and deforested landscapes, in support of the Bonn Challenge, and in response to the expressed needs of countries. This program brings together ten countries, three GEF Agencies, and a range of NGO and private sector partners into a community of practice where countries are able to build off the joint experience of on-going and future restoration efforts.

Through the GEF programmatic approach, the program will create synergies, provide a wider array of tools and resources to national projects, and leverage key partnerships to yield cost savings and realize greater impact than possible under a fragmented, project-by-project approach. The program is expected to result in 46 million ha of landscapes under improved management, 1.1 million ha of sustainable production practices and will result in the mitigation

of 190 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e GHG emissions and mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into the management of these landscapes.

#### **9267 Myanmar: Rural Productivity and Ecosystems Services Enhanced in Central Dry Zone Forest Reserves (ADB)**

The project aims at achieving multiple global environmental benefits in Myanmar's Central Dry Zone, enhancing rural productivity (agriculture, livestock, forestry), and improving ecosystem services through integrated natural resources management. The project is blended with an ADB agricultural irrigation baseline project in the CDZ providing technical assistance and investments focused on agricultural production. The main GEF project area will cover 12 districts within Mandalay, Sagaing, and Magway regions, and include activities to support ecosystem services (e.g., afforestation, assisted natural regeneration) in forest reserves, protected public forests, and protected areas. The GEF resources will initially be focused on Mae-Nyo-Taung forest reserve, and scaled up to 300,000 ha.

The global environmental benefits of the project include: (i) improved management of landscapes covering 300,000 ha, including several Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs); (ii) bringing 55,000 ha under sustainable land management; and (iii) generating 5.8 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e in carbon benefits through avoided deforestation and improved management practices. The inter-linkage with the baseline project, contribution to livelihood benefits, and strong focus on capacity building of relevant agencies and communities is expected to contribute to the project's long term sustainability.

#### **9270 Malaysia: Sustainable Management of Peatland Ecosystems in Malaysia (IFAD)**

The GEF project will strengthen national policy and institutional capacity to implement peatland related strategies and plans, and enhance integrated sustainable peatland management in targeted landscapes. The project will reduce fire, enhance water management, rehabilitate and avoid forest conservation through a multi-sectoral partnership, including the private sector. The project is expected to protect, rehabilitate and sustainably manage over 1.5 million ha of targeted peatlands, which will mitigate approximately 3 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e.

One of the main innovative aspects of the project is the multi-stakeholder engagement in addressing sustainable peatland management. The engagement of private sector, civil society, and local communities working in partnership with government agencies will be more effective compared to the conventional sectoral approaches. Large private sector plantation companies are involved and will provide co-financing to the project to sustainably manage the adjacent peatlands.

#### **9272 Regional (Brazil, Colombia, Peru): Amazon Sustainable Landscapes Program (World Bank, WWF-US and UNDP)**

The Program brings innovations to address the common drivers of deforestation in the region. This includes innovative technology for low carbon and environmentally sustainable agriculture in Brazil, Colombia, and Peru, to reduce the threat of agriculture-driven forest conversion or land degradation, and building a spatial planning and monitoring platform in Brazil to support decision making for forest recovery. In order to have a significant impact in reducing deforestation and promote efficient land use in the Amazon region, this Program addresses a complex set of drivers of deforestation and barriers for sustainable land use that Brazil,

Colombia, and Peru currently face and that the program will help them address through national and regional level action along four main lines of investment: (1) "Integrated Amazon Protected Areas", will increase conservation and protection of biodiversity through protected areas creation and system expansion, improved protected area management and sustainable financing at the system-wide level; (2) "Integrated Landscape Management", will contribute to climate change resilience and enhance sustainable land use by improving forest and land management and reducing carbon emissions from deforestation; (3) "Policies for Protected and Productive Landscapes", will incorporate biodiversity management principles into selected government sectors that are drivers of deforestation (i.e., agriculture, extractive industries and infrastructure) through sectoral agreements and/or instruments; and (4) "Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation", will complement the national projects and maximize the efficiency of the broader Program and to provide opportunities for south-south learning, foster intergovernmental cooperation, use M&E tools and geospatial services, apply best practices and develop portfolio-wide training and communication strategies.

The Program makes significant contributions to the GEF Corporate Targets and will maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society covering 73,117,000 ha (or 24% of the global target) while mitigating 300 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e.

#### **9285 Afghanistan: Community-based Sustainable Land and Forest Management in Afghanistan (FAO)**

The project will promote sustainable management of natural resources including biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation through a community-based approach to sustainable land and forest management in the provinces of Nuristan, Kunar, Badghis, Uruzgan, Ghazni, and Bamyan. The project includes the following 4 components: (1) Capacity building at national, sub-national and district levels for SLM/SFM; (2) Biodiversity conservation and carbon sequestration in forest landscapes; (3) Community-based rangeland management; and (4) Knowledge management and M&E.

The project will support integrated, community-based approaches to sustainable land and forest management in over 230,000 ha, which will result in securing conservation benefits and ecosystem services in important landscapes in the country. This will include 10,000 ha of High Conservation Value Forests, 200,000 ha of climate resilient SLM practices, and GHG mitigation benefits of 2.3 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e.

#### **9330 Madagascar: Sustainable Agriculture Landscape Project (World Bank)**

This project is a large-scale landscape restoration initiative covering 1.13 million ha on five selected landscapes (Andapa, Soanierana Ivongo, Iazafo, Bealanana, and Marovoay) targeting 38,200 beneficiaries in 45 municipalities. The ultimate beneficiaries are smallholder households who will benefit from improved management of natural resources and improved access to productive inputs, including irrigation, sustainable land management, tree cover, and value chain interventions. The project objective is to increase access to improved irrigation services and agricultural inputs, and strengthen the integrated management of natural resources in the targeted landscapes by local actors. Capacities of producer associations, local forest user groups, community organizations, and water user associations will be reinforced in view of sustainability. Staff from sector Ministries at the local and national level will also be targeted

(1,000 people). Women will particularly be targeted as they represent a crucial resource in agriculture and the rural economy.

The project will produce global environmental benefits measurable in terms of critical ecosystems under effective management, SLM, and forest restoration, and carbon benefits. The project will help to improve management effectiveness of ten protected areas in four of the five landscapes (300,000 ha), sustainably manage productive landscapes and forests (respectively 700,000 ha and 250,000 ha), and protect forests (300,000 ha). The project constitutes a sizable carbon sink to achieve a net carbon balance of -3,491,043 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e emission over 20 years due to agroforestry on degraded lands, sustainable forest management including reforestation, and improved crop management.

### **9331 Pakistan: Sixth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Pakistan (UNDP)**

The sixth phase of the Pakistan Small Grants Programme (SGP) seeks to build resilience through community action, while recognizing the inter-connectedness of ecosystem services, local food production, natural resource use, livelihoods and culture. As such, the project will support community-based organizations, which are the driving force in rural development strategies, to take the lead in managing natural resources sustainably for social and ecological resilience and global environmental benefits, and in concert with other stakeholders and communities so as to multiply results. The project will integrate the landscape approach in the Indus Delta, by focusing 40% of GEF financing on this area. The landscape will provide a limited geographic scope in which small grants and their results can accrue to generate broader global environmental benefits. The project will also target 40% of its funding to other sites in the country, particularly to biodiversity hotspots, and 20% of its financing to testing and disseminating innovations in the area of energy efficient technologies.

