



PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

PROJECT TYPE: MEDIUM-SIZED PROJECT
TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF TRUST FUND

PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	Assessment of Land Degradation Dynamic in Coffee-Cocoa production and Northern Ivory Coast to promote SLM practices and Carbon Stock Conservation – ALDD – SLM/CSC		
Country(ies):	Ivory Coast	GEF Project ID:	5788
GEF Agency(ies):	UNEP	GEF Agency Project ID:	01270
Other Executing Partner(s):	Ministry of Environment, Urban Sanitation and Sustainable Development	Re-Submission Date:	22 April 2014
GEF Focal Area (s):	Land Degradation	Project Duration(Months)	36
Name of parent programme (if applicable):		Agency Fee (US\$):	163,973

A. INDICATIVE FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK:

Focal Area Objectives	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Financing (\$)	Indicative Co-financing (\$)
LD-1: Agricultural and Rangelandsystems: Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem services sustaining the livelihoods of local population Outcome 1: An enhanced enabling environment within the agricultural sector Outcome 2: Improved agricultural management	GEF TF	1,726,027	9,750,000
Total project costs		1,726,027	9,750,000

B. INDICATIVE PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: to maintain functionality of cocoa-coffee production zones in the central and reverse land degradation trend in northern parts of the country by creating an enabling capacity and policy environment through development of community land use plans and facilitating access to good SLM practices

Project Component	Grant Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Co-financing (\$)
1. Strengthening policy to support SLM practices dissemination	TA	Strengthen policy and instructional environment favorable for	Output 1.1: A report of the participative assessment of land degradation in cocoa-coffee and northern areas.	GEF TF	300,000	1,650,000

		SLM	<p>Output 1.2: 6 Local Land Use Plans that consider Integrated Natural Resources Management (INRM).</p> <p>Output 1.3: Local SLM dissemination institutions (like GSDM – Groupement de Semis Direct de Cote d’Ivoire) created, institutionalized, their capacity built, and tools developed (e.g. rural code of conduct to avoid unsustainable practices like animal wandering)</p>			
2. SLM practices to support communities livelihood	TA	Alternative livelihood options to reduce pressure on lands and increase revenue available.	<p>Output 2.1: SLM practices (for water stress management e.g. mulching, increased productivity – e.g. leguminous intercropping; combat forest fires and fodder production to boost livestock production) developed, tested and disseminated through local capacity building, awareness raising and incentives.</p> <p>Output 2.2: Rural infrastructures (e.g. pastoral and dried farming boreholes, fire strips, water retention points; improved seed banks) to support revenue generation for local communities to reduce pressure on natural resources and promote local adaptation measures created and mechanisms for their long term sustainability established..</p>	GEF TF	1,119,115	6,600,000

3. Advocacy and awareness on SLM		Capable national institution and stakeholders for SLM.	Output 3.1: Policy brief and , guideline to support good SLM practices adaption and dissemination at national and local level Output 3.2: National Framework for SLM institutionalization at national and local levels in place Output 3.3: At least one national, 6 local and 5 media events for awareness raising on SLM practices		150,000	800,000
Sub-Total					1,569,115	9,050,000
Project management cost				GEF TF	156,912	700,000
Total project costs					1,726,027	9,750,000

C. INDICATIVE CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE AND BY NAME IF AVAILABLE, (\$)

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount (\$)
National Government	Ministry of Environment, Urban Sanitation and Sustainable Development (Staff time, Office space etc.)	In-Kind	500,000
National Government	Ministry of Environment, Urban Sanitation and Sustainable Development	Cash	300,000
National Government	Ministry of Forestry and Water Resources (Department of Tree Planting)	Cash	200,000
National Government	Ministry of Forestry and Water Resources	Cash	200,000
National Government/Bilateral (ACDI)	Ministry of Agriculture/Creating Homestead Agriculture for Nutrition and Gender Equality	Cash	1,000,000
National Government/Bilateral (BOAD, IFL)	Ministry of Agriculture/ Agricultural and wter resources management (Sangopari – PAHS)	Cash	2,000,000
National Government/Multilateral (European Union)	Ministry of Agriculture/Land Tenure Security Project	Cash	1,000,000
National Government/Multilateral (IFAD)	Ministry of Agriculture/Agriculture Rehabilitation and Poversty Reduction Project	Cash	1,000,000
National Government/Multilateral (IFAD)	Ministry of Agriculture/Supporting Agricultural production and marketing	Cash	2,000,000

