



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

Naoko Ishii
CEO and Chairperson

December 05, 2016

Ms. Brennan Van Dyke
GEF Executive Coordinator
United Nations Environment Programme
Nairobi 00100, Kenya

Dear Ms. Van Dyke:

I am pleased to inform you that I have approved the medium-sized project detailed below:

Decision Sought:	Medium-sized Project (MSP) Approval
GEFSEC ID:	5788
Agency(ies):	UNEP
Focal Area:	Land Degradation
Project Type:	Medium-Sized Project
Country(ies):	Cote d'Ivoire
Name of Project:	Assessment of Land Degradation Dynamic in Coffee -Cocoa production and Northern Ivory Coast to promote SLM practices and Carbon Stock Conservation ALDD SLM CSC
Indicative GEF Project Grant:	\$1,726,027
Indicative Agency Fee:	\$163,973
Funding Source:	GEF Trust Fund

This approval is subject to the comments made by the GEF Secretariat in the attached document. It is also based on the understanding that the project is in conformity with GEF focal areas strategies and in line with GEF policies and procedures.

Sincerely,

Naoko Ishii
Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson

Attachment: GEFSEC Project Review Document
Copy to: Country Operational Focal Point, GEF Agencies, STAP, Trustee



REQUEST FOR CEO APPROVAL
PROJECT TYPE: MEDIUM SIZE PROJECT
TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF TRUST FUNDS

For more information about GEF, visit TheGEF.org

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:	November 14, 2016.
GEF Focal Area (s):	Land Degradation	Project Duration(Months)	48
Name of parent programme (if applicable):		Agency Fee (US\$):	163,973

A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK¹

Focal Area Objectives	Expected Outcomes FA	Expected FA Outputs	Trust Fund	Grant Amount (\$)	Cofinancing (\$)
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	Country level policy, legal and regulatory frameworks that integrate SLM principles developed	GEF TF	1,000,000	15,701,220
	Outcome 2: Improved agricultural management	Hectares of tree cover in agro-ecosystems	GEF TF	726,027	10,000,000
Total project costs				1,726,027	25,701,220

B. 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	TA	Strengthen policy and	Output 1.1: A report of the participative assessment of land	GEF TF	300,000	9,721,220

¹ Refer to the [Focal Area Results Framework and LDCF/SCCF Framework](#) when completing Table A.

policy to support SLM practices dissemination		instructional degradation in cocoa-coffee and environment northern areas. favourable for SLM	Output 1.2: 6 Local Land Use Plans that consider Integrated Natural Resources Management (INRM). Output 1.3: A .charter on ecosystem services management is developed and negotiated with different group of stakeholders. Output 1.4: Policy brief and guideline to support good SLM practices adoption and dissemination at local, national, and regional levels			
2. SLM practices to support communities livelihood	TA	Alternative livelihood options to reduce pressure on lands and increase revenue available.	Output 2.1: SLM and agroforestry practices (for water stress management e.g. mulching, increased productivity – e.g. leguminous intercropping; combat forest fires and folder production to boost livestock production) developed, tested on 600 ha spread over 6 pilot sites and disseminated through local capacity building, awareness raising and incentives. 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. Output: 2.3. Options for Local sustainable financing mechanism to support Private Sector explored – Farmers agreement on application of good SLM and agroforestry practice	GEF TF	1,119,115	11,317,468
3. Advocacy and awareness on SLM		Capable national institution and stakeholders	Output 3.1.: Training conducted to representatives of stakeholders group on participative assessment, consideration of the assessment output in the development of Land		150,000	2,785,000

		for SLM.	Use plan and development of monitoring and evaluation mechanism. Output 3.2. Training conducted to all groups of stakeholders on SLM and agroforestry practices Output 3.3: National Framework for SLM institutionalization at national and local levels in place Output 3.4: 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) Output 3.5: At least one national, 6 local and 5 media events for awareness raising on SLM practices			
Sub-Total					1,569,115	23,823,688
Project management cost			GEF TF		156,912	1,877,532
Total project costs					1,726,027	25,701,220

C. SOURCES OF CONFIRMED COFINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE AND BY NAME (\$)

Please include letters confirming cofinancing for the project with this form

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier (source)	Type of Cofinancing	Cofinancing Amount (\$)
National Government	CIV 10 Project Environment Protection and Management of Natural Resources, - Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development –	Cash	2,000,000
National Government	Amelioration of the management of national parks and natural reserves - Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development	Cash	3,000,000
National Government	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development	In-Kind	500,000
CSO	FEREAD (Federation of Networks and Associations of Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development)	In- Kind	250,000
CSO	ROADCI: Network of NGO and Association of Fighting Desertification	Cash	800,000

Private Sector	Coffee and Cocoa Council: Cocoa, Friend of Forest Project	In-Kind	5,000,000
Private Sector	Coffee and Cocoa Council: Rural Area Investment Funds	In-Kind	14,000,000
	Coffee Rehabilitation Programme		
Local Government	Korhogo Municipality	Cash	151,220
Total Co-financing			25,701,220

D. TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY¹

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	1,700,000
UNEP	GEF TF	Climate Change (for marginal adjustment)	Ivory Coast	173,516	16,484	190,000
Total Grant Resources				1,726,027	163,973	1,890,000

¹ In case of a single focal area, single country, single GEF Agency project, and single trust fund project, no need to provide information for this table. PMC amount from Table B should be included proportionately to the focal area amount in this table.

² Indicate fees related to this project.

F. CONSULTANTS WORKING FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPONENTS:

Component	Grant Amount (\$)	Cofinancing (\$)	Project Total (\$)
International Consultants	0	0	0
National/Local Consultants	208,500	2,000,000	2,208,5000

G. DOES THE PROJECT INCLUDE A “NON-GRANT” INSTRUMENT? N/A

(If non-grant instruments are used, provide in Annex D an indicative calendar of expected reflows to your Agency and to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF Trust Fund).

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. DESCRIBE ANY CHANGES IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE PROJECT DESIGN OF THE ORIGINAL PIF²

A.1 National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions, if applicable
NAPs, NBSAPs, national communications, TNAs, NCSA, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, Biennial Update I

² For questions A.1 –A.7 in Part II, if there are no changes since PIF and if not specifically requested in the review sheet at PIF stage, then no need to respond, please enter “NA” after the respective question.

National Action Plan (NAP) to Combat Desertification 2014 – 2024: The vision of the Cote d'Ivoire aligned NAP to combat desertification which is validated in 2014 is “by 2010 degraded soils are restored and the entire land sustainably 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 parts of the country 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 Axis 1: “Amelioration of living conditions of vulnerable communities” and Axis 2: “Amelioration of the status of degraded ecosystems”.

Revised National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) adopted in September 2015 has identified as its Strategic Axis 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 of this document, to compensate the decrease of agricultural production, the producers are developing more and more extensive systems 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)³. 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 Axis 1 and Objective 1 of the adopted NBSAP.

Intended National Determined Contribution (INDC): The project is part of the planned contribution determined at national level (INDC) submitted by the Ivory Coast for the Paris Summit on Climate Change (2015). It contributes in particular to the achievement of objectives relating to mitigation and adaptation. Regarding mitigation three directions are especially taken into account, including the guidelines for *the "development without agricultural extension on the remaining forest areas and emits less greenhouse gas", "the intensification of sustainable agricultural production, livestock and fisheries and avoiding deforestation"* and *"promotion of sustainable and integrated practices to improve agricultural production capacity and enhance the resources of the environment."* The relevant planned activities are:

- Decoupling of production and deforestation through the promotion of agroforestry and intensive agricultural practices to reduced environmental impact ;
- Realizing the concept Agriculture zero deforestation;
- The valuation of related products;
- Strengthening partnerships and collaborations on soil analysis to improve their productivity and improve the implementation of agricultural innovations.