The project will allow community organizations and NGOs can identify, test and adapt technologies that address housing, cooking and production needs in a more energy efficient or climate friendly manner in strategic locations across Pakistan. The project will focus on: Component 1: Resilient rural landscapes and seascapes of Pakistan's Indus Delta for sustainable development and global environmental protection and Component 2: Demonstration, deployment and transfer of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies and approaches and carbon stock enhancement and conservation.

### **9361 Vietnam: Mainstreaming Natural Resource Management and Biodiversity Conservation objectives into socio-economic development planning and management of Biosphere Reserve in Viet Nam (UNDP)**

The project's objective is: Integrated Natural Resources Management and Biodiversity Conservation objectives are effectively mainstreamed and advanced into and through development planning and tourism sector development in targeted Biosphere Reserves in Viet Nam. Within the project's approach, pilot sites are proposed in Hoang Lien Son Mountain BR, Cu Lao Cham BR in Hoi An, and Dong Nai BR. In selecting these pilot sites, the project applies the key biodiversity area (KBA) approach to identifying globally important areas for biodiversity conservation.

The global benefits that will be delivered primarily include regulatory and enforcement framework that will result in reduced pressures on natural resources in the core zones of the targeted Biosphere Reserves covering 284,112 ha; and landscape level application of SLM measures in forestry, agroforestry and agriculture that avoids and reduces land degradation and delivers ecosystem and development benefits over 760,466 ha.

#### **9365 Global: Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Project (IUCN)**

In October 2015, the 12th session of the UNCCD COP decided that striving to achieve SDG target 15.3 is a strong vehicle for driving implementation of the UNCCD, within the scope of the Convention. At that same COP, Parties were invited to formulate voluntary targets to achieve LDN in accordance with their specific national circumstances and development priorities. At the COP, the GEF announced support for countries on voluntary target setting at the COP through GEF UNCCD Enabling Activities. The LDN target setting project will support interested beneficiary countries to define national LDN targets, building upon previous GEF investments in national sustainable development programs and, more specifically, previous investments in UNCCD Enabling Activities (i.e., NAPs, NAP alignment and reporting processes).

The Project has three components and associated expected outcomes respectively: (1) National LDN baseline defined and validated by at least 60 countries; (2) National LDN measures and targets defined by at least 60 countries; and (3) LDN target setting knowledge management - Country parties and international organizations and stakeholders engaged in the LDN target setting process in a synergistic and coherent manner.

#### **9369 Ecuador: Implementation of the Strategic Plan of Ecuador Mainland Marine and Coastal Protected Areas Network (CI)**

The project will integrate the management of at least 516,779 ha of globally important marine protected areas (MPAs) with coastal and marine areas that provide inland and seaward connectivity. Having robust and resilient MPAs will in turn (i) protect valuable biodiversity and critical habitats, (ii) contribute to maintain environmental services, and (iii) sustain fisheries and other coastal activities.

The three main elements of innovation for Ecuador are (i) to acquire hands-on experience on developing a functional national MPA network, (ii) to explore new approaches to build collaborative relationships with stakeholders, and (iii) to investigate means to conserve connectivity between mangroves and inland habitats and ecosystems. Financial sustainability is guaranteed by the annual government expenditure for 17 MPAs that will continue to be provided by the Government of Ecuador, and the financial returns of the conservation trust fund to provide additional support the MPA network. It is expected that social sustainability will result from a new approach to interact with stakeholders and novel governance mechanisms will foster social capital to sustain the advance of the MPA network.

#### **9391 Global: The Global Environmental Commons. Solutions for a Crowded Planet (IUCN)**

The objective of this project is to raise awareness and strengthen the narrative of the global commons; create a coalition of allies on safeguarding the global commons by presenting a framework for safeguarding the global commons and propose actionable solutions; and engage with a broader group with critical influence to set in motion a movement to address the Global

Commons as a critical ingredient for a sustainable and prosperous future for all. It will combine a science-based analysis and approach with an innovative policy and world leader's dialogue to (1) identify the priority issues facing the Global Commons and propose actionable solutions for a crowded planet; (2) bring together intellectual and scientific leaders with 'dot connectors' who can translate and amplify the message to non-expert audiences; (3) leverage commitment and finance for the implementation of solutions by catalyzing a critical debate among leaders from within and outside the conservation community; and (4) release a Call to Action for Planetary Stewardship at a World Conference on the Global Environmental Commons.

Realizing that the current generation and decisions made in the next decade are key to determining the planet's future the proposed project is aimed at catalyzing a transformation in the approach to safeguarding the Global Commons as an integral part of development decision and economic approaches and to identify future pathways for safeguarding the Global Commons, including commitments embedded in the recent SDGs and COP21.

#### **9406 St. Lucia: Integrated Ecosystem Management and Restoration of Forests on the South East Coast of St. Lucia (UNEP)**

The project will enable sustainable economic development of the South East Coast by maintaining healthy ecosystems, sustainable livelihoods, and securing global environmental benefits. It seeks to implement an integrated sustainable development strategy in a poor region of St. Lucia that has received little attention from donors so far. As a result of changes in European Union trade policies, this area is undergoing a transition from banana agriculture to other types of agriculture and tourism. This project will build on an existing project to support St. Lucia's move away from banana agriculture by including resources for conservation, targeted reforestation, land use planning, and renewable energy. These efforts include a focus on reduced dependence on charcoal for energy, sustainable forest management, and forest restoration. Conservation efforts will be focused on protecting Key Biodiversity Areas, improving the sustainability of practices around those areas, and developing financial mechanisms for long term conservation finance. Project components are: (1) Increased government, civil society, and private sector capacity for sustainable development and ecosystem management; (2) Government of St. Lucia, municipal governments and communities increasingly restore and rehabilitate productive landscapes; and (3) targeted communities adopt sustainable economic pathways focused on sustainable livelihoods, including but not limited to ecotourism, that will be very important in helping people move away from charcoal and other unsustainable activities while earning a better living.

This project will work to bring an ecosystem-based approach to land planning and use in this region implementing multiple activities to work in synergy together. This project will also be implementing some of the sustainable financing strategies suggested through previous GEF investments support the Caribbean Challenge Initiative. These strategies, such as conservation easements, have been tried in few developing countries and would provide interesting pilots.

#### **9407 Regional (Egypt, Jordan): Healthy Ecosystems for Rangeland Development: Sustainable Rangeland Management for Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change Mitigation (UNEP)**

The project in Jordan and Egypt will contribute towards LDN through the adoption of community-based, sustainable land management in one of the world's most important rangeland

regions. The project has a \$1 million regional component funded out of LDFA set-asides to promote regional actions to achieve LDN, and is in response to a meeting convened by the League of Arab States in Cairo, February 28, 2016 where it was proposed that this project would support the development of an initiative to support LDN implementation in Arab countries, among which Iraq, Lebanon, Sudan, Mauritania, and Kuwait have expressed interest.