National Government/Multilateral (BADEA)	Ministry of Agriculture/Integrated Agricultural Development in Bagoué Valley		500,000
Local Government	Regional Administrations	In-Kind	200,000
Local Government	Municipalities	In-Kind	500,000
Local Government	Investment Plan for the Korhogo Municipality	Cash	300,000
CSO			
Foundation			
Foundation			
GEF Agency	UNEP/Regional Office for Africa	Cash	50,000
Others			
Others			
Total Co-financing			9,750,000

D. INDICATIVE TRUST FUND RESOURCES (\$) REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal area	Country Name/Global	Grant amount (\$) (a)	Agency Fee (\$) (b)	Total (\$) (a + b)
UNEP	GEF TF	Land Degradation	Ivory Coast	1,552,511	147,489	1700,000
UNEP	GEF TF	Climate Change (for marginal adjustment)	Ivory Coast	173,516	16,484	190,000
UNEP	GEF TF					
Total Grant Resources				1,726,027	163,973	1,890,000

E. PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

Please check on the appropriate box for PPG as needed for the project according to the GEF Project Grant

	Amount Requested (\$)	Agency Fee for PPG (\$)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No PPG required (up to) \$50k for projects up to and including \$1 million (up to) \$100k for projects up to and including \$3 million (up to) \$150k for projects up to and including \$6 million (up to) \$200k for projects up to and including \$10 million (up to) \$300k for projects above \$10 million 	91,324	8,676

PPG AMOUNT REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), FOCAL AREA(S) AND COUNTRY(IES) FOR MFA AND/OR MTF

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal area	Country Name/Global	(in \$)		
				PPG (a)	Agency Fee (b)	Total c = a + b
UNEP	GEF TF	Land Degradation	Ivory Coast	82,192	7,808	90,000
UNEP	GEF TF	Climate Change	Ivory Coast	9,132	868	10,000

		(for marginal adjustment)				
Total PPG Amount				91,324	8,676	100,000

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. PROJECT OVERVIEW

A.1. Project Description

The Global environment problems, root causes and barriers

Côte d'Ivoire is facing many environmental challenges amplified by the unprecedented socio-political crisis and armed conflict it has experienced over the 2000 to 2011 period. Indeed, the lack of control and surveillance in conflict zones (Center, North, West Zones) and the reduction of budget support in other areas (subject to strong migration) following the new direction given to the priorities (political dialogue, security, etc..) have not enabled the provision of the necessary answers to the degradation of the environment and natural resources that form the basis of survival of millions of Ivorians.

The key consequences of land degradation are particularly the : (a) impoverishment of local populations due to drastic reduction of agricultural production as result of loss of fertility and (b) recurring conflicts. In most production areas of the country, agricultural yields dropped from one year to another. To compensate the decrease of the production, the producers develop more and more extensive system which lead to destruction of forest and land covers and accelerate erosion, but also land grabbing which is source of many conflicts (130,000 ha/per year newly deforested for agricultural production)¹. Another observed consequence of loss of production is the conversion of local farmers who are now diverting toward production of cash crops which adapt more on current condition but also provide source of income to address poverty situation.

Another identified cause of land degradation is the poor agricultural practices due to lack of alternative and capacity to adopt sustainable land management practices. The population increase which also increase the needs for agricultural lands is leading to massive deforestation which in most case affect protected areas (75% of Marahoué Forest occupied by farmers)². In Ivory Coast, there is a popular say that indicates the “Coffee – Cacao zone is a moving bands southward” which mean increased deforestation. The cocoa production zone has extended from 1,500,000 ha in 1990 to 2,800,000 ha in 2000³. According to a recent study (2013) On Vulnerability of Agricultural Sector, jointly conducted by UNDP and the Government of Ivory Coast, cocoa production which already occupied 19 % of the surface of the classified forests in 1997, occupies now 40 %.

Other causes include (i) overexploitation of forest resources for the production of timber, firewood and charcoal, (ii) inappropriate and clandestine declassification and infiltration in protected forests, national parks and reserves, (iii) bushfires, and (iv) demographic pressure. In

¹ « Etat des Lieux de la Dégradation des Terres en Côte d'Ivoire », NAP Development process, 2013)

² SODEFOR Daloa, 2004

³ « Etat des Lieux de la Dégradation des Terres en Côte d'Ivoire », NAP Development process, 2013)

addition, illegal logging is another phenomenon contributing to deforestation leading to land degradation. The impacts of climate variability are also affecting agricultural production thereby indirectly increasing land degradation through expansion of cultivated areas to cover shortfalls. The most visible impacts are the delays in cash crops (Cocoa, Rubber Tree, Palm Tree, Coffee Tree) plantation by rural population which are now conducted in April leading to loss of seedlings due to prolonged dry spells during the rainy season. The plantation of food crops (cassava, rice, yam, plantain, corn, taro) rely mostly on rains which are no more occurring during traditionally predictable periods. Strong winds and heavy rainfall that accompany some rains could constitute a handicap for bananas, cereals (rice and maize) and rubber through breakage and fall of plants. The lengthening of the dry season resulting dryness and hardness of the ground will not only negatively impact the development of all cultures but especially the harvesting of cassava during the period from December to February.