The National orientation on the adaptation entitled "Fight against deforestation and land degradation." The planned measures which the project will contribute towards are improving forest species, promote agroforestry, restore degraded lands, promoting the sustainable management of land improvement techniques for the conservation of water and soil (CES), the development of the landscape approach for sustainable land management and conservation of water and soil.

Second National Communication (SNC) 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

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

therefore in line with the country SNC findings and the issues and area addressed by this project fall within the priority action and zone.

The National Development Plan (PND 2012 – 2015 under review for 2016 – 2020): 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 contributes 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 considered updating and implementation of the NAP to combat desertification as a key priority.

Agricultural Development Master Plan 1992 – 2015: 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 programmes to increase agricultural productivity and its competitiveness with other sectors of the economy. Still in the agricultural sector, the project is in line with the objective of restoration of forest cover indicated in the Agricultural Development Master Plan 1992 – 2015.

The Forestry policy adopted and 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
- 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
- Act No. 390 of June 20, 2014 Guidance on Sustainable Development ;
- Act No. 2014 - 427 of 14 July 2014 on the Forest Code.

UNDAF – 2013 – 2015 – 2016: The project is in line with draft UNEP-Cote d’Ivoire Cooperation Programme, developed in line with UNEP Medium Term Strategy (MTS), particularly as it is linked to the component IV-2: Sustainable Management of Natural Resources. The objective of this component is to continue supporting the country in the implementation and development in line with GEF Focal Areas Strategies particularly biodiversity, SLM, SFM, climate change and Chemicals to reverse the degradation trend of natural resources of the country.

The project is in line and will contribute the Cote d’Ivoire UNDAF 2013 – 2015 extended to 2016 in its following outcome and outputs:

UNDAF Outcome 2. The poor and the vulnerable groups, in particular women, youth, returnees and ex-armed groups have improved food security, income and live in a healthy and sustainable environment

UNDAF Output 2.1. Youth and other vulnerable groups have strengthened technical and professional skills, access to funding, and access to new jobs or income.

UNDAF Output 2.2. Most vulnerable households increase their agriculture production, food safety and nutrition levels

UNDAF Output 2.3. Institutions and local communities actively contribute to sustainable management of the environment and the risks of natural disasters and climate change

As the project will very well contribute to National Development Plan (PND 2012 – 2015) and under review for 2016 – 2020 and since the next UNDAF 2017 – 2020 will be completely aligned to the PND, the project is therefore in line with the future UNDAF under development. The project will particularly contribute to the Outcome 3 of UNDAF 2017 – 2020 particularly its Outputs 3.2. Stakeholders from agricultural and forestry sectors have adopted sustainable production and management practices and Output 3.3. The central, local and vulnerable communities have enhanced resilience to face natural risks and disasters.

A.2. GEF focal area and/or fund(s) strategies, eligibility criteria and priorities. N/A

As per the PIF:

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 apply improved agricultural management (LD outcome 1.2). As a result, in the northern and cocoa-coffee production areas of the country, there will be a significant increase in the area of land with sustained productivity and there will be a reduced vulnerability of communities to climate change. 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 practices that will be promoted including improved conservation agricultural practices will lead to this increased flow of services.

A.3 The GEF Agency's comparative advantage:

As per PIF:

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 – 2015 NDP). The fourth strategic outcome of this 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 Programme (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 two parties (UNEP-CI) as well as within their respective entities. Indeed, the fact 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 Ivory Coast, 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 Environment 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.

Related to the GEF works, UNEP has a history of working with Côte d'Ivoire on various GEF and non-GEF activities. UNEP has worked with the Government of Côte d'Ivoire on ten (10) national GEF projects, including Enabling Activities, across all Focal Area 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 Côte d'Ivoire in the implementation of the UNCCD Enabling Activities related to the NAP alignment and reporting. The present project is fully in line with the UNEP role of catalysing 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.

In addition to what is included in the PIF, it is worth to indicate that since 2015 the UNEP Sub regional Office for West Africa is already established and operational in Abidjan. It is also anticipated that this sub-regional office will be strengthen in near future with additional personnel including at least one handling GEF Biodiversity and Land Degradation Focal Areas.

A.4. The baseline project and the problem that it seeks to address:

Located in the inter-tropical zone of West Africa, Côte d'Ivoire, or the Ivory Coast, is comprised of a diverse land area of 322,462 km² and a population of 22 million. The country has a Human Development Index of 0.432, placing it at 168 of 187 countries. After years of conflict and mismanagement, the government restored a normal budget cycle in 2011 to begin reform. The Ivory Coast's economy has rebounded, with GDP growing by 9.5% in 2012 to \$24.68 billion. However, following the 1999-2002 socio-political conflict, protection and sustainable management of natural resources, particularly forests, has been challenging for the government⁴.

Côte d'Ivoire is facing many environmental challenges amplified by the unprecedented socio-political crisis and the above mentioned 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 Ivoirians. According to Société de

⁴ Forest Investment Plan 2015.

Développement des Forêts, the infiltration rate of forest reserves increased from 18% in 1996 to roughly 50% in 2014

Status of land rights in Cote d'Ivoire: The status of the land right has experienced a certain evolution in Côte d'Ivoire. A series of laws (Roman law) have marked this evolution. These laws are intended to substitute the traditional customary law. The introduced Roman law brought in the issue of individual private property and attempted to put an end to the tribal property or collective family owned property. The State now becomes the sole owner of all land. The land right is now governed by the Act No. 98-750 of December 23, 1998 related to rural land. It aims is to identify the customary land rights, certify them and convert them into private ownership. The ownership of rural land property is established through the registration of this land in the land registry.