The projects objective is to strengthen restoration and sustainable management of pastoral rangelands for the provision of ecosystem services and protection of biodiversity in Egypt and Jordan and catalyzing scale up regionally and globally. Project components are: (1) Technical assistance for adaptive management and learning; (2) Stronger institutions for rangeland governance; (3) Identifying and up-scaling good practices in sustainable rangeland management; and (4) Knowledge management to promote an enabling environment for regional scale up of sustainable rangeland management.

#### **9413 Brazil: Realizing the Biodiversity Conservation Potential of Private Lands (UNEP)**

Half of the remaining natural vegetation cover in the five Brazilian biomes this project focuses on (Atlantic Forest, Cerrado, Caatinga, Pantanal and Pampa), amounting to 88 million ha of natural vegetation, are located on private lands. The project, which has both pilot and macro policy level elements, aims to address barriers to improve the management of their private set-aside areas. A successful implementation will have a direct contribution of conserving over 50 endangered species, scaling-up sustainable landscape management and appropriate systems of sustainable forest management in millions of ha of Private Set-Aside Areas. More importantly, it will create the basis of a national management system of conservation and management for 88 million ha of Private Set-Aside Areas and their wider landscapes.

This project will develop an innovative approach to dealing with the regulation of native habitats on private lands as priority areas for biodiversity conservation, sustainable landscape and forests management. By combining new tools aimed at both landscape level and macro policies, new regulation and targeted incentive schemes, large field pilots and sectoral agreements in a single package, the project aims to achieve a paradigm shift in the role of Private Set-Aside Areas in biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services provision and sustainable landscape management.

#### **9416 Costa Rica: Conserving Biodiversity through Sustainable Management in Production Landscapes in Costa Rica (UNDP)**

The objective of the project is to mainstream biodiversity conservation, sustainable land management and carbon sequestration objectives into production landscapes and urban biological corridors of Costa Rica. Key results are (1) a reduction in area converted annually from forest to other land cover, from 21,707 ha/year to 354 ha/year, resulting in a net avoided deforestation over the project area of 11,033 ha; (2) over 2,700 ha of landscape management tools comprising the following: 700 ha of micro corridors; (3) 2,000 ha of Silvo-pastoral systems to increase connectivity between production landscapes and selected protected areas and contribute to the conservation of biodiversity; and (4) increase of forest cover and carbon storage within farms in PA buffer zones, leading to a reduction from 10% of CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions in 100 beef production farms.

The use of mapping vegetation loss and gain tied to land tenancy in private productive land, on a publically accessible and annual basis (see Component 1), is highly innovative. Furthermore, the



project will test these technologies in both rural and urban contexts, with lessons learned to be disseminated and applied at a national and international level. The project will also introduce innovative sustainable agricultural practices (taking successful cases from other sites and countries such as Colombia and taking advantage of UNDPs network of experts), that have been proven to be effective as income-generating, environmentally-friendly management tools with positive effects on biodiversity.

#### **9417 Chad: Restoring Ecological Corridors in Western Chad for Multiple Land and Forests Benefits (IUCN)**

The project will invest in a large landscape between the Sena-Oura National Park, bordering the Bouba Ndjida National Park in Cameroon, the Binder Lere Wildlife reserve and the Yamba Berte Forest Reserve to maintain the ecological continuity of this corridor area, preventing the degradation of the ecosystem and its role in terms of carbon sequestration. The project will focus on two main causes of GHG emission, namely agriculture and the disappearance of forests. The project aims to restore a landscape and ecological continuity to guarantee the ecological functionality of the forest massifs in the Mayo-Kebbi West region. It will reinforce local authorities and develop tools for land use planning and the management of natural resources, and forest resources. The project will restore the "human-environment" interface out the protected areas supported by GIZ and JICA projects.

Three main outcomes are: (1) A halt of degradation of the environment through a combination of actions of protection, restoration, and sustainable management of natural resources; (2) An increase in the ability of local authorities to manage natural resources; and (3) the mitigation of the effects of climate change.

By restoring these ecological corridors, the project targets multiple benefits provided by ecosystems, soils and forests: Increase of carbon sequestration (1,300,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e through 100,000 ha of land under SLM over the lifetime of the project), livelihoods, food security, water resources, and stopping of land degradation and desertification.

#### **9424 Dominican Republic: Mainstreaming Conservation of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Productive Landscapes in Threatened Forested Mountainous Areas (UNDP)**

The project objective is to mainstream the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services in public policies and practices to effectively buffer current and future threats across productive mountain landscapes. The project will support systemic landscape management framework for effective cross sectoral governance of 3 threatened mountain landscapes (dry forest 17,000 ha, broadleaf forest 25,000 ha, pine forest 2,196 ha). It will also support conservation compatible production systems in threatened mountain ecosystems and conservation corridors and sustainable livelihoods that mainstream biodiversity friendly practices. This project is innovative for the Dominican Republic as it is the first effort to undertake comprehensive integration of biodiversity, sustainable forest management, and other ecosystem service values into land use planning. In targeting protected area buffer zones and corridors, it will demonstrate a holistic approach to development that protects biodiversity, forests, and the land.

This project is targeting efforts in 3 different areas of the country to incorporate environmental values into planning and decision making processes in buffer zones and corridors. The project will also work to support farmers and other land users to move towards more sustainable

practices - working both at the policy and ground levels, and working with institutions that provide credit to farmers to incorporate environmental values into lending activities.

**9429 Cuba: Incorporating Multiple Environmental Considerations and their Economic Implications into the Management of Landscapes Forests and Production Sectors in Cuba (UNDP)**

Cuba is home to some of the Caribbean's best conserved reefs and innovative practices in sustainable agriculture. The project is bringing together different ministries and government institutions to develop legal, policy and institutional frameworks in key sectors favoring the generation of global environmental benefits; targeted scenario analysis guiding decision makers on the implications of different courses of action in the target sectors affecting natural resources and global environmental values; and pilot experiences generating, validating and demonstrating mechanisms for optimizing and internalizing the values of ecosystem goods and services in the target sectors and associated landscapes.

This project seeks to address one of the fundamental drivers of the loss of GEBs, which is the absence of the value of GEBs in decision making. This project will work at the national and ministerial level to establish new policies and programs as well as put them into practice in selected areas of biodiversity, forest and land value. By focusing on new programs, policies and information within many different ministries beyond the environment to create new standard operating procedures, the changes resulting from this project will be long lasting.

**9434 Timor-Leste: Securing the Long-term Conservation of Timor-Leste Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services through the Establishment of a functioning National Protected Area Network and the Improvement of Natural Resource Management in Priority Catchment Corridor (CI)**

The project aims at securing the long-term conservation of Timor-Leste's biodiversity and ecosystem services through the implementation of a National Protected Area Network and the improvement of natural resource management in priority catchment corridors. The project also aims to build the understanding, ability, and capacity of the local communities, to manage their own resources in accordance with the collaborative management requirement of the country.

GEBs expected include: (i) at least 17% of the country's territory is under formal protection; (ii) average household income increased by at least 5% over the baseline; (iii) trained unemployed youth; (iv) at least 500 ha of community forests under sustainable management; (v) at least 500 ha of degraded land reforested; (vi) 10 community nurseries established and functioning; (vii) 10 community-based Conservation Groups participate in nursery and reforestation training. The project will also support Draft Community Forestry Policy for Timor-Leste which aims at the devolution of authority for forest management from Government to community members for long term economic benefits and maintenance of ecosystem goods and services.