Lack of knowledge of or inaccessibility to good SLM practices, cost of irrigation infrastructures to mitigate rainfall uncertainty, agriculture practices as the only available livelihood option for local communities, cost of intensive livestock production are recognized in the study recently conducted (2013 Vulnerability of agricultural sector) by UNDP, to be the key barriers to sustainable land management practices in coffee-cocoa production and northern Ivory Coast areas.

The baseline scenario and associated projects

In order to reverse the degradation of natural resources, the Government of Ivory Coast adopted important policies, regulatory and institutional set up which directly or indirectly are in favor of addressing the issues of land degradation in the country. The Government adopted in 1988 the Forestry Master Plan which included an emergency programme aiming at rehabilitation of the sector. However the weak results obtained within the programme has led to the adoption by the Government 1999 of new forestry policy which included a tree plantation programme. Other policies instruments adopted by the Government to tackle natural resources degradation and sustainable development activities include Framework programme for forests management, National Programme for Protected Areas management, National Agricultural Master Plan (1992 – 2015), Rural Land Tenure Plan, Irrigation Development Master Plan, National Agricultural Investment Programme, National Water Management Policy, National Integrated Water Resources Management Plan, National Mining Code adopted in 1995, National Development Plan (2012-2015), National Environment Action Plan (1996 – 2010), National Strategy for sustainable development and various institutional settings in favor of environmental conservation.

The policy of modernization of agricultural production is an important step toward reversing deforestation and land degradation. The important axes contained in the policy and which are in favor of addressing land degradation include, the land clearing policy which requested to adapt clearing according to the landscape status and condition, water resources mobilization, conservation and restoration of degraded lands. The newly developed Poverty Reduction Strategic Document has put emphasis on this direction which will allow adoption of measures in favor of dissemination of good SLM practices. However, the implementation of these favorable policies, regulatory and institutional frameworks has experienced challenges and difficulties which include engagement of key stakeholders', lack of adequate capacities and understanding of some environmental challenges, resources mobilization, and inadequate institutional supports.

Currently the Government is implementing either with its resources or with additional support from international partners (IFAD, BOAD, EU, IFAD, BADEA etc) key important initiatives which are relevant to this project (See Cofinancing table). These include:

- Investment Plan for the Korhogo Municipality: The project will build the capacity of local producers and will enhance the capacity for revenue generation.
- Creation of 9000 ha of forest plantation. This reforestation project particularly in the degraded area of the central and northern parts of country will contribute in restoration of land cover thereby reducing land degradation.
- School Tree plantation Programme; This project target all the regions in the country and will be a vehicle for environment conservation in the schools contributing to the awareness raison particularly among youths;
- Creating Homestead Agriculture for nutrition and poverty alleviation project. The project will contribute to revenue generation and sustainable agricultural production;
- Land Tenure security project
- Integrated Water Resources Management project (PAHS)
- Support to Agricultural production and marketing project

These projects and many more are important baseline activities ongoing in the project areas and which will contribute also in the cofinancing of the project. However, it important to note that the above mention programmes and projects operate in isolation without proper synergy and complementarity toward contributing to the policies to which they contribute to in terms of implementation. Many reviews of programmes and projects are mainly conducted in terms of assessing their contribution to the national development and their achievements without properly addressing the issue of coordination and synergy between them. Discussion with the Ministry in charge of planning has agreed to use the framework of this project to ensure proper synergy and coordination in the areas where it will intervene. At regional level, projects and programmes coordinating comities will be established and chaired by the Prefect and the similar comities will be established at local level and chaired by the traditional Chiefs. The mechanism at national level will be discussed with other stakeholders and adequate mechanism will be established.

The proposed alternative scenario

The impacts of land degradation can be reversed and this can be proven by the evolution maize and rice production in the country where significant increases have been experienced. Even though the inducing degradation of the biophysical system is the climate, the human related causes of the degradation which accelerate climate impacts can be mitigated through adoption of good practices. The national agricultural council should put emphasis on adoption of sustainable agricultural practices which will include, adoption of SLM practices, crops diversification, controlled fertilization, integrated pest management practices etc. Particular attention should also be given to runoff water management through construction of water retention facilities, borehole construction and sustainable management of floodplains to create adequate irrigation conditions. It is important to ensure that stakeholders' capacities to achieve sustainable development through adoption of SLM practices are adequately addressed.