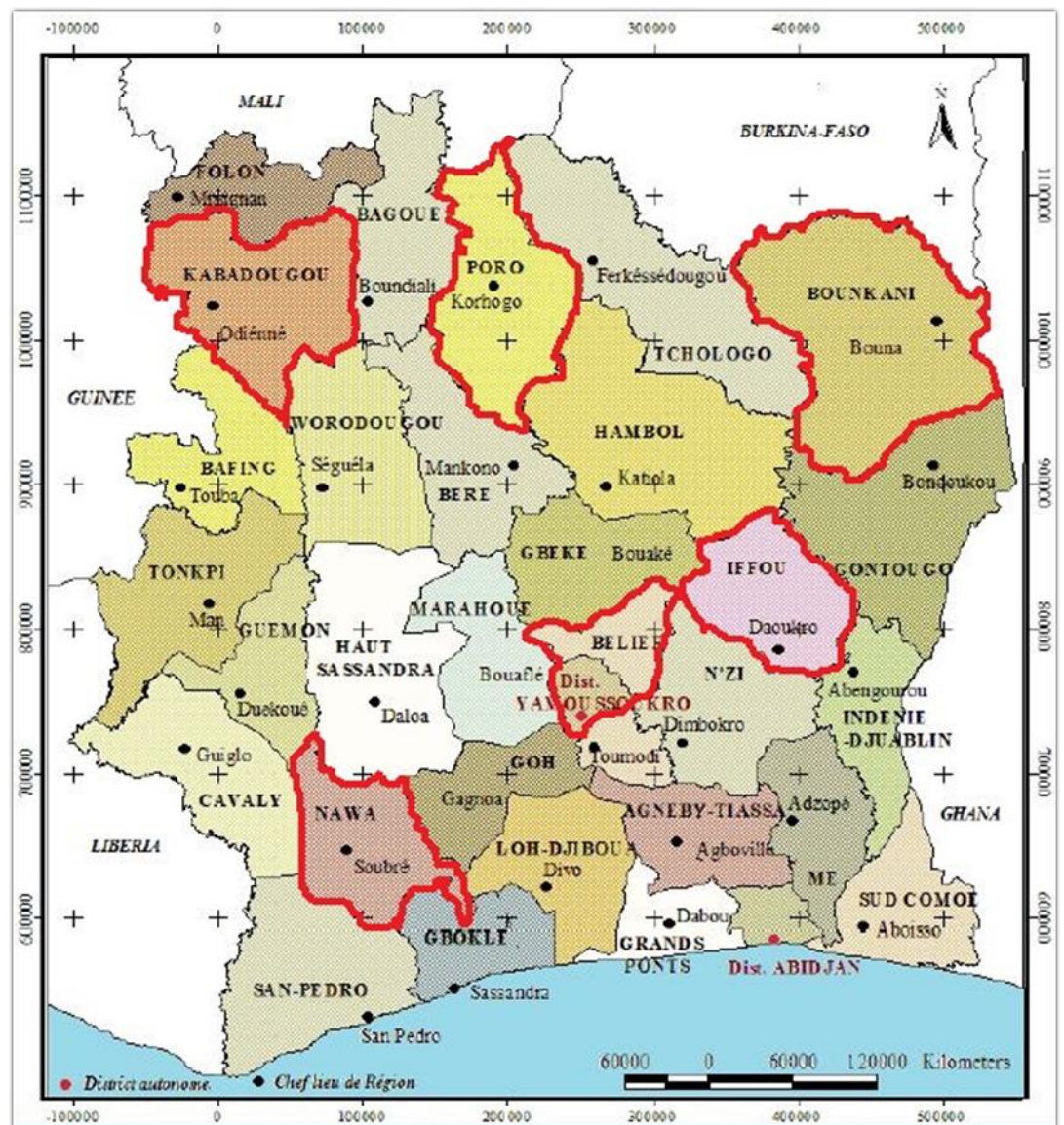


FIGURE 1: PRESENTATION OF PROJECT INTERVENTION AREA

Legend:

- ▬ Limit of Intervention Regions
- ▬ Limit of Regions
- Capital of region

Presentation of Intervention Regions:

The intervention regions are located in the administrative division of Pora, Bounkani, Yamoussokro, Iffou and Nawa (please see Figure 1).

As the project aims at understanding land degradation dynamic in Cote d'Ivoire to come up with enabling technical, policies and socioeconomic environments, sites have been selected to represent the key vegetation zones (South, Central and Northern) of the country. The following regions are sample representation of the ecological zone in which they belong.

Nawa region: Located in the Southwest of the country and within the new cacao-producing region. In recent years, this region has seen extensive agricultural expansion which has come at the expense of forests. This area also contains Taï National Park; the last large protected area of dense forest in the country which in 1982 became a UNESCO World Heritage Site. . This region, mainly occupied by Bete people, among a diversified population including Ivorian and foreigners, covers an area of 9,775 km². . Agriculture, occupying about ninety percent of land, represents the most important economic activity with a rate of seventy-five percent (Tahoux 1993) and contributes ninety-four percent to incomes. The most important cash crops are cocoa, rubber, and oil palm, complemented by logging. Cocoa is the most important speculation and most dominant crop with a productivity of 560 kg/ha (Assiri, CNRA 2010) and plantation sizes averages three to seven ha/farmer. Nawa region is the most cocoa producing area rating forty percent of national production. The main food crops associated with this area are cassava, yam, and corn. Other seasonal crops are also cultivated. The choice of this region is governed by the fact it offers the opportunity to understand the dynamic of human pressure on forest and land resources which lead to degradation and loss of productivity

Yamoussokro District, N'ZI and IFOU regions located in the Center of the country and once the major cacao belt. This region saw a significant movement of its rural population to the Southwest due to a drop in agricultural productivity due to the disappearance of trees, loss of soil productivity and the decline of biodiversity. The population, composed of Baoulé people, mostly relies on agriculture with, previously, export crops like coffee and cocoa (former cocoa belt). Today, in addition to other cash crops such as oil palm and rubber, there are food crops (yam, cassava, etc.) and vegetables (okra, pepper, etc.). Plantain also reappears in production systems. The choice of are based on the fact that they represent a kind of “victims” of unsustainable use of land and offer opportunities to understand the ongoing degradation and to design SLM and agroforestry practices which can revert the situation.

Poro region is located in the north of Côte d'Ivoire with Korhogo as main city. Senufo people who belong to it have diverse activities. Agriculture is dominated by cotton, as cash crop, associated with food crops (corn, rice, yam, etc.) and vegetables (onion, tomato, eggplant, etc.). Mango and cashew are grown for the past ten years. The production of Shea butter from *Vitellaria paradoxa* (Shea) fruit is an important activity producing additional incomes. It is the same with *Parkia biglobosa* (néré) to make a traditional seasoning called “soubara”. Traditional methods (smoking, curing, and drying) are used to keep foodstuffs such as cassava (chips), okra and eggplant. Several agribusiness companies like SODESUCRE, SODEFEL, SODEPRA, CIDT, and Scientific Research with CNRA (former IDESSA, former IRFA, and former CTFT) also operate there. The exploitable financial and protein income sources include cotton seeds and annual herbaceous legumes (soybean, cowpea, and rapeseed).

Boukani region is located in the north-eastern part of Côte d'Ivoire with Bouna as capital city. Lobi people who are native of the region mainly rely on agro-pastoral activities. Agriculture, previously focused on food crops (yam, millet, sorghum) and fruit plants (pineapple, banana, citrus), is diversifying through new crops (mango, cashew, rubber, and corn). Regarding cattle breeding, it is dominated by a transhumance system with large commercial herds of mainly Baoulé cattle. The region's cash crops also include cotton and groundnuts.

Another activity is fish farming, at some places, from small agro-pastoral (or hydro-agricultural) reservoirs created by structures like SODESUCRE, SODERIZ and CIDT.

Causes of Land Degradation: The key consequences of land degradation are particularly the: (a) the impoverishment of local populations due to drastic reduction of agricultural production as a 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)⁵. 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)⁶. 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 2000⁷. 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 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 delayed 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 beaches 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.

Since 1960, Côte d’Ivoire’s, a West African country with a total area of 322,462 km², development policy relied on agriculture with coffee and cocoa as the main cash crops. The historic agricultural expansion enabled Côte d’Ivoire to be ranked as the major global cocoa producer, but this expansion consequently led to the degradation of its forest resources. The result is that in recent years the issue of land degradation and desertification has become topical and of a great concern. The ecosystem diagnosis report, validated in July 2013, actually confirmed, based on scientific information, land degradation, including loss of forests, as a major threat to Ivorian ecosystems. Among others: (i) decreasing arable lands; (ii) populations are massively immigrating to forest areas in the south-western parts of the country; (iii) parks, nature reserves, and classified forests are being infiltrated by human populations; and (iv) various subsequent land conflicts are taking place.

⁵ « Etat des Lieux de la Dégradation des Terres en Côte d’Ivoire », NAP Development process, 2013)

⁶ SODEFOR Daloa, 2004

⁷ « Etat des Lieux de la Dégradation des Terres en Côte d’Ivoire », NAP Development process, 2013)

The Savannahs regions are confronted with major recurring problems of average fertility and poor physical properties of soils, shortage of vegetation cover, erosion (physical-chemical leaching), securing land (land pressure) and management of woodlands. These problems are amplified by conflicts related to the management of agro-pastoral space, repetitive forest fires, grazing and demographic pressure.

In summary, it can be noted that the old loop of cocoa and coffee was the area where these crops flourished until the 1980s. Nowadays, these crops have nearly disappeared from the area. Producers looking for more productive lands are obliged to migrate to the western part of the country where land issues arose due to human pressure. In the north, agricultural production is experiencing decreasing yields. Yields are no longer sufficient to cover the family expenses. Therefore people migrate to other more productive areas with consequent deforestation leading to land degradation/erosion and conflicts over resources. *Because of the above situation, the economy of the Côte d'Ivoire, mainly based on agriculture, is therefore vulnerable to the significant drop in crop yields.* Several reasons explain this decline: the impoverishment of soils, the change in ecosystems and the loss of nutrients. The significant drop in agricultural production threatens not only food security, economy and welfare but also and importantly social cohesion especially with the various crises that the country has experienced. Socially, land degradation causes the displacement of people from central region, north region and the old cocoa loop (East Central region) towards the forest areas (West, Southwest and Central West regions). These migrations create many socio-economic conflicts between natives and the migrants.