**9460 Ecuador: Sixth Operational Phase of the GEF Small Grants Program in Ecuador (UNDP)**

Building directly on the experience, achievements and lessons of the GEF Small Grants Program in GEF5, this Medium Size Project will be implemented in the mosaic landscapes of 10 biological corridors distributed across four regions of Ecuador. These four regions are: Paramo, coastal dry forest and mangroves, and the Amazon rainforest. This project will enable Ecuador

community organizations in "Bio-corridors for Living Well" to take collective action for adaptive landscape management for socio-ecological resilience. This new phase will implement bio-corridor projects at the landscape level that will allow for scaling up and consolidation of the bio-corridors. Consolidation will consider involvement of the most representative stakeholders in the landscape. Community organizations have achieved significant progress and GEF SGP will continue strengthening their capacities in order to lead the process, to achieve: ecological connectivity, sustainable production landscapes and bio-corridor partnerships. The activities will be implemented through a joint project that reflects the relevant needs of the bio-corridor, including the institutions that co-finance the proposal and the coordination and implementation mechanism for the project.

#### **9477 Albania: Promoting Sustainable Land Management through Integrated Restoration of Ecosystems (UNEP)**

The project's objective is to strengthen capacity and skills of national and local government institutions and promoting sustainable land management practices in Albania through integrated ecosystem restoration. While component 1 works on the regulatory framework and capacity building for SLM, component 2 will demonstrate and scale up best practices in SLM. The direct result will be 21,288 ha of area under SLM, with high replication potential in other districts.

The project is the first LD stand alone in the country and despite being focused on SLM and funded by only one focal area, the approach is integrated, which will help mainstream the SLM approach into national policy and allow for further replication in other affected areas of Albania. In this context, the project will contribute to the implementation of UNCCD's LDN concept.

---

### **LDFA Projects Approved in FY2017 (Third Year of GEF-6)**

---

#### **9265 Vietnam: Mekong Delta Integrated Climate Resilience and Sustainable Livelihoods Project (World Bank)**

The project will strengthen institutional coordination and planning across the Mekong Delta, and improve resilience of people's livelihoods and assets to climate change in selected vulnerable sub-regions. It will adopt innovative approaches including: (1) strengthening information and decision support systems; (2) reinforcing institutional coordination, planning and capacity; and (3) identifying and financing low-regret investments (structural and non-structural) adopting an integrated landscape approach, in three key sub-regions of the Mekong Delta.

The project will contribute towards global environmental benefits including: (i) climate change mitigation through the reduction of anthropogenic emissions or enhancement of carbon sinks and reservoirs that are necessary for limiting long-term climate damage; (ii) rehabilitation of degraded land and soil through the efficient use of land, soil, water and vegetation in existing agro-ecosystems.; (iii) sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation with a focus on mangrove restoration and rehabilitation, improve sustainability of protected areas; and mainstream conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems into production/landscapes/seascapes and sectors; (iv) enhanced management of transboundary water system and investments targeting fisheries and coastal habitats; and (v) lead to a number of adaptation co-benefits through

improved management actions. Estimated global environmental benefits include 2 million ha under sustainable land management; and 4.5 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions mitigated.

**9266 Eritrea: Restoring Degraded Forest Landscapes and Promoting Community-based, Sustainable and Integrated Natural Resource Management in the Rora Habab Plateau, Nakfa Sub-zoba, Northern Red Sea Region of Eritrea (UNDP)**

The objective of this project is to promote landscape restoration and mainstream sustainable land management, forestry and biodiversity conservation into land-use planning and agricultural production practices in the Rora Habab Plateau, in the northern Red Sea Region of Eritrea. There have been few alternatives to enhance food security in Eritrea other than through intensifying agriculture and increasing agricultural productivity at farm level. In line with this, most investments have been made to restore soils and increase water availability for agriculture. A complementary approach is the restoration of degraded ecosystems to provide the ecosystem goods and services much needed by the local community, including grazing lands, fodder, non-timber forest products and firewood.

The project is designed to integrate sustainability aspects into the local production and resource management practices combining institutional capacity building with investments on the ground on at the landscape level and in forest enclosures. These interventions have the potential to halt the widespread degradation of land and ecosystems in the country, particularly in already-vulnerable landscapes, such as the Northern Red Sea region.

This project will increase institutional capacity and enabling framework for integrated landscape management, and facilitating the development of practical skills and demonstrated best practices for landscape restoration and sustainable agriculture targeting a total of 100,000 ha. It will also guide site-specific planning and implementation of landscape restoration, conservation and sustainable management to increase water availability and improve soil moisture, improved livestock grazing and livestock water management practices promoted to reduce rangeland degradation and promote livestock productivity, agro-forestry and forest restoration and regeneration promoted through establishment of community tree nurseries, and community-managed forest enclosures expanded through planting and assisted natural regeneration of indigenous and drought-resistant tree species.

**9294 Mauritania: Integrated Ecosystem Management Program for the Sustainable Human Development in Mauritania (FAO)**

The program's main objective is to increase the sustainable development of communities by reducing natural resources degradation through ecosystem rehabilitation, while creating and diversifying the sources of income for local communities in the Wilayas of Southern Mauritania. The project is innovative as this is the first time that Mauritania is programming nearly all their GEF resources to develop an integrated approach that will address the root causes affecting sustainable human development in view of scaling up in other areas of the country. The project has four components: (1) Integrated and participatory planning and management for the sustainable development of ecosystems; (2) Conservation, restoration and sustainable management of the landscape/ecosystem; (3) Reduction of pressure on ecosystems through income generation and funding mechanisms; and (4) Coordination and program monitoring.

The project will directly operate on 45,000 ha of a mixed landscape of grasslands, forests, and croplands for a total of 2.5 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e over a period of 20 years, with a potential for scaling up the approach up to 500,000 ha, in association of the efforts made under the Great Green Wall Initiative in Mauritania. The Global Environment Benefits will include a reduction in LD through SLM and reforestation, the enhancement of ecosystem services (soil health, water and air quality), the creation of a new protected area, the conservation of globally significant agricultural biodiversity, the increase of carbon storage, and the reduction of GHG emissions from land uses.

#### **9388 Lebanon: Land Degradation Neutrality of Mountain Landscapes in Lebanon (UNDP)**

The project has the long-term goal of achieving LDN in the mountainous areas of Lebanon. The project will review existing policies, legislation, procedures and regulations for land use and management in Lebanon, propose amendments and remove identified barriers. In parallel, the project will carry out rehabilitation of lands in 13 pilot project sites covering in total 5,200 ha sites leading to LDN in about 52,000 ha of mountainous lands.

The project is innovative in using GEF-6 LDFA STAR resources for explicitly striving to achieve LDN. Lebanon is one of the parties of the UNCCD that embraced the new concept of voluntary targets for LDN at the recent UNCCD COP. Towards this end the project involves the private sector and enhances collaboration between government agencies and the private sector. The project also includes the development of a communication and knowledge management strategy and the financial mechanisms to allow for scaling up from pilot scale to wider application in the country.