The project will intervene in central and northern parts of the country particularly in 6 regions representative zones of the northern and Coffee – Cocoa degraded areas, particularly in two (2) of Coffee –Cocoa production zone (N'ZI and Iffou), One (1) Nord – East Region (Boukanga), One (1) Northern Region (Poro), One (1) Region of North-Western zone (Kabadougou) and One (1) Region of the Savanna and Forest Interzone (Bélier).. The project build on the baseline

projects indicated above and help to bring initiatives within a coordinated and integrated approach.

The project objective is therefore to maintain functionality of cocoa-coffee production zones in the central and reverse land degradation trend in northern parts of the country by creating an enabling capacity and policy environment through development of community land use plans and facilitating access to good SLM practices. This objective will be achieved through the following three outcomes

Outcome 1: Strengthen policy and instructional environment favorable for SLM. As indicated in the situation analysis, the main drivers of land degradation in the project areas are linked to unsustainable practices of agriculture and land use in general. An important approach to reverse this trend is to ensure that the local communities and decision makers at local level understand the process and perceive their role in contributing to the phenomenon and adoption of alternative approaches. The participation of the stakeholders is therefore important in understanding the land degradation drivers and development of alternative. This outcome will be an opportunity to understand the root cause of land degradation and fertility lost which some of the base line project are addressing. This will give a scientific and rigorous information which will be useful in intervention of the baseline project as a logical linkage will be done between solution proposed and the root cause of the environmental degradation and fertility loss. The outcome will be achieved through the following outputs.

Output 1.1: A report of the participative assessment of land degradation in northern and. cocoa-coffee in the central areas of the country. This report will be developed with the assistance of experts who understand the rural development dynamism and with active involvement of local communities using focus group. The assessments will both covers the ecological, socioeconomic and institutional aspects of the land degradation in the target ecosystems.

Output 1.2: 6 Local Land Use Plans that consider INRM. Base on the output 1.1 participative land use plans will be developed to serve as key policy instrument to mainstream integrated natural resources management in wider cocoa-coffee and northern areas production zones.

Output 1.3: Local SLM dissemination institutions (like GSDM – Groupement de Semis Direct de Cote d’Ivoire) created, institutionalized, their capacity built, and tools developed (e.g. rural code of conduct to avoid unsustainable practices like animal wandering). These institutions will be established base on the situation analysis to be conducted during the PPG. Where local mechanism exist which can be the vehicle for the dissemination, the project will find the strategic strengthen them with the view to have full consideration of adoption and dissemination of good SLM practices. Where they are lacking adequate way of creating them will be discussed and agree upon with key stakeholders. The Traditional rulers will play an important role in the functioning of these institutions.

Outcome 2: Alternative livelihood options to reduce pressure on lands and increase revenue available. Following a recent study on vulnerability of agricultural system in northern areas of Ivory Coast reveals that promising measures to adapt agricultural productivity and conserve ecosystem services, will be those that build local communities capacities to access and adoption of sustainable practices. In addition alternative measures to develop local infrastructures which will provide alternative livelihood to local population have been also identified as adaptive measures. This outcome will be responding to the real need expressed by

local communities. The outcome will serve lesson for ongoing baseline project which may decide to rectify their intervention approach. The GEF investment will be incremental in linking local needs and alternative solutions. During the PPG phase, mechanisms for long term sustainability of these livelihood options will be identified and established under the leadership of local community. The project will therefore produce the following outputs to achieve the outcome 2.

Output 2.1: SLM practices (for water stress management e.g. mulching, increased productivity – e.g. leguminous intercropping; and combat forest fires and fodder production to boost livestock production) developed, tested and disseminated through local capacity building, awareness raising and incentives.

Output 2.2: Rural infrastructures (e.g. pastoral and dried farming boreholes, water ponds, fire strips; improved seed banks) to support revenue generation for local communities to reduce pressure on natural resources and promote local adaptation measures, created and mechanisms for their long term sustainability established.

Outcome 3: Capable national institution and stakeholders for SLM.

