Proposals for GEF Funding with the Support of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

3 proposals to support the implementation of LD and Biodiversity targets at National level

July 2020

OPTION 1 - Towards Land Degradation-Neutral Armenia

Component 1

Policy, legal and institutional frameworks for sustainable croplands management in line with the LDN and green economy principles

- National policies, legal, and regulatory frameworks for resilient cropland landscape transformations adjusted with the special focus on the abandoned land and land management instruments for secure tenure rights (e.g. land banking, mediation of lease and land consolidation) and aligned with the LDN and green economy principles
- Enhanced coordination at the landscape level to facilitate the integrated management of cropland production systems, including mainstreaming of the sub-sector into national budget sector allocation and investment processes

Component 2

Demonstration of sustainable croplands management approaches and technologies in the Ararat Valley

- Integration of the LDN principles through participatory approaches in cropland landscapes in the Ararat Valley
- Multi-stakeholder land-use plans for selected landscapes, including targeted investment for selected agricultural production landscapes/land use systems.
- Integration of the integrated land management plans above with other community and administrative-level planning processes
- At least 2 value-chains strengthened (i.e. wheat, barley) based on the targeted value chains life cycle assessments, and/or production suitability, including market access (LDN target #1)
- Upscaling of 4-5 innovative sustainable technologies and approaches in target landscapes on 60,000 ha of land.
- GHG emissions sequestration delivered through SLM and restoration

Component 3

Capacity building and awareness raising to support the scaling up and adoption of management practices

- Specialized institutions / advisory service providers with increased capacities to enhance skills of stakeholders for wide adoption of SLM approaches and technologies
- Training programs on value-chains management for local communities, extension services, farmers, women groups, and youth
- Training of farmers on use of practical tools to identify suitable SLM
- Approximatety 3,000-4,000direct project beneficiaries (local farmers and land users)
- Approximately a third of the population of the Ararat valley engaged in agricultural production with increased awareness on the SLM priority project issues
- Knowledge products on SLM on croplands developed
- Reporting to the UNCCD

Proposed area of intervention

Ararat Valley.

OPTION 2 - Resilient landscapes for biodiversity conservation in Western Armenia

Component 1

Establishing protected areas and strengthening the systems of their management for biodiversity conservation and in line with green economy principles

- Improved planning, management and monitoring capacity of the protected areas and Key Biodiversity Area on a total area of 35,000 hectares and in line with the green economy principles
- Enhanced coordination at the landscape level to facilitate the integrated management of production systems ecosystem functions that underpin the delivery and resilience of ecosystem services, including mainstreaming of NBSAP into national budget sector allocation and investment processes

Component 2

Landscape restoration for biodiversity, resilience and local livelihoods

- Multi-stakeholder land-use plans for selected areas.
- Resource use efficient and biodiversity friendly value-chains strengthened
- Habitats improved for biodiversity through the conservation of 10,000 hectares, with the aim of boosting the resilience, protection and connectivity within the hotspots of unique biodiversity
- At least 70,000-80,000 h of landscapes restored or put under improved practices in biological corridors by communities
- PPPs and incentives developed on the ground for nature-based solutions
- Approximatety 5,000 direct project beneficiaries (local farmers and land users)
- GHG emissions sequestration delivered through restoration

Component 3

Incorporation of biodiversity and resilient landscapes into the institutional and development sectors

- Institutional agendas and development plans looking at biodiversity and resilient landscapes with a gender focus

Component 4

System for the monitoring and evaluation of biodiversity

- Contribution to the NBSAP tracking of follow-up through the biodiversity monitoring system

Proposed area of intervention

Shirak and Armavir Regions with the following three landscapes

- ***Metsamor*** (The villages of Taronik, Artashar, Aknalich);
- ***Vanand*** (Vanand village);
- ***Akhuryan reservoir*** (The villages of Djrapi, Aghin, Isahakyan).

OPTION 3 - Resilient landscapes in Western Armenia

Component 1

Incorporation of biodiversity conservation and into policy, legal and institutional frameworks for resilient landscapes and in line with the green economy principles

- National policies, legal, and regulatory frameworks for resilient landscapes transformations adjusted with the green economy principles are established
- Enhanced coordination at the landscape level to facilitate the integrated management of production systems and the natural resources and ecosystem functions that underpin the delivery and resilience of ecosystem services, including mainstreaming of LDN and NBSAP into national budget sector allocation and investment processes

Component 2

Landscape restoration for biodiversity, resilience, and local livelihoods along the most appropriate impact pathways

- Multi-stakeholder land-use plans for selected landscapes, including targeted investment for selected agricultural production landscapes/land use systems.
- Resource use efficient and biodiversity friendly value-chains strengthened () and/or production suitability analysis in given agro-climatic conditions, including market access mechanism
- Upscaling of 4-5 innovative sustainable technologies and approaches in target landscapes while ensuring biodiversity conservation and sustainable use on 25,000 ha of land
- PPPs and incentives developed on the ground for nature-based solutions

Component 3

Establishing protected areas and strengthening the systems of their management for biodiversity conservation

- Habitats improved for biodiversity through the conservation of 10,000 hectares with the aim of boosting the resilience, protection and connectivity within the hotspots of unique
- At least 70,000-80,000 h of landscapes restored or put under improved practices in biological corridors by communities improve connectivity in Western Armenia

Proposed area of intervention

Shirak and Armavir Regions with the following three landscapes

- ***Metsamor*** (The villages of Taronik, Artashar, Aknalich);
- ***Vanand*** (Vanand village);
- ***Akhuryan reservoir*** (The villages of Djrapi, Aghin, Isahakyan).

Component 4

Capacity building and awareness raising to support the scaling up and adoption of management practices

- Specialized institutions / advisory service providers with increased capacities to enhance skills of stakeholders for wide adoption of SLM approaches and technologies and biodiversity conservation
- Training programs on value-chains
- Approximately 5,000-7,000 direct project
- Approximately half of the population of the 2 target regions engaged in agricultural production with increased awareness on the SLM priority project issues
- GHG emissions sequestration delivered through SLM and restoration