#### **9537 Morocco: Revitalizing Oasis Agro-ecosystems through a Sustainable, Integrated and Landscape Approach in the Dra-Tafilalet Region (OASIL) (FAO)**

The project will directly contribute to reduce land degradation and ground-water overexploitation, promote agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable production intensification practices. The overall objective of OASIL is to revitalize oasis agro-ecosystems in the Dra-Tafilalet region to be attractive, improve the resilience of local communities to climate change variability, and increase carbon sinks from better SLM practices. OASIL adopts an integrated landscape approach which is rooted in multi-level, multi-sector and multi-stakeholder participation, and considers the carrying capacity of the natural resource base of the oasis agro-ecosystem (land, water, biodiversity).

The project will reverse land degradation trends on over 60,000 ha of land. New and innovative climate smart agricultural practices and technologies will be introduced in order to reduce the emissions of GHGs and in order to increase the sink potentials. The overall mitigation benefits will amount to 1,482,488 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e over a 20-year period. Low-emission technologies and practices will also be promoted. The project will help to maintain globally significant agrobiodiversity in critical oasis landscapes, notably four traditional crops (Durum wheat, faba bean, lentil and alfalfa), but also the D'man sheep and Yellow bee of the Sahara.

#### **9555 Mexico: Sustainable Productive Landscapes (World Bank)**

This project aims to promote sustainable productive landscapes that foster connectivity of forest landscapes for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services in priority areas of Mexico. The project will be implemented across 7 priority regions, identified based on their representativeness

in terms of biodiversity, connectivity, land and forestry management activities, climate vulnerability and mitigation potential, ecosystem services, and agricultural production activities. Within each one of these broad priority regions, 12 possible intervention sites have been identified by focusing on the importance of biodiversity conservation and productive opportunities. The project will focus on promoting sustainable production landscapes, where production and conservation decisions are made jointly at the level of producers.

The project will lead to the following global environmental benefits: (i) increased application of good management practices in productive forests within project sites (pine, pine-oak and tropical forests) in 3,000,000 ha; (ii) sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes) in 500,000 ha; and (iii) GHG emissions reductions of 6.6 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e. The project is also expected to contribute to the conservation of biodiversity by establishing landscape connectivity between ecosystems, maintaining and improving the flow of agriculture and ecosystem services, mitigation of GHG emissions, promoting carbon capture and generally increasing socio-ecological resilience to climate change, while improving the welfare of the population through improved production processes in economic and environmental terms. By supporting enhanced corridor integrity and connectivity, it will also contribute to preserve the resilience of regional ecosystems to climatic and other external pressures, including the preservation of species of conservation concern.

#### **9730 Georgia: Generating Economic and Environmental Benefits from Sustainable Land Management for Vulnerable Rural Communities of Georgia (UNEP)**

The project's objective is to develop and strengthen SLM practices and build capacity at municipal scale for their application for the protection of natural capital in Georgia through (1) Creating an enabling environment at municipal scale for achieving LDN voluntary targets; and (2) Pilot implementation of measures avoiding degradation, intensifying sustainable land management practices and land rehabilitation to improve ecosystem functions and services; and (3) Knowledge Management and Capacity Building.

Global environmental benefits include the adoption of SLM, and climate-smart agricultural practices will improve agricultural management that will reduce land degradation and secure ecosystem services over an area covering of at least 10,000 ha in the targeted municipalities. SLM activities envisaged in the project will increase resilience to climate change and contribute to emissions reductions, 16,500 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e will be sequestered through restoration of additional 10,000 ha of degraded land through application of sustainable land management (windbreaks rehabilitation, climate smart agricultural methods).

#### **9409 Sri Lanka: Healthy Landscapes: Managing Agricultural Landscapes in Socio-ecologically Sensitive Areas to Promote Food Security, Well-being and Ecosystem Health (UNEP)**

The project assists the Government of Sri Lanka to safeguard biodiversity in multiple land use areas through the operationalization of a new land use governance framework called "Environmentally Sensitive Areas", which will be primarily outside protected areas. The project would mainstream biodiversity using an integrated land management approach to ensure development, health and environmental benefits. It delivers global environmental and socio-economic benefits through a package of measures - practices, policies, knowledge management and awareness - that ensure future land use and production sector practices and decisions do not

compromise biodiversity and ecosystem functions and recognize the importance of biodiversity, agriculture and health linkages. Measures include scaling up methods and tools to mobilize agrobiodiversity at the farm and community level, knowledge management partnerships, capacity building, cross-sector policies and planning and enhanced awareness and understanding of biodiversity, agriculture and health linkages so as to better manage future risks and safeguard ecosystem functioning.

The project employs the Resilience, Adaptation Pathways and Transformation Assessment (RAPTA) Framework to apply resilience and systems thinking during project development, implementation and monitoring to the issues of ecosystem health and human health.

#### **9667 Dominica: Sustainable Land Management in the Commonwealth of Dominica (UNEP)**

The project aims to implement an integrated land management model that includes agricultural, forestry and natural resources management practices, that generate development and critical environmental benefits in the Commonwealth of Dominica. The project will work in four administrative parishes (Saint David, Saint Paul, Saint Joseph and Saint Patrick), targeting an area of 40,460 ha and will contribute to improve the resilience to extreme weather events.

The project has two components to (1) enable a "whole island" landscape framework to plan, monitor and adapt land management, and (2) reduce the effects of land degradation on ecosystems services through Sustainable Land Management. The project will employ measures to reduce soil erosion rates due to improved agricultural practices and watershed rehabilitation on 6,000 ha (4,000 ha of degraded lands restored, 2000 ha of agricultural lands under SLM).

The project demonstrates for the first time in Dominica, integration of land degradation data and sustainable land management practices into land use planning and collaboration among different sectors. A key factor for sustainability will be the direct involvement of local communities and small farmers to improve land productivity and resilience to extreme weather events. They will be introduced to SLM practices through demonstration and training. Mainstreaming SLM into the Land Use and Land Management Plan will also be a way for sustainability, anchoring SLM into the institutions and the mechanisms.

#### **9754 Moldova: Climate Adaptation & Forestry Project (World Bank)**

The project will promote climate-resilient practices in the agriculture sector, by enhancing adoption of climate-resilient agriculture practices in selected rural landscapes by supporting: (1) scale-up of farmers' climate-smart agricultural practices and provision of related-advisory services; and (2) expanded up-take of irrigation services. The project will also support climate-resilient forest and pasture management through restoration and improved climate-smart management, as well as disaster risk reduction. The GEF funding will support the agroforestry interventions, whereas the co-financing will focus on irrigation, disaster risk management, and other interventions.

The project seeks to support climate-resilient practices in the agriculture sector and climate-resilient forest and pasture management, which is innovative in the context, sustainable as well as scalable. The sustainability and scalability will depend on the uptake of the practices. Capacity-building interventions are designed to support the sustainability and scaling-up.