In Ivory Coast, it is a popular say that “Cocoa-coffee production zone is a moving band”. However, the root cause for shifting cultivation for coffee and cocoa production is the loss of productivity with consequence on protected areas which subjected to a high level pressure for agricultural expansion. The project experience will help to establish the root cause of productivity loss and the availability of alternative. This experience will lead to guidelines and policy note to maintain soil productivity and create awareness on impact of expansion of agricultural land on biodiversity and increasing erosion. Policy note and guidelines will be produced to ensure communication of this project experience. Furthermore, as the project will be developing and testing rural infrastructure to support livelihood options, through this outcome the project will support development at national and local level framework that will support development of SLM coordination and dissemination. This GEF increment will set the basis for a long term sustainable condition for mainstreaming of SLM practices in rural development sector.

Output 3.1: Policy brief and guideline to support good SLM practices adaption and dissemination at national and local level

Output 3.2: National Framework for SLM institutionalization at national and local levels, in place

Output 3.3: One (1) national, 6 local and 5 media events for awareness raising on SLM practices

The incremental cost reasoning and expected baseline contributions

Without the GEF, land degradation will continue to worsen in northern part of Côte d’Ivoire as even the country is committed to fight against land degradation, the conflict situation from which the country just come out from, make some environment issue like land rehabilitation relegated to a second position as the Government is facing the challenge of creating conditions for a lasting peace and reconciliation and at the same time will like to merge as a developed nation. The lack of available opportunities for adopting SLM practices will continue to lead to loss of productivity

of both northern and Cocoa-Coffee boucle production landscapes in the central part of the country. This will not only lead to increase poverty and forced migration but also destruction of biodiversity particularly in the Protected Areas for agricultural expansion to cover the loss of production due to loss of fertility but also population increased. The policy and institutional framework will continue to not favorable to SLM particularly at local level.

With GEF alternative, the country will have the opportunity to strengthen policy for sustainable agriculture at local level through development of Land Use Plans but also creating enabling institutional and capacity to ensure sustainable Integrated Natural Resources Management. The GEF involvement will also support development of livelihood options for local community to cater for loss of productivity through development, testing and promotion of good SLM practices. The GEF support will contribute to awareness raising and development of tools for advocacy and replication of good SLM practices.

Global environmental benefits

The project will promote enabling condition through development of land use plan, individual and institutional capacity building and will support concrete activities on the ground using good SLM practices thereby contributing to the promotion of SLM practices in northern Ivory Coast and in the Coffee- Cocoa production zone in the central part of the country. This will allow the country to have 60% of agricultural land under good SLM. More specifically, the GEB that will be generated from the project will include:

- Improve agro-ecosystem services namely agricultural production through improved soil fertility as result of adoption of good SLM practices. The geographical coverage will be on the six (6) Regions where the project will intervene and within which 6 local land use plans will be developed and implemented. The number of ha which will be effectively affected by the project will be provided a CEO endorsement;
- Reduced Green House Emission as result of reduced deforestation for agricultural expansion to compensate reduced productivity as the good SLM will increase productivity and alternative livelihood options provided by the project will avoid deforestation as result of agricultural land extension;
- The local land Use plans which be developed will mainstream the good SLM practices to address the unsustainable practice adopted by local communities, thus reduce vulnerability of the agro-ecosystems to human induced impacts.

Through the development and implementation of SLM that will increase agricultural productivity and build capacity of local farmers, thereby contributing to developed livelihood and increase revenue at local level and generating social benefits by providing sustainable livelihood for natural resources dependent communities but also will reduced vulnerability to climate change.

Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up

The innovativeness of this project is more related to the national circumstances than prevailing situation of SLM at global level. In the country, land rehabilitation and sustainable land management have never been incorporated in national agricultural policies. The few attempts have been limited and not coordinated. The adoption of the 2010 – 2015 National Investment Plan is view as an opportunity to consider SLM in the production landscapes of the country. The project is innovative as it will rely on the National Investment Plan and the national Development Plan

(2012 – 2015) to restructure the production landscapes and production bases that is land which is a precondition for agricultural development of the country. The project will lead to a strengthen institutional environment and local SLM plans to ensure integrated and coherent interventions. The local producers who are used to shifting cultivation due the loss of soils fertility will have opportunities to increase land productivity, stop shifting cultivation thereby contribution to the reverse the deforestation trend , biodiversity lost and ensuring integrated natural resources management..