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 aimed 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 forest 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 a 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.

Recent development in policy issue is the strong move toward the creation of National Agency of Rural Code (Agence de Foncier Rural). If created, this agency will play an important role in improving the land governance and security particularly for local producer's ad private sector.

The Government of Cote d'Ivoire, very early committed itself to dealing with land degradation issue by establishing institutions with competencies that cover several aspects of the problem and adopting a series of acts and administrative measures. In addition, the Government collaborated with other countries also affected by desertification, ratified the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and aligned its National Action Plan to the 10-year Strategy of the Convention adopted in 2008. Following the analysis of the situation which particularly affects agricultural production and populations' living conditions, the government integrated the development and implementation of the NAP into its priority actions stated in the 2012-2015 National Development Plan. The Plan indicate that *"Combating desertification in its holistic dimension actually requires the establishment of an adequate action plan for an integrated and coherent response in order to contribute, among other things, to improving populations' living conditions, to sustainably restoring degraded lands, and to preventing desertification"*.

The country's forest cover, approximately 37% of the country's territory in 1960, is estimated to have decreased to less than 14% in 2010. The adverse consequences of the crisis on security and governance, alongside rapid and uncontrolled urbanization, have increased environmental degradation with overexploitation of natural resources. Large segments of the population moved into the forests during the conflict when enforcement of regulatory controls were non-existent, and are now entrenched in utilizing forest resources for their livelihoods. In July 2013, Ivory Coast initiated the development of its national REDD+ strategy, in conjunction with the World Bank and UN-REDD. The implementation of REDD+ activities are expected to lead to a 10% reduction per annum in annual loss of forest area from, 93,000 hectares in 2015 to about 50,000 hectares in 2020. Though post-conflict recovery is slow, the outlook is optimistic for the Ivory Coast⁸.

Various projects and programme are under implementation to address land degradation and deforestation issues. These include:

Forest Investment Program (FIP).Cote d'Ivoire's forests offer huge potential and rich biodiversity but the country has one of the highest rates of deforestation in Sub-Saharan Africa. Approved in June 2016, the FIP funding of \$24 million (USD) will focus on restoring the country's forest cover by working with small-scale farmers to introduce agroforestry techniques and improve agricultural productivity. It will also contribute to the protection of the vast forest area of Tai National Park - a world heritage site and one of the last major remnants of pristine forest in West Africa - conserving its biodiversity and carbon stocks. The UNEP/GEF project will be important for the implementation of FIP as it will be an opportunity to understand the land degradation/deforestation drivers, the land tenure issues in rural areas thereby providing alternatives enabling environment and capacity building necessary for the deployment of large scale agroforestry practices and organization of local small holders.

The CIV 10 project on Environment Protection and Management of Natural Resources and the Amelioration of the management of national parks and natural reserves project: The two projects are executed by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development. The projects are investing respectively \$2,000,000 and \$3,000,000 to support national environment protection agenda. The two projects include training and awareness raising activities toward key national stakeholders. Partnership will be developed with the projects to ensure that they include land degradation issues in the training and awareness raising activities and therefore these projects constitute important baseline activities under the leadership of MINESUDD.

The "Project for Agroforestry Zonguitakaha - Sénoufo in the Municipality of Korhogo: The project Agroforestry aims to improve the living conditions of populations, not only in ensuring food security (food crop production side) but also providing additional revenue for operators (sale of surplus production) and lowers deforestation (forestry component) by focusing on recovery of unused land and to use such

⁸ FIP 2015

productively rather than focus on the forested areas in agricultural expansion. The project is funded by EU with a budget of \$38,923 of the period of 2014-2016. This project cofinancing will be an opportunity to support GEF project in terms of lessons learning and experience which can feed the policy review.

The "Project developing dry season gardening using a drill and a pump system by solar in Kafigué" City of Korhogo: Developing 'out-of-season' vegetables and market gardening aims to improve the working conditions of people, especially women, by offering them simple irrigation systems, respecting the environment and allowing them to increase their income. The project funded by EU with a budget of \$72 960 over the period of 2014-2016. The Improvement of living conditions of populations using land as an asset will provide lessons for this UNEP/GEF project.

The project "A Safer World is Possible, One Single Act is Necessary": the project is developed and executed by a network of CSO called Network of NGO and Associations engaged in Fighting Desertification in Cote d'Ivoire (ROADCI). The project, with an amount of \$800,000, aims at mobilizing the population for a safer world respectful of environment during the period of 2016 – 2018. The GEF project will work with this network of NGO to build their capacity in understanding and application of good SLM practice and collaborate in awareness raising activities.

The project "Cocoa, Friend of Forest Project". The project is developed and implemented by the Coffee-Cocoa Council of Cote d'Ivoire. The project with an amount of \$5 million over the period of 2015 - 2018, has as objective of securing sustainably the income of all the stakeholders of the sub-sector by increasing the productivity, environment protection and biodiversity conservation in Cocoa production zone. This project will constitute a strong baseline for the UNEP/GEF project as it will support revenue availability for the Cocoa producers in the project area.

The Rural Area Investment Funds and Coffee Rehabilitation Programmes: These programmes are developed and implemented by the Coffee-Cocoa Council of Cote d'Ivoire. The programmes with an amount of \$14 million over the period of 2015 - 2018, have as objectives of providing investment opportunities for Cocoa and Coffee producers in Cote d'Ivoire. These programmes will constitute a strong baseline opportunities for the UNEP/GEF project.

Long term solution: According to the baseline assessment and consultation with different key stakeholders conducted during the PPG, the following actions have been identified as alternative solutions to the environmental issues identified above. These solutions include:

- Adoption of good agricultural and forestry practices;
- Improving soil fertility;
- Awareness raising targeting rural development actors;
- Improving the agro-pastoral productivity;
- Integrated, Land, water and quarries management activities;
- Collaborative and coalition with different stakeholders including NGO and private sector; and
- Policy and institutional actions.

According to SalvaTerra in "How can Côte d'Ivoire reconcile agricultural and forest development and at what price?"⁹ The field studies reveal that considerable gains in productivity on land already under cultivation are possible in all commodity chains through improved management of soil fertility and the dissemination of effective agricultural practices. Projections for 2010 to 2030 indicate that a progressive decoupling of agricultural production and deforestation in Côte d'Ivoire can be achieved by following green scenarios that assume a sustainable agricultural intensification in already cultivated areas. The green scenario assumes the

⁹ The briefing note is based on the study 'Coûts-bénéfices de la REDD+ en Côte d'Ivoire' (costs and benefits of REDD+ in Côte d'Ivoire), carried out by SalvaTerra in the context of the collaboration among the EU REDD Facility, the European Union and the Ministry of the Environment of Côte d'Ivoire. The study also benefited from collaboration with the NGO Solidaridad in order to involve stakeholders in agricultural sectors

identification of improved practices specific to each commodity: the use of improved plant material, the addition of green manure, various types of crop maintenance and an insurance mechanism for producers allowing them to replant more quickly in the event of crop loss. Achieving these gains in productivity without increasing land area requires significant accompanying measures.

However, there are a number of barriers that hinder these solutions of being adapted:

Barrier 1: Unfavourable policy and institutional capacity which support SLM: The policy of modernization of agricultural production is an important step toward reversing deforestation and land degradation. The important axis contained in the policy and which are in favour 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 favour of dissemination of good SLM practices. However, the implementation of these favourable 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. To alleviate the situation of degradation and shortages of natural resources, few initiatives are initiated by other sectors (e.g. agricultural sector). Many initiatives also lead to further degradation, for example support to women is provided to compensate for the lack of water for gardening and to embark in the unsustainable production of charcoal, which creates a further pressure on already fragile natural vegetation.