**9293 Mali: Scaling up a Multiple Benefits Approach to Enhance Resilience in Agro- and Forest Landscapes of Mali's Sahel Regions (Kayes, Koulikoro and Sagou) (AfDB)**

The project aims to build resilience in both ecosystems and communities. The project is based on a landscape approach to Integrated Natural Resource Management in target district with considerations to the linkages between multiple ecosystem functions and services. The main objective is to enhance food security and multiple environmental benefits through sustainable, resilient and healthy agro- and forest ecosystems in the Sahelian regions of Mali based on a landscape approach. The project is based on three main components to (1) Promote integrated Landscape planning and Management for multiple objectives and resilience, (2) Provide a productive, protected, and healthy landscape to maintain diverse ecosystem goods and services (agriculture and forest), and (3) Learn, monitor, and adaptive management.

The integrated nature of the project will help to produce multiple quantifiable global environment benefits of (i) 5,000 ha of land under SLM in production systems (agriculture and rangelands), contributing also to Mali's Land Degradation Neutrality target; (ii) Avoided deforestation and forest degradation; (iii) Enhanced carbon stock through SFM, reforestation on a total 9,500 ha with a cumulative avoided GHG emissions (direct and indirect emissions reduction of 1,295,143 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e); and (iv) Reduced prevalence of harmful chemicals and waste released into the environment (air and land).

**9366 Cote d'Ivoire: Sustainability and Scaling Up Approaches for Transformational Management, Restoration and Conservation of Forests Landscapes and Biodiversity in Cote d'Ivoire (UNEP)**

The project has the following components: (1) Promote institutional, legal strengthening of rural land tenure supportive of Payments for Environmental Services (PES) and REDD+; (2) Establish financial mechanisms supportive of PES and REDD; and (3) Manage less supported Protected Areas and surrounding ecosystems.

The implementation of this project is expected to generate multiple global environment benefits related to the regulation of ecosystem services with: (i) 9,000 ha of agricultural landscapes reforested; (ii) 8,000 ha of restored coastal area ecosystems, including mangroves; (iii) 145,430 ha of protected areas with improved management (Abokouamekro Fauna Reserve, Haut Bandama Fauna and Flora Reserve and Lamto Scientifique Reserve); (iv) 40,000 ha of lands under SLM and/or agroforestry practices; (v) 40,000 ha of restored forests in the Marahoue National park and the Mont Peko National Park. All these activities will generate carbon benefits with potential avoided GHG emissions of \$8.5 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e and sequestration of 4.4 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e.

**9383 Benin: Sustainable Forest Management and Conservation Project in Central and South Benin (AfDB)**

The project promotes sustainable forest management in central and south Benin by improving forest and land management to preserve forest cover, prevent biodiversity loss, and monitor carbon stocks and emissions. The project has three components: (1) Enhancing conservation of forest ecosystems and wildlife in classified forests (with the inclusion of 150,000 ha of communal forests in protected areas in the Key Biodiversity Area of Monts Kouffe et Wari-Marou, the improvement of management effectiveness of classified forests, and the establishment of three new wildlife ranches); (2) Improving sustainability and functioning of forest ecosystems



(including the rehabilitation of 20,000 ha of forests, the promotion of agroforestry on 5,500 ha, institutional and legal support); and (3): Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory (with the strengthening of institutional capacities to monitor forest restoration and carbon stocks, and the development of robust GHG accounting methodologies, including the establishment of GHG emission baseline for communal forests).

The GEBs are multiple, coming from protection and sustainable management of forests, with 150,000 ha of communal forests included in protected areas and 41,000 ha under SLM, including agroforestry, community forestry, rangeland management, and plantations. The carbon benefits are estimated at 8,510,623 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e.

### **9385 Rwanda: Forest Landscape Restoration in the Mayaga Region (UNDP)**

The project will be implemented in four districts in the Mayaga landscape: Kamonyi, Gisagara, Ruhango and Nyanza. It will engineer a shift from the business as usual scenario of economic growth at the expense of natural capital, to green growth that realizes development while at the same time securing forests and biodiversity areas. It also advances a green economy at the local level, based on active participation by private sector that links the communities and land users to the financial institutions. The project will do this by providing knowledge systems, incentives, skills and capacities for the adoption of a landscape approach to reverse the loss of ecosystem services within degraded forest landscapes, by promoting good practices conducive to SLM and biodiversity conservation; and, reducing pressure on the forest resources from more efficient rural energy consumption.

By combating deforestation and putting forests under sustainable participatory management, the project is expected to improve the ecosystem functionality and annually avoid emissions of 844 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per ha. The restoration of forests on 1,000 ha and the adoption of climate smart agriculture on 56,000 ha will improve ecosystem functionality and ecosystem services, including the reduction of soil erosion (that ends up in Lake Victoria and the Nile). The Incentives for private sector engagement in advancing the uptake of energy efficient and green technologies are expected to reduce wood consumption by at least 30% and significant additional CO<sub>2</sub> emissions mitigated, as well as improved soil conditions and forest health and decreased air pollution with improved kilns.

### **9389 Mongolia: Ensuring Sustainability and Resilience (ENSURE) of Green Landscapes in Mongolia (UNDP)**

The project will enhance ecosystem services in multiple landscapes of the Sayan and Khangai mountains and southern Gobi by reducing rangeland and forest degradation and conserving biodiversity through sustainable livelihoods. The project will build on and jointly work with the national program on green development, the project will support policy and institutional frameworks to implement the national program, and strengthen ecosystem services by reducing rangeland and forest degradation and conserving biodiversity through sustainable livelihood. The project will do this by: (1) enhancing policy and institutional frameworks to ensure that Mongolia's green development path delivers enhanced biodiversity and ecosystem services; and (2) operationalize best practices on sustainable pasture management and restoration in key biodiversity areas in Mongolia. The project will also implement green livelihoods initiatives that support sustainable rangeland and forest management and biodiversity conservation.

Global environmental benefits will be measured by enhanced ecosystem services across an estimated 1.29 million portion of landscapes across the 39.5 million ha of Sayan and Khangai mountains and southern Gobi, through planning and implementation of green development policies and practices. Specific focal area benefits include: (i) strengthened conservation of at least 5 iconic species such as Gobi bear, Bactrian camel, Przewalski horse, snow leopard, wild ass, Mongolia saiga antelope and mask deer; (ii) expansion of protected areas system of 0.94 million ha in KBAs; (iii) reduction of overgrazing in at least 300,000 ha of rangelands; (iv) improved forest cover and condition across total 45,000 ha of boreal and Saxaul forests; and (v) estimated emissions reduction of 918,000 tons of CO<sub>2e</sub> over 20 years.

#### **9437 Nepal: Integrated Landscape Management to Secure Nepal's Protected Areas and Critical Corridors (WWF-US)**

The project objective is to promote integrated landscape management to conserve globally significant forests and wildlife. The landscape management approach represents a shift away from the current, globally implemented approach of focusing resources solely on isolated protected areas. The landscape approach recognizes protected areas as the foundation of biodiversity conservation and ensures sustainable land use and management of buffer zones around PAs, and corridors that connect PAs, to deliver forest and land management, and conservation of globally significant large ranging mammals (tiger, rhino and elephant).