A.2. Stakeholders

Stakeholders	Mandate	Role in the project
Ministry of Environment, Urban Sanitation and Sustainable Development	Development and monitoring of national policies on environment and sustainable development. Host the national UNCCD Focal Point.	The project national executing agency. Will ensure coordination with stakeholders and other related initiatives. Will facilitate project execution in the concerned regions.
Ministry of Agriculture	Development and monitoring of national policies on agriculture	Member of steering committee of the project. They will facilitate coordination with other initiatives. They will provide cofinancing through the project executed under their responsibility
Ministry of Forestry and Water resources	Development and monitoring of national policies on water and forest	Member of steering committee of the project. They will facilitate coordination with other initiatives. They will provide cofinancing through the project executed under their responsibility
Regional Administration	Coordinate development activities at regional level	Facilitate project execution in the region through facilitating local stakeholders' involvement. They will be the beneficiaries of the Local Land Use plans. The Prefect will chair the Regional coordinating Committees.
Project support institutions (OCPV, ANADER, SODEFOR, CNRA, OIPR...)	In charge of supporting execution of development activities in their respective areas of responsibilities	Will be part of the project coordination mechanism in the areas of their responsibility. They will facilitate coordination with other initiatives. They will provide cofinancing through the project executed under their responsibility
CSO including farmers organisation (associations of coton, coffe-cacao, héva, mangoes, anacardium, shea butter, pro-	Support activities on ground and facilitate collaboration with local producers	Will serve as services provider for the project and will contribute in the awareness raising activities. They will benefit from the capacity building the project

ducers, producteurs de vivriers,)		will be providing to local partners and decision makers,
Traditional Rulers	Have traditional mandate to lead the communities life at local level and where the granters of social cohesion	Will play a key role at local level in project implementation through mobilization of local communities. They will Chair the local projects coordination committees.

A.3. Risks; As this is at PIF stage, a comprehensive risk analysis using UNEP model will be conducted and Risk Management Plan will be developed as integral part of the project implementation tools.

Risks Description	Risk Type	Level	Probability/likelihood	Management Strategy
Lack of commitment of local governments and other entities to embrace Land Use Planning	Social	Medium	Average. As land grabbing is an important issue which sometimes involved opinion leaders.	The Participative diagnostic of land degradation will be an entry point for understanding of land degradation on production sectors. The awareness campaign and policy note will contribute to the sanitization on SLM and adoption of Land use planning as a development tool.
Resistance of the local communities to abandon unsustainable practices	Social	Low	Low. The needs for SLM to support fertility and generate alternative income is a request of local communities	The participative diagnostic will be learning by doing approach. The incentives measures for livelihood options will be supporting measures to mitigate the risk
Climate change and climate variability undermine project achievements. The major climate-related threat is seasonal drought, although there are also dangers associated with floods. It may be that drought and or floods lead to problems that the techniques introduced by the project cannot overcome.	Environmental	Low - medium	Average. The area is part of Sahel zone which is recognized to be frequently experiencing critical natural events e.g drought, flood, locust invasion which are influenced by the climate change	The project aims to introduce an <i>adaptive management</i> approach, giving local communities the tools, capacity and information to <i>adapt</i> to change, and to be able to overcome challenging conditions.
Peace and Stability:		High -	Average. The conflict	The advocacy and

the country is experiencing reconstruction phase which is a critical period because any unfavorable situation/factors (e.g. Political) may brought back the country in conflict situation which will not allow project implementation	Political/social	Medium	from which the country is coming from is still having some impacts on social cohesion	awareness activities will include element of peacebuilding through coordinating committees which will fora for discussion development issues as they linked to sustainable development.
Climate change: The UNDP Sudy on agricultural vulnerability to climate change indicated that the impacts of climate change for the last 50 years is a reality in Ivory coast and this has already consequence in socioeconomic activities	Environmental	Medium	Likely	The UNDP diagnostic analysis of the climate change impact on agricultural sectors has identified some adaptive measures and the project activities are in line with these measures which include: awareness raising, alternative livelihood options, water resources mobilization, development or strengthen of capable institutions.

A.4. Coordination

The project will be coordinated at national level by the Ministry in charge of environment which has the political mandate of coordinating SLM activities in the country. Discussion has already taken place with Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Forestry and Water resources which are actually conduction important baseline activities on improving agricultural productivity, alternative revenue generation and poverty reduction. The project will coordinate with these initiatives indicated in the baseline section above and coordination mechanism will be established at national and local levels. In addition, at the local level, the Prefect and Traditional rulers respectively as Chairs of local administration and traditional authority will Chair the regional and local SLM committees.