Barrier 2: Lack of alternative options to ensure well-being and reduce pressure on natural resource: There is currently impoverishment of local populations due to drastic reduction of agricultural production as result of loss of fertility and 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)¹⁰. Another observed consequence of loss of production is the conversion of local farmers from food crops to cash crops which adapt more easily to the changing climate but also provide source of income to address poverty.

Barrier 3: Insufficient individual and institutional capacity to face land degradation: The land degradation is accentuated by 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. There is overexploitation of forest resources for the production of timber, firewood and charcoal, inappropriate and clandestine declassification and infiltration in protected forests, national parks and reserves, bushfires, and demographic pressure. In addition, illegal logging is another phenomenon contributing to deforestation leading to land degradation.

A. 5. Incremental /Additional cost reasoning: describe the incremental (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or additional (LDCF/SCCF) activities requested for GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF financing and the associated global environmental benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or associated adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF) to be delivered by the project:

The old cocoa belt and coffee was the area where these crops flourished until the 1980s. Nowadays, these crops have nearly disappeared from the area. Producers looking for more productive lands are obliged to migrate to the western part of the country where land issues arose due to human pressure. In the north,

¹⁰ « Etat des Lieux de la Dégradation des Terres en Côte d'Ivoire », NAP Development process, 2013)

agricultural production is experiencing decreasing yields. Yields are no longer sufficient to cover the family expenses. Therefore people migrate to other more productive areas with consequent deforestation leading to land degradation/erosion and conflicts over resources. Because of the above situation, the economy of the Côte d'Ivoire, mainly based on agriculture, is therefore vulnerable to the significant drop in crop yields. Several reasons explain this decline: the impoverishment of soils, the change in ecosystems and the loss of nutrients. The significant drop in agricultural production threatens not only food security, economy and welfare but also and importantly social cohesion especially with the various crises that the country has experienced. Socially, land degradation causes the displacement of people from central region, north region and the old cocoa loop (East Central region) towards the forest areas (West, Southwest and Central West regions). These migrations create many socio-economic conflicts between natives and the migrants.

The national Forestry vision of Cote d'Ivoire includes the following targets:

a) **At least 50% of fuelwood sold in large cities should come from fuelwood plantations.** With a population of 8 million, Abidjan is the country's largest consumer of charcoal and firewood. On average, each resident consumes .5 to 1 ton of wood per year, which brings the city's total annual wood consumption to 4 to 8 million ton. Every year, 50,000 to 100,000 ha of forests are destroyed or severely degraded. In a sustainable framework, yearly output would be approximately 20 tons per ha. Therefore, 100,000 to 200,000 ha of forests need to be planted in order to meet Abidjan's need for renewable biomass energy. This will require government funding as well as private sector financing.

b) **Encourage small farmers in the rural domain to grow trees alongside their crops.** Farmers would tend and own co-planted trees, and eventually derive income from them by producing wood (with lumber being preferred to fuelwood and timber). Training would be provided on the correct spacing for specific species, etc. In addition, small lots could be reforested for raising additional income. High quality saplings (generally clones or ones taken from select seed orchards) could be provided free of charge. (This should be determined after full consideration of incentives and existing markets.) Depending on a careful review of the market, some planting costs may be subsidized. The key to the success of this activity is securing farmers' rights to occupy and cultivate the land which would be prioritized. Under this system, trees would be owned by the farmers, thus enabling the farmers to become small-scale agro-foresters and tree planters. If necessary, steps will be taken to ensure a commercial outlet for wood products (e.g., some form of pre-arranged contract).

c) **Restoring the country's forest landscapes through small-scale farming and wood production is an effective means to foster local development, restore biodiversity, and fight against climate change.** Restoration and reforestation will also preserve Côte d'Ivoire's status as a forest nation and help to foster a gradual shift toward agroforestry landscapes.

The GEF increment through this project will not only improve ecological conditions in the targeted areas by creating enabling policy and technical environment for avoiding deforestation and land degradation and ensure soils restoration but also ambition to contribute in fixing the population and avoid migrations by promoting mechanism to support financial opportunities for rural communities.. To contribute to reverse these trends and enhance local communities' resilience, it is necessary to understand the dynamic of land degradation in these production areas and come up with measures to restore fertility, thus reduce deforestation and create condition for alternative livelihood for local communities. The project will also help to build the capacity of the states' institutions and contribute to economic growth due to improved agricultural yields

The project's objective is 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. The project will achieve this objective through the delivery of the following components, outcomes and outputs:

Component 1: Strengthening Policy to Support SLM Practices Dissemination

Diagnostic analysis conducted during the PPG, confirms that 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. The component will be an opportunity to understand the root causes of land degradation and fertility lost which some of the baseline projects are addressing. Having such scientific and rigorous information of the root causes will be useful in the intervention of the baseline projects in order to ensure that there is a logical linkage between solution proposed (intervention) and the root causes of the environmental degradation and fertility loss. As the project is targeting different ecological and production systems, the finding of this component will provide the Government and stakeholders a basis for a national approach to land use management. The component will generate the following outcome and outputs: *Outcome 1.1: Strengthen Policy and Instructional Environment favourable for SLM.* For the outcome and outputs, due consideration will be given to gender particularly on women and men conditions, who does what? How role and responsibilities are shared? How revenues are shared and what are the impacts of land degradation on both men and women. All the strategies and actions to be conducted in relation to execution of the activities will take into consideration of the outcome of gender analysis mentioned above.

The component outputs will include:

Output 1.1: A report of the participative assessment of land degradation in cocoa-coffee and northern areas is available. According to the report of Forest Investment Programme (FIP) elaborated by the Permanent Secretariat of REDD+ of Cote d'Ivoire, a number of factors together have created a destructive trend of forest in the recent years. Numbers of these factors have become systemic and among these is the land tenure security, loss of agricultural productivity, illegal logging and lack of adequate surveillance. Key drivers of this situation include extension of agricultural lands (Cocoa, Coffee, Rubber, Palm Oil and Anacardim) using slash and burn mainly by individual producers of more than 30 ha of land; and food crops production (rice, yam, etc.). The related causes include:

- Lack of incentive measures to conserve trees in agricultural lands
- Producers do not have economic and property right on the trees
- Agricultural crops are destroyed when doing forest exploitation
- The producers do not receive formal payment when trees are exploited in agricultural lands
- Agro-industrial actors face land insecurity
- Forest exploiters face inadequacy of legal and legislative framework

The GEF support will help to conduct a participative assessment in order to gather in one hand more evidence of the drivers and consequences of land degradation/loss of productivity particularly in the project area and other hand policies, legislative and institutional weakness to be addressed. The report of the assessment will be developed with the assistance of experts who understand the rural development dynamism and with active involvement of local communities using focus groups. The assessments will both cover the ecological, socioeconomic and institutional aspects of land degradation in the target regions. On the ecological aspects the assessment will give due attention to carbon stock conservation potential and enhancement through measures to be consider in output 1.2 and component 2. The assessment will also consider land tenure issue

and the land ownership in the respective communes and regions in order to define individual and collective land ownership so as to understand the condition for collective agreement under a possible PSE scheme in these regions.

Output 1.2: 6 Local Land Use Plans that consider Integrated Natural Resources Management are established. According to Karsenty et al (2015) in the Feasibility Study of REDD+ In Cote d'Ivoire, territorial approach to PES aims at creation of a collective dynamism supporting commitment on utilisation of given territory (agreement on land use plan within defined territory and in contrary agreement to stop given practices or technologies). SalvaTerra indicated that, the green scenarios are only worthwhile if they are implemented collectively. Otherwise, the decoupling of agriculture and deforestation will not take place. In the absence of coordinated collective action, producers who seek a zero deforestation reputation will have to rely on private certification, a costly option for small producers, and one that, on its own, often has a limited impact on deforestation because non-certified operators are free to clear any land that remains..