The project has 4 components: (1) National capacity and enabling environment for cross-sectoral coordination to promote forest and landscape conservation; (2) Integrated planning for protected area buffer zones and critical corridors in the Terai Arc Landscape; (3) Forest and species management for improved conservation of targeted protected area buffer zones and corridors; and (4) Knowledge management and M&E. Through the development of an inter-sectoral and integrated landscape management capacity and the implementation of sustainable land use practices, the project aims at improving the management of 110,400 ha of direct impact in project buffer zones and corridors and 2,471,000 ha of landscapes overall. The project is also expected to avoid GHG emissions estimated to be around 1.3 million tons of CO<sub>2e</sub>.

#### **9441 Colombia: Contributing to the Integrated Management of Biodiversity of the Pacific Region of Colombia to Build Peace (FAO and UNIDO)**

The project is designed to mainstream the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity and the provision of ecosystem services in vulnerable landscapes of Colombia's Pacific region in view of generating global and local environmental benefits and supporting the peace process. First, it will protect biodiversity and safeguard ecosystem services rendered primarily by forests by mainstreaming them at the level of landscapes and in the context of the peace process. Secondly, the project will implement an integrated management of protected areas, buffer zones and other complementary conservation strategies. Thirdly, the project will foster the implementation of sustainable productive practices, as a local development alternative to protect biodiversity and equally support the peace process. Through Green Business action planning, the primary, secondary and tertiary economic sectors will be targeted in a synergetic way to generate development and address some of the drivers of forest loss.

The proposed project approach includes the establishment of areas that are not formal protected areas, but function as such, among them different stewardship approaches and modalities of area protection and management that correspond to what is internationally known as Indigenous and

Community Conserved Areas. The project seeks to mainstream biodiversity in 9 million ha and mitigate 2.7 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e through improved forest protection and management.

**9577 Grenada: Climate Resilient Agriculture for Integrated Landscape Management (UNDP)**

This project will operationalize integrated agroecosystem management through mainstreaming biodiversity conservation in the production landscape and increasing resilience of agricultural system in Grenada. Grenada is known as the spice island, in particular because of their production of nutmeg. As tropical small island, they are especially vulnerable to extreme weather events such as Hurricane Ivan, which damaged or destroyed 90% of their nutmeg trees. Poor land management and agricultural practices also drive both the loss of biodiversity and land degradation in Grenada.

This project will address a number of barriers to the implementation of sustainable land management and agricultural practices while demonstrating and establishing support mechanisms for climate-smart sustainable agriculture. The project will address gaps in land use planning data and data management, regulatory systems, and capacity of relevant government agencies. It will catalyze the implementation of climate-smart agriculture through developing financial support mechanisms for farmers, improved soil and water quality monitoring, and upgrading propagation centers and extension services. In areas of biodiversity importance, the project will support establishing national parks in dry forests, improved management of riparian zones, and control of targeted invasive species.

The development of models of integrated management and planning of agricultural and natural areas can serve as an important guide for other Caribbean islands or small states in managing competing land use priorities and encouraging private land owners (farmers) to make changes in their practices.

**9580 St. Vincent and Grenadines: Conserving Biodiversity and Reducing Land Degradation Using a Ridge-to-Reef Approach (UNDP)**

The objective of this project is to enhance biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services conservation through an expanded and strengthened protected area system and with SLM measures integrated in a ridge to reef approach. The project will focus on four areas: (1) Strengthened institutional framework for protected areas, ecosystem conservation and SLM; (2) Integrated watershed management measures to reduce threats to upstream and downstream protected areas; and (3) Knowledge management for SLM, climate smart agriculture, and biodiversity conservation.

The support of sustainable land management is a key complement to the work on protected areas. The often-steep terrain, frequent extreme weather, lack of farmer organization for most crops, and other issues make addressing agriculture particularly important. This project will use model farms and extension training to help farmers to adopt new, more sustainable practices and crops. Also, the development of agricultural producer businesses will help generate greater revenue for farmers using sustainable practices.

**9583 Argentina: Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Land Management into Development Planning: Making Environmental Land Use Planning Operational in Argentina (UNDP)**

This project will reduce biodiversity loss and land degradation in Argentina by mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and SLM approaches into the production practices of the main sectors driving these processes, namely the agriculture and livestock sector and the emerging threats from mining and infrastructure expansion in peri-urban areas. The approach to achieve this mainstreaming will be through spatial planning- Environmental Land Use Planning (ELUP). This will be based on criteria such as valuation of ecosystem goods and services and trade off scenario analysis to determine changes or modifications needed in production practices to reduce impact in priority areas in the landscape. It will support ELUP in 4 provinces, (Buenos Aires, Jujuy y Mendoza and San Luis), test production practices for different zones and model a mix of instruments to implement these restrictions in priority landscapes. These include command and control (e.g. fines, fiscal) approaches and incentives (e.g. preferential credit, market-based).

This will deliver direct benefits to 9 ecoregions with globally significant biodiversity or top priorities for combatting land degradation resulting in improved management of biodiversity rich landscapes covering 5.8 million ha and improved sustainable land management in 583,000 ha.

**9586 Turkey: Contributing to Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Target Setting by Demonstrating the LDN Approach in the Upper Sakarya Basin for Scaling up at National Level (FAO)**

The project is the first national project in GEF-6 that targets the implementation of LDN *at the national level*, using GEF resources. The intricate link with the UNCCD implementation ensures sustainability and there is a high likelihood for scaling the model up at the national level. The project will develop a model for LDN target setting, planning and implementation in the Sakarya Basin for scaling up at national level. It will take a phased approach by first strengthen the enabling environment for LDN and multi-sectoral land-use planning processes in Turkey, followed by a decision support system for LDN that will first be piloted in the Sakarya Basin in Northwestern Turkey. The pilot will also include activities at the ground to achieve land degradation neutrality in the basin. Ultimately, the model will be scaled up and applied at national level.

GEBs include: (i) increased coverage of SLM and SFM on 14,000 ha; (ii) increased area of landscape under sustainable management (4 million ha); and (iii) improvement of provisioning of ecosystem services.

**9745 Iraq: Sustainable Land Management for Improved Livelihoods in Degraded Areas of Iraq (FAO)**

The project seeks to combat land degradation and conserve marshland ecosystems for improved livelihoods and ecosystem resilience, services, and access. The key interventions in support of this objective are: (1) to strengthen the enabling environment to support sustainable land management (SLM) and conservation agriculture (CA) in degraded marshland ecosystems in Iraq, including developing the policy framework, spatial mapping capabilities and capacity of government agencies; (2) to rehabilitate degraded productive land through sustainable land management and conservation agriculture practices and restore and implement sustainable management of marshland ecosystems through SLM, CA and development of local communities'

livelihoods; and (3) enhanced awareness of the importance of agriculture for sustainable land management and food security, and project implementation based on results-based management and application of lessons learned.

The project will benefit 500 smallholder vulnerable households in five locations, and 4,000 ha of marshlands, and 6,000 ha of degraded land close to marshlands (3,000 ha owned by the Government, and 3,000 ha owned by smallholders).

The project is fully in line with national plans and priorities. These include Iraq's National Development Plan, National Communication to the UNFCCC, and the National Action Plan to Combat Desertification, as well as support to the setting of LDN targets.