The project will also coordinate and develop synergy with ongoing GEF and other partners project in the countries. These will include the:

- UNEP/GEF project “Integrated Management of Protected Areas in Côte d’Ivoire, West Africa
- Support program for poverty reduction UNDP 2009-2013 Sub-program for conservation and sustainable management of the environment and natural resources (PGDRN)
- Institutional support program for recovery from crisis (PAIMSC)
- Natural resources and fauna participatory project management (GEPRENAF)
- Community management project of natural resources in the buffer zones of the National Park of Ehotilé Islands
- Protected areas Framework Program (PCGAP)

B. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:

B.1.National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions, if applicable, i.e. NAPAs, NAPs, NBSAPs, National Communications, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, Biennial Update Reports, etc: (1)

The vision of the Cote d'Ivoire NAP to combat desertification which is currently going through national validation is “by 2010 degraded soils are restored and the entire land sustainability managed by the population, contribute to their livelihood”. The current project, with the objective of maintaining functionality of cocoa-coffee production zones in the central and reverse land degradation trend in northern parts of the country by creating an enabling capacity and policy environment through development of community land use plans and facilitating access to good SLM practices; will contribute to this vision. More specifically, the project will contribute to the Strategic Axe 1: “Amelioration of living conditions of vulnerable communities” and Axe 2: “Amelioration of the status of degraded ecosystems”

The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, currently under finalization has identified as its Strategic Axe No 1: Preservation of natural habitats, their function and services; and Objective 1: By 2020 the human pressures on ecosystems and are habitats are reduced by 50% to ensure biodiversity conservation. As indicated in the section A. Global Environment problems, root causes and barriers to be addressed, to compensate the decrease of the production, the producers develop more and more extensive system which lead to destruction of forest and land covers and accelerate erosion, but also land grabbing which is source of many conflicts (130,000 ha/per year newly deforested for agricultural production)⁴. The project will tackled this problem through promotion of SLM practices to increase fertility but also will suggest alternative livelihood for producers to compensate for production reduction. By so doing the project will contribute to the Strategic Annex 1 and Objective 1 of the NBSAP currently under finalization.

The Second National Communication on Climate Change (2010) indicated that “The Ivorian agriculture contributes 27% to the GDP, employs 2/3 of the active population and provides with the agro-industrial sector 40% of export incomes. That important sector for the country is vulnerable to climate change, namely subsectors like coffee and cocoa. According to the study, the area that is the most affected is the N’ZI Comoé region, the former cacao belt. That belt moved gradually towards the center-west region of the country with its deforestation effects and important population migration”. The current project is therefore in line with the country SNC findings and the issues and area addressed by this project fall within the priority action and zone.

With the objective of maintaining functionality of cocoa-coffee production zones in the central and reverse land degradation trend in northern parts of the country by creating an enabling capacity and policy environment through development of community land use plans and facilitating access to good SLM practices, the project will contribute to the strategic outcomes and outputs of PND (2012 – 2015). Specifically to its Strategic Result II.2.2 of PND related to the revival of strategic sectors of Ivorian economy, Outcome 4: “the competitiveness of Ivorian agriculture and its capacity to remunerate adequately the producers and ensure food security is reinforced” and its related output v: ‘land management is sustainably ensured’. Furthermore, the PND has consider updating and implementation of the NAP to combat desertification as a key priority.

⁴ « Etat des Lieux de la Dégradation des Terres en Côte d'Ivoire », NAP Development process, 2013)

The project aims also at increasing agricultural productivity through improved fertility which will be achieved by promoting SLM in the project areas. Therefore, the project is in line and will contribute to the National Agricultural Investment Plan 2010-2015 which identified SLM as one of the important programme to increase agricultural productivity and its competitiveness with other sectors of the economy. Still in the agricultural sector, the project is line with the objective of restoration of forest cover indicated in the Agricultural Development Master Plan 1992 – 2015.

The Forestry policy adopted revised in 2011 has recognized the strategic role of restoring vegetation cover through a national reforestation programme. The project will contribute to this programme as it will support agroforestry practices which will boost productivity at the same time increased vegetation cover to reverse the current erosion trend.

The project will also contribute in the objectives of the following national policies and legal framework.

- National Strategy for Sustainable Development adopted in 2011
- MDG based National Development Strategy adopted in 2013

- Framework Law on environment, adopted in October 1996
- Law n° 65-425 du 20th December 1965: Forestry Code
- Law No 98-755 of 23rd December 1998 related to Water Code
- Mining code adopted in 1995 and application decree in 1996

B.2. GEF Focal area and/or fund(s) strategies, eligibility criteria and priorities: (0.5)

The Project will contribute primarily to Objective 1 (*Agriculture and Rangeland Systems: Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem services sustaining the livelihoods of local communities*) of the GEF 5 Land Degradation focal area, as follows: i) it will lead to enhanced enabling environment within the agricultural sector (LD 1. Outcome 1.1) by supporting the local land use plans that will integrate SLM and INRM, but also creating an institutional enabling environment by reinforcing coordination and promotion of SLM at national and local levels; ii) it will *improved agricultural management* (LD outcome 1.2). As a result, in the northern and cocoa-coffee productions areas of the country, there will be a significant increase in the area of land with sustained productivity and there will be reduced vulnerability of communities to climate variability. Also, it will contribute to *a sustained flow of services in agro-ecosystems* (LD outcome 1.2) in the 9 regions where the project will intervene. These services include agricultural services, pastoral services, but also ecosystem services (carbon capture and biodiversity). The SLM practice that will be promoted including improved conservation agricultural practices will lead to this increased flow of services.