Based on the reports on the assessment of land degradation, participative land use plans will be developed to serve as key policy instruments to mainstream integrated natural resource management in wider cocoa-coffee and northern areas production zones. The local land use plans will be design in such a way that the contribution to conservation and enhancement of carbon stock both above and below ground is given due consideration as well as gender consideration. The project will use the 'bottom-up' approach as suggested in the Study on Feasibility of a National PES system in Cote d'Ivoire¹¹. The approach is territorial and collective in nature, and complements the 'top-down' approach led by the agricultural sectors and targeted to producers. In the context of a given landscape, the drivers of deforestation and environmental degradation more generally tend to be multiple and substitutable. A successful effort to address farmers' production systems in a specific sector does not often translate into addressing the different drivers of degradation in a given landscape – be them related to other agricultural or pastoral production systems, or to factors such as charcoal production and timber harvesting. In other words, zero deforestation by one or more organized sectors may be accompanied by further environmental degradation in the same territory. The territorial approach to PES aims to create a collective dynamic supportive of sustainable land-use commitments in a territory. The Land Use Plan will be develop in the most vulnerable of the district of Yamoussokro; the regions of Ifou, N'ZI, (where severe fertility lost is experienced which lead to the displacement of Cocoa who now moved southward to conquer new lands leading to deforestation and degradation); Nawa (Where human pressure as result of migration from the degraded region looking for the best fertile soil is very high) and Poro and Boukani (where land degradation as result of poor agricultural and pastoral land management practices are severe and these are exacerbated by the recurrent drought).

Output 1.3: A .charter on ecosystem services management is developed and negotiated with different group of stakeholders. This output builds on the current national dynamism to establish Rural Code Agency (Agence du Foncier Rural). The project will bring together stakeholders to agree on the extent to which the charter is considered in rural code, but also will support development of legal, regulatory and institutional framework of the Agency which will ensure enabling environment for the deployment of SLM in cocoa parklands and other other systems.

Output 1.4: Policy brief and guideline to support good SLM practices adaption and dissemination at local, national, and regional levels

¹¹ Karsenty et al, July 2015

Component 2: SLM and agroforestry practices to support communities livelihood

As indicated in SalvaTerra study on commodities chains, the inability to shoulder the high initial costs may act to deter individuals or groups from making an excellent investment. In particular, this concerns small-scale producers in Côte d'Ivoire who predominate in the supply chains studied. The implementation of the green scenario in each sector would thus require some technical and financial support for some stakeholders, notably where there are significant costs involved at the start of the transition linked for example to land tenure security, or the production or purchasing of quality seedlings. The organized supply chains already have mechanisms in place to support producers. Complementary support in line with the green scenarios could be considered in the future through the redirecting of certain existing or planned funding mechanisms (for example, the public debt reverse transfer mechanism), or through other channels, such as the REDD+ mechanism. Not everything has to involve financial incentives, however. Introducing incentives in areas where the stakeholders could simply respect the law could have the perverse effect of supplanting civic motivations. The green scenario in the rubber sector, for example, is highly profitable with an internal rate of return (IRR) of 43%. Regulatory or legal tools rather than incentives could play an important role through, for instance, the clarification or definition of production minimum standards

The implementation of this component will enable natural resource's beneficiaries to have sustainable lands with protected or improved fertility. It will reduce production costs to improve local communities' living conditions. The expected outcome is *"Alternative livelihood options to reduce pressure on lands and increase available revenue"*. It is anticipated to improve living conditions of local communities and reduce pressure on natural resources, particularly on lands. During the PPG phase, the farmers particularly in Nawa region indicated that agroforestry which will intercrop Cocoa and other tree crops is the preferred option to increase productivity. The identified NGOs (ANOPACI, ROAD-CI, AIDE ODIENNE, DVNIA CD, LAGAHOUN, and Federation of Forestry Sectors Labor Unions) will play an important role in the implementation of this component. These NGO have been considered because of their respective experience in working with local communities in the project areas but also they are very well familiar with Sustainable Land Management Activities. For more than 10 years, these CSO, are partnering with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, in reversing the trends of land degradation in Cote d'Ivoire. They have participated actively in the development and validation of both the National Action Plan to Combat Desertification and the design of the actual project during the preparation phase. These NGO will support the project in areas of awareness raising and training of local stakeholders on SLM. The awareness raising will include both related to the impacts of deforestation and the need to embark in a reforestation programme. It is expected that the action from the NGO will support adoption by local communities of good sustainable land management and agroforestry practices. These integrated approaches will ensure sustainable introduction of agroforestry activities in production systems in the country.

For each infrastructure created, a local management committee, representative of all key stakeholders is established. The recipient populations will contribute an amount (to be decided) to a community fund at the end of each harvest. The Management committee will use the funds to monitor and maintain the infrastructures.

This component will build on the FIP anticipated activities by supporting emergence of an enabling policy and technical environments for the FIP components which include:

a. Expand the practice of co-planting of tree and food crops using a wide range of methods and approaches. This will require implementing agroforestry techniques, in the broadest sense of the term, to be identified during discussions about the management of income-generating trees in agricultural settings as well as about the benefits of trees overall (e.g., for shade, fruit production, windbreaks, etc.).

b. Bolster the emerging movement of small private speculative planters of Teak (in both rural and urban areas). This trend emerged naturally due to the economic benefit derived from planting teak. It should be encouraged and supported further by technical and financial means.

c. Identify with help from local government and traditional leaders, tracts of a few thousand ha in the rural domain which could be set aside for concessions that will be used for intensive industrial tree plantations. Such concessions could help to meet the demand for fuelwood in urban areas and encourage specialized investments in intensive forest plantations.

d) supporting measures to: (i) Promote intensive agriculture; (ii) Raise awareness on environmentally-friendly practices with regard to agriculture and resources use; (iii) Introduce Payments for Environmental Services (PES); (iv) Help to make the land tenure system more secure; (v) Reduce urban demand for fuelwood; (vi) Promote methods for fighting brushfires; (vii) Promote value chains for the timber industry.

To achieve the expected outcome of the component 2, the following outputs will be delivered:

Output 2.1: SLM and agroforestry practices are developed by the project and testing and dissemination through local capacity-building, awareness-raising and incentives negotiated with other initiatives including FIP Program particularly in Old Cocoa belt and the actual production areas. Within each of the six Land Use Plan developed in Output 1.2 described above, demonstration sites of 100 ha, giving a total of 600 ha, will be established by the project and participative pilot testing of good SLM and SFM practices (for water stress management – e.g. mulching, increased productivity – e.g. leguminous intercropping; combat forest fires and fodder production to boost livestock production etc.) will be conducted. Key stakeholders in the implementation of the Land Use Plan will be involved in the piloting process as to use the opportunity to build their capacity but also create supportive stakeholders group for SLM and SFM scaling up. As scaling up strategy, the project will involve and negotiate other donors and partners investing in the 6 regions to support large scale implementation of the SLM and SFM activities. The University of Cocody through the Department of Botany and Zoology in collaboration with CNRA will coordinate the choice of species and the assessment of potential risk of introduction,

Output 2.2: Rural infrastructure (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 are created and mechanisms for their long-term sustainability are established in the northern region. The development of rural infrastructure will be possible through activities like Development of high yielding varieties adapted to climate change; Development of rural infrastructure (water collection and storage facilities; firewalls; hedgerows, seed banks; food stock exchanges; artificial grazing; transhumance corridors; etc.); Micro projects development and Establishment of rural infrastructure management committees.