**9774 Global (Argentina, Burkina Faso, Bhutan, Belarus, Colombia, Cabo Verde, Dominican Republic, Eritrea, Gambia, Jamaica, Madagascar, Mali, Malaysia, Nepal, Panama, Congo DR): GEF SGP Sixth Operational Phase- Strategic Implementation Using STAR Resources Tranche 1, Mainly in LDCs and SIDS (UNDP)**

This tranche of the SGP project includes 16 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 16 countries, there are eleven Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developing Countries (LDCs) where SGP plays an important role in building necessary capacity for conserving the global environment.

The objective is to support the creation of global environmental benefits and the safeguarding of the global environment through community and local solutions that complement and add value to national and global level action, in particular through: (1) Community Landscape and Seascape Conservation; (2) Climate Smart Innovative Agro-ecology; and (3) Low Carbon Energy Co-Benefits. Community innovations in SGP are manifested in the testing of low-cost technologies and sustainable production methods, in new methodologies for the involvement of stakeholders, and in integrating traditional decision-making processes within the wider frameworks and action relevant meeting country commitments to international environmental agreements.

---

**Relevant Projects Approved under Other Funding Windows in FY16 and FY17**

---

**9051 Regional: Moringa Agro-forestry Fund for Africa (Non-Grant Instruments) (AfDB)**

The project will scale up investment in agroforestry activities in selected African countries for biodiversity conservation and reduced land/forest degradation. The project targets the improvement of management of landscapes on 79,000 ha to maintain significant biodiversity and associated ecosystems goods and services. The project also targets more than 200,000 ha of production systems under sustainable land and forest management. The proposed activities will support transformational shift towards a low emission and resilient development path, mitigating 9.5 million of tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e.

The Moringa Fund will invest in five to six scalable, replicable agroforestry projects in Sub-Saharan Africa that combine plantation forestry with agricultural elements to capture most of the

value chain. The Fund is associated with a grant-based technical assistance facility which will provide resources to strengthen the development impact. It will also help in building community resilience to climate change and changing economic circumstances by enabling them to diversify revenue streams from agro and forestry products as well as carbon and other ecosystem services.

The Moringa Fund will act as a platform to attract financing partners (Compagnie Benjamin de Rothschild CBR, European Investment Bank), forestry sector business (small and medium enterprises, micro-operators, farmer organizations), the final beneficiaries being smallholder farmers. The Fund will include safeguard principles to analyze land ownerships, avoid land grabbing, and will watch with particular concern potential invasive species. Local communities, including indigenous people, will be consulted prior to activities to identify customary rights.

#### **9277 Regional (Latin America and Caribbean): Risk Mitigation Instrument for Land Restoration (Non-Grant Instruments) (IADB)**

The project will result in two Land Restoration Projects totaling 22,500 ha and two Integrated Natural Resource Management Projects totaling 22,500 ha, both guaranteed by the Risk Mitigation Instrument. Enhancements to carbon stock are estimated to yield GHG emissions mitigation benefits of 4.5 million tons over ten years. The project will support activities in intercropping, shade grown and sylvo-pastoral systems, timber and non-timber forests products, and improving the flow of ecosystem services. Beneficiaries for the risk mitigation instrument will be carefully selected through a rigorous project approval process conducted by IADB, including financial due diligence.

The Risk Mitigation Instrument is innovative for its use of a donor-supported financial instrument that will enable private sector capital to invest in restoration projects. GEF funds will be used to provide either guarantees or subordinated loans which will help catalyze additional public and private sector investments by reducing perceived risk and providing a model to address remaining risks. GEF returns will be based on the type of instrument used, with fees for guarantees and interest earned on subordinated loans. Risk mitigating instruments are used in other sectors (e.g. energy efficiency and renewable energy investments), but such instruments are less common in the land use sectors.

The IADB and impact investors will carefully evaluate the financial sustainability of every sub-project according to normal due diligence procedures. The first-loss position assumed by the Risk Mitigation Instrument will improve investors' ability to finance restoration projects, but investors and lenders will maintain their commitment to the financial sustainability of investments. Guarantees and loans will only be provided where there is a clear case for additionality. Related, the Risk Mitigation Instrument will be deployed following a principle of minimum concessionality, meaning that sub-projects supported by the Instrument will receive the minimum amount of GEF resources required to make them viable.

#### **9719 Global: Piloting Innovative Investments for Sustainable Landscapes (Non-Grant Instruments) (UNEP)**

The GEF's use of non-grant instruments is a critical catalyst to shift incentives towards expanding production on existing converted agricultural land as well as degraded land in combination with solid forest protection commitment. Using proven business models for blended finance, the GEF and its partners can leverage private sector investment for the protection of the

global commons. The GEF financing of \$2 million is linked directly to a loan of \$20 million and grant of \$30,000,000 from the Government of Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI) to the Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH). The NICFI-IDH Partnership Program will create impact through two essential mechanisms: convening and financing.

The GEF project supports the program through piloting the de-risking of commercial financing of deforestation-free land-use through building a finance facility, called “Production and Protection Fund”; developing a pipeline of investable projects; and testing it by supporting investments in the selected landscapes in Brazil, Indonesia and Liberia such that these private investments deliver 1.25 million ha of forest protection as well as livelihood improvements for smallholders and communities living in those forests. The project will specifically target seven landscapes in Brazil, Indonesia and Liberia namely Brazil: (1) the State of Mato Grosso; Indonesia: (2) South Sumatra and Jambi, (3) West Kalimantan and Aceh; (4) Liberia; (5) the South East Landscape, (6) the Western Landscape and (7) the Nimba Landscape.

The project will deploy public climate funds to de-risk and leverage private sector investments in sustainable agricultural production on the condition of strict forest protection measures. In the case of the Production, Protection and Inclusion Fund this means interventions will include provisions to improve access to capital to finance the core commercial activities related to production of agricultural commodities and providing finance at concessional rates (to make it financially attractive for the borrower or investee company) in return for commitments to protect the forest and peat lands of high conservation value and high carbon stocks.

With the change-in-business-practice, both in the land-use sector and the financial sector, the project will influence direct protection of an estimated 250,000 ha of forest (including reforested areas), avoid deforestation on 180,000 ha, and promote sustainable production on 84,000 ha. This will result in an estimated 222,600 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e mitigation (avoided or sequestered).

#### **9199 Bhutan: Enhancing Sustainability and Climate Resilience of Forest and Agricultural Landscape and Community Livelihoods (multi-trust fund: GEF/LDCF) (UNDP)**

This integrated multi-trust fund project seeks to address adverse impacts of climate change and other anthropogenic threats (e.g., land conversion, unsustainable agriculture) on rural livelihood security and poverty, as well as on the ecological integrity of biodiversity-rich forested landscapes. The project has three components to: (1) enhance policy, planning and monitoring frameworks for integrated management of forest and agricultural landscapes and climate change resilience at national, sub-national and village levels; (2) strengthen the biological corridor network governance and management systems in pilot corridors; and (3) build resilience to climate change in vulnerable communities, specifically reducing vulnerability in livelihood activities, agricultural practices and supporting systems (such as improved performance of market access roads in heavy rainfall, provision of post-harvest storage and processing facilities).

The project is expected to yield livelihood resilience benefits for at least 96,400 people, improve the management of 1.3 million ha of landscape that is significant for biodiversity, bring 100,000 ha under sustainable land management, and result in 3.57 million tons CO<sub>2</sub>e in carbon benefits.