B.3. The GEF Agency's comparative advantage for implementing this project: (0.5)

Taking advantage of the improvement of the socio- political context consecutive to the elections and the end of the crisis in March 2011, the government has identified, as priorities, the sustainable management of the environment and natural resources and its linkages with other economic and social sectors. These priorities have also been reflected in the 2012-2015 National Development Plan (2012-2015NDP). The fourth strategic outcome of that Plan includes effective management of natural resources, and the prevention and management of risks and natural

disasters. To carry out these actions, the Ivorian government has appealed to the expertise of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), the only United Nations agency with a specific mandate in the field of the environment, to support it in a more enhanced way.

In response, UNEP commissioned a team of experts to frame and identify entry points and actions whose implementation requires a synergy of action between the two parties (UNEP-CI) as well as within their respective entities. Indeed, the fact is that UNEP has a wide range of activities and ongoing projects whose implementation may be more effective if coordination among the stakeholders and partners involved is improved. To ensure a consistent UNEP commitment in Côte d'Ivoire, and ensure synergy for action, Côte d'Ivoire and UNEP agreed to build a cooperative program over the 2014-2017 periods. This temporal horizon is aligned with that of the medium-term strategy of UNEP (2014-2017) and takes into account the National Development Plan (2012-2015) and among others, the 2013-2015 UNAs development assistance master plan and the period of the sixth (6) cycle reconstruction and projects development of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF).

It should be noted that the establishment of this cooperation program is, moreover, part of the implementation of the recommendations of the UNEP Board of Directors meeting held in February 2013, including the strengthening of UNEP's regional and national presence, as well as collaboration with the United Nations system in the countries. The process of developing this UNEP-Côte d'Ivoire cooperation framework was conducted jointly by UNEP and the Government of Côte d'Ivoire and the joint signing of this cooperation agreement is expected to take place this coming March 2014 and this will be followed by establishment of UNEP Sub-regional Office for West Africa in Cote d'Ivoire. The opening of this office, together with already existing Abidjan Convention Secretariat, will strengthen UNEP presence in the country in particular and in the West African Region in general.

Related to GEF works, UNEP has a history of working with Cote d'Ivoire on various GEF and non-GEF activities. UNEP has worked with the Government of Cote d'Ivoire on ten (10) national GEF projects, including Enabling Activities, across all Focal Areas and on eleven (11) regional GEF projects covering all GEF focal areas. On UNCCD implementation, UNEP has supported the country during the PRAIS project. Currently UNEP is supporting the Government of Cote d'Ivoire in the implementation of the UNCCD Enabling Activity related to the NAP alignment and reporting. The present project is fully in line with the UNEP role of catalyzing the development of scientific and technical analysis and advancing environmental management in GEF-financed activities. UNEP provides guidance on relating the GEF-financed activities to global, regional and national environmental assessments, policy frameworks and plans, and to international environmental agreements.

More specifically, the project lies within the following areas recognized by GEF as areas where UNEP has a comparative advantage:

- *Sound science for national, regional and global decision-makers*, notably by strengthening science-to-policy linkages and by strengthening environmental monitoring and assessment;
- *Technical assistance and capacity building at country level*, notably by strengthening technology assessment, by demonstration and through innovation, and also by directly developing capacity;
- *Knowledge management*, including through awareness raising and advocacy.


The project is consistent with the objectives and expected outcomes of the current UNEP Medium Term Strategy (2010-2013) and fits under the Ecosystem Management and Environmental Governance sub-programs.

PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) AND GEF AGENCY(IES)

- A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S):** (Please attach the [Operational Focal Point endorsement letter\(s\)](#) with this template. For SGP, use this [OFP endorsement letter](#)).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)
Alimata Kone Bakayoko	Permanent Secretary &GEF OFP of Cote d'Ivoire	MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE	03/06/2014

B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF policies and procedures and meets the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF criteria for project identification and preparation.					
Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	DATE (MM/dd/yy yy)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
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