Output: 2.3. Options for Local sustainable financing mechanism explored to support Private Sector – According to Karensty et al 1015, the national financing of Payment of Ecosystem Service (PES) should not rely on national budgetary process. The agreements with rural communities must be honoured to avoid losing the confidence to Government and its partners who will jeopardize long term deployment of PES. The project will assess the feasibility of pilot testing of different options of financial mechanisms including the PSE through Farmers' agreement on application of good SLM and agroforestry practice in partnership with other partners including FIP, In order to incentivise local communities to embark in SLM practice that will enhance productivity, the project will support negotiation of a win- win possible financial mechanism which will allow the private sector to compensate the farmers' efforts in improving ecosystem services. This output will help to assess and recommend enabling conditions of pilot testing of a PES which will serve the ongoing discussion in the country to establish a sustainable PSE scheme at national level.

Component 3: SLM institutionalization, Advocacy and Awareness on SLM

Conditions in recent decades have enabled the development of the current agricultural model at the expense of forests:

- Large land areas allocated to crop production,
- Renewal of soil fertility through prolonged fallow periods,
- Lower climate stress,
- The agricultural markets' total indifference towards zero deforestation products, and
- Non-existent resources such as REDD+ to support efforts to maintain forests.

It is estimated that 3,640,600 ha in the project areas are affected by land degradation. However, all these factors, which ultimately have an impact on agricultural profits, are evolving. Effective alternative agronomic practices which make it possible to adapt to these changes, do exist, but either remain unknown to most farmers or are not adapted to suit their requirements. Efforts to adapt to, demonstrate and disseminate these improved practices are required to overcome the resistance to change. Furthermore, as experienced during the consultations held for the cost-benefit analysis, it is important to engage in dialogue with stakeholders in their terms. In this way stakeholders in the commodities chains can engage using economic and food security arguments adapted to the value chain that concerns them, rather than through environmental discourse that does not speak to their needs

The purpose of this component is to adopt a more strategic approach for training and awareness to allow stakeholders implement recommendation from the assessment conducted in component 1. The project will support setting up of national institutional framework both at national and local level to ensure that SLM issues are adequately addressed and care-of. The project through this component will explore possibility of supporting the country to develop a Strategic Investment Framework for SLM. The component will also support establishment of an information and communication system "to actively influence competent international, national, and local mechanisms and actors in order to tackle land degradation and deforestation. There is need for targeted trainings, information, awareness, and communication regarding SLM in the most affected areas. In fact, major awareness-raising and prevention actions must be undertaken towards these areas and regions. Similarly, media campaigns and various information activities on SLM should be organized with the involvement of the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and scientific and technological institutions at national, sub-regional, and regional levels. CSOs and the scientific community will be more closely involved, as stakeholders, not only in sustainable management activities, but also in advocacy, awareness-raising, and education initiatives. The participation of CSOs along with scientific and technological institutions in SLM programs and projects will help make a plea to major interest groups. These major interest groups will be effectively informed of land degradation issues and synergies between the fight against this problem and climate change adaptation and mitigation as well as biodiversity conservation at local, national, and international levels. These stakeholders will also be involved in the piloting the SLM and SFM measures planned in output 2.1.

The expected outcome is "*Capable national institutions and stakeholders for SLM are implemented*" and will consist of an awareness-raising and communication system on SLM. The following outputs will be delivered under this component:

Output 3.1.: Training conducted to representatives of stakeholders group on participative assessment, consideration of the assessment output in the development of Land Use plan and development of monitoring and evaluation mechanism.

Output 3.2: Training conducted to all groups of stakeholders on SLM and agroforestry practices. SalvaTerra, concluded following their study indicated above, that with variations specific to each commodity, the

implementation of the green scenario generally involves at least doubling farmer training for the dissemination of improved production methods, supporting the regeneration of old plantations, increasing the amount of effort to improve land tenure clarification and security, participatory forest zoning and the development of a forest cover monitoring system (already in preparation within the framework of the REDD+ process).

Output 3.3: National Framework for SLM institutionalization at national and local levels in place. The Government of Cote d'Ivoire with support of Terrafrica partnership is establishing a National Platform for SLM. In order to ensure governance in SLM, the project will support operationalization and decentralization of the platform through creation of local SLM committees in the project areas.

Output 3.4: Local SLM dissemination institutions (like GSDM – Groupement de Semis Direct de Madagascar) are created and institutionalized, their capacity built, and tools (e.g. rural code of conduct to avoid unsustainable practices like animal wandering) are developed. The ANADER's staffs are generally well-trained, but are few in number which will lead to recruitment of consultants and expert under technical leadership of ANADER. Local stakeholders of priority areas will be trained and informed about sustainable natural resource management, including sustainable land management.

Output 3.5: At least one national, 6 local and 5 media events for awareness-raising on SLM practices.

Global Environment Benefit to be generated from the project

Project Components	Base line	GEF Alternative	Global Environment Benefits
Component 1: Identifying Policies to Support SLM Practices Dissemination	<p>Unavailability of land degradation statistics in the project areas</p> <p>No specific policy and institutional framework favorable to SLM particularly at local level.</p> <p>No institutions at local level with</p>	<p>A report on the participative assessment of land degradation in cocoa-coffee and northern areas to understand the land degradation dynamic</p> <p>Local Land Use Plans that consider Integrated Natural Resources Management (INRM) are established.</p> <p>Local SLM dissemination institutions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthen policy in agricultural landscape at local level - Enabling condition through development of land use plan, individual - Institutional capacity building - A charter on ecosystem services management which include legal and regulatory disposition

	specific mandate to support SLM	have their capacity built and tools are developed.	A favourable institutional set up which will include an operational Rural Code Agency
Component 2: SLM Practices in Support of Community Livelihood Improvement	<p>Best practices exist but little capacity of the stakeholders to understand which one to use and where.</p> <p>Producers looking for more productive lands are obliged to migrate to the western part of the country where land issues became source of conflict and deforestation.</p> <p>In the north, agricultural production is experiencing decreasing yields.</p> <p>Soils impoverishment, change in ecosystems and the nutrients loss</p> <p>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</p> <p>Insufficient rural infrastructure which support communities livelihood and SLM good practices dissemination</p> <p>Yields are no longer sufficient to cover the family expenses.</p> <p>People migrate to other more</p>	<p>SLM practices (for water stress management e.g. mulching, increased productivity – e.g. leguminous intercropping; combat forest fires and produce fodder to boost livestock production) are developed, tested, and disseminated through local capacity building, awareness-raising and incentives</p> <p>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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve agro-ecosystem services namely agricultural production through improved soil fertility - Reduced Green House Emission as result of reduced deforestation for agricultural expansion to compensate reduced productivity - alternative livelihood options provided

	<p>productive areas with consequent deforestation leading to land degradation/erosion and conflicts over resources.</p> <p>Vulnerability of the national economy to the significant drop in crop yields.</p> <p>The Government in collaboration with partners is implementing various initiatives which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The CIV 10 Projects on Environment Protection and Management of Natural Resources; Forest Preservation Programme - The "Project for Agroforestry Zonguitakaha - Sénoufo in the Municipality of Korhogo - The "Project developing dry season gardening using a drill and a pump system by solar in Kafigué" City of Korhogo; - The project "Cocoa, Friend of Forest Project - The Rural Area Investment Funds and Coffee Rehabilitation Programmes: 	<p>measures are created and mechanisms for their long-term sustainability are established.</p>	
Component 3: Advocacy and awareness	<p>Lack of tools and guidelines for SLM advocacy and awareness raising</p> <p>The lack of available opportunities for adopting SLM practices will continue to lead to loss of productivity of both northern and</p>	<p>Policy brief and , guideline to support good SLM practices adoption and dissemination at national and local level</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dissemination of good SLM practices in northern Ivory Coast and in the Coffee-Cocoa production zone in the central part of the country.

	<p>Cocoa-Coffee boucle production landscapes in the central part of the country</p> <p>Lack of nationally institutionalized SLM framework as the intention to create a national committee on Land Degradation has not materialized</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited media events focusing particularly on SLM <p>Ongoing initiative include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The project “A Safer World is Possible, One Single Act is Necessary” 	<p>National Framework for SLM institutionalization at national and local levels in place</p> <p>At least one national, 6 local and 5 media events for awareness raising on SLM practices</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 600 ha of agricultural land and other production systems under good SLM and agroforestry practices - The exact GHG emission reduction/sequestration will be provided at Middle term using the TT - Advocacy and awareness raising - Tools for advocacy and replication of good SLM practices. - Adoption of good SLM practices.
--	--	--	---

A.6 Risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and measures that address these risks:

Risk	Level	Mitigation Measures
Drought	Medium	Since the end of the 1970s, the country is experiencing a significant change in its precipitation regime. This situation worsened since 2002 following the occupation and destruction of forest reserves. Such a situation highlights uncertainties about the future of Ivorian agriculture and, therefore, about SLM. Awareness-raising activities are conducted to the attention of occupants for their eviction.
Land conflicts	High	Securing rural land is one of the priorities of Côte d'Ivoire's

Risk	Level	Mitigation Measures
		<p>rural development policy. The search for solutions to land problems in rural areas led the Government to develop the December 18, 1998 Law on Rural Land.</p> <p>The National Program of Rural Land Security includes the following components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delineation of village lands; - Issuance of property titles to holders of customary rural land rights, namely land certificates and land titles; - Consolidation of granted rights. <p>The project will ensure that any areas where the project activities will be conducted, the land right is granted and any conflict risk is avoided through establish mechanism.</p>
Farmer/Pastoralist Conflicts	High	<p>Given the decreasing environment condition in the far north, pastoralists are moving a little more down where it is possible to have grazing for their animals. However, in hosting areas, where vegetation is relatively green, farmers are settled and conduct farming activities. However, the starving animals often invade and destroy farmers' crops leading to many conflicts which may affect project performance or achievements.</p> <p>The risk can be mitigated first by settling livestock movement corridors and secondly by planting as hedges some thorny species which will protect farm lands. These species may include <i>Ziziphus mucronata</i>, <i>Haematoxylon brasiletto</i>, <i>rufescens</i>, and <i>Bauhinia Citrus aurantifolia</i>.</p>
Political instability	Medium	<p>The political environments which use to be tense and led to conflict in the country, is now becoming more peaceful. Today, peace actions and campaigns are conducted countrywide with the creation of various institutions conflict resolution mechanisms. The poverty level and reduced opportunities for local communities as result of loss of soil fertility and decrease agricultural production, have contributed in exacerbating the conflict situation. As the project will address soil fertility issue and adopt measures which will increase ecological conditions and the same time create favourable condition for local economic opportunities, it will contribute to peace consolidation. Furthermore, the policies review and awareness rising will create sustainable conditions for the project impacts to be carried forward by local community even in the event of any political instability.</p>
Climate change: The UNDP Study on agricultural vulnerability to climate	Medium	<p>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</p>

Risk	Level	Mitigation Measures
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		measures which include: awareness raising, alternative livelihood options, water resources mobilization, development or strengthen of capable institutions.
Invasive species: the project has planned introduction of agroforestry species to improve land fertility and also other to serve as Hedges for protecting the farms against livestock	Low	The species to be considered are already known and efforts will be done to ensure that preference is given to promising local species. Research institutions which are partners in this project will provide guidance and will be very much involved in monitoring the potential impacts of species introduction.

A.7. Coordination with other relevant GEF financed initiatives

The project will coordinate and ensure synergy with relevant projects and initiatives. They include:

- **UNEP/GEF Project: Integrated Management of Protected Areas in Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa.** The project objective is to ensure that the network of PA is sustainably protected, financed, and managed with a landscape approach, and the participation of the concerned stakeholders. The management plans and sustainable management plans to be developed under the Banco project together with the stakeholder participation strategy will informed this SLM project.
- UNEP/GEF Preparation of Côte d'Ivoire's Initial Biennial Update Report to UNFCCC. The findings of this project will be captured in fine-tuning the current proposed project's contribution to the national emission reduction targets.
- UNEP/GEF GEF 6 under development: Sustainability and Scaling Up Approaches for Transformational Management, Restoration and Conservation of Forests Landscapes and Biodiversity in Côte d'Ivoire (SSATMARC –FOLAB. The project seek to address issues related to soil productivity, agricultural and pastoral production, forest ecosystem restoration, and strengthening the management and coordination of the sector through creation of an enabling policy, regulatory, legislative and institutional environment; the promotion of certification, payment for environmental services, and by improving the management of protected areas and the protection and restoration of habitats (e.g. mangroves. The PES and REDD+ development in Côte d'Ivoire have benefited from various donors and partners each engaged in pilot process but without clear coordination and insufficient piloting sampling (200 instead of at least 2,000) and adequate necessary 5 years timing to ensure a proper lessons learning and national deployment. In addition, there is a still legal, regulatory and institutional gap to be covered in term of rural land tenure. To ensure long term sustainability of the PES and REDD+, the country lack a proper financing mechanism. The current project will certainly contribute significantly to the understanding of deforestation issues, the legal and institutional barriers and contribute to pilot testing of the PES, all these will contribute in providing an enabling environment of the GEF 6 project development and implementation. UNEP will ensure that there will be economy of scale by avoiding the two projects to conduct the same assessment but rather the LD project result will provide information to the GEF 6 project.

- **REDD and PES initiatives:** Côte d'Ivoire's current REDD+ readiness phase is supported by the UNREDD Programme (\$3,200,000), the World Bank (\$7,040,990), and the French Development Agency (AFD) through debt swap agreement (\$6,000,000). The National REDD+ Strategy for 2016 – 2017 aims to among other things at promoting forest cover restoration, the sustainable management of forests and biodiversity conservation both in rural areas and in permanently State-owned forests. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) with a \$1,000,000 investment and the EU-REDD+ Facility have since 2014 supported the Ivorian Government in raising awareness and building the capacity of national stakeholders on Payments for Environmental Services (PES). As part of this partnership, over 100 actors at the national and local levels, civil society, private sector, etc. have been exposed to the concept of PES. In the context of this partnership, a feasibility study for the establishment of a national PES scheme in Côte d'Ivoire that identified the different steps to be followed for the implementation of PES in the country, based on lessons learned from other countries (e.g. Costa Rica and Mexico), has been conducted by CIRAD and the Swiss Center for Scientific Research in Côte d'Ivoire before, in anticipation of a pilot phase envisaged to start as soon as financing is available. Furthermore, the SEP/REDD+ has equally commissioned a scoping study on REDD+ investment opportunities by the private sector, with support from UNEP UN-REDD
- **Production Sector Initiatives:** In the agricultural sector, the Permanent REDD+ Secretariat (SEP/REDD+) at the Ministry of Environment, Urban Sanitation and Sustainable Development (MINESUDD), will continue dialoging with the production sector, particularly agricultural commodity associations, to align specific sectoral development plans and policies with forest protection. This initiative is receiving financial support (US\$ 800,000 over the project period) from the European Union Forest Institute's REDD+ Facility (EU-EFI). MINESUDD (SEP-REDD+) and the Coffee and Cocoa Council have agreed to establish a partnership to implement the presidential vision of 'zero deforestation' cocoa in order to increase the national forest cover to 20% of the national territory. This initiative is of particular interest to large multinational food companies in the chocolate industry like Mondelez and its suppliers (e.g. OLAM, Cargill) with a cash investment of around \$4,000,000, but also to smaller companies like Cemoi. Large companies in the cocoa supply chain have mentoring programs for producers - who are generally cooperatives members - which aim to provide technical support, locate the plots to implement production traceability, and carry out some community social projects. In this context, large companies work with NGOs (for example, Mondelēz works with two NGOs: CARE and Solidaridad). In addition, since 2012, PALMCI has engaged in a continuous improvement process in the environment field.. Palmci had embarked in 2012 in establishing an Environment certification project which is obtained as its first result its ISO 14001-2004 certification in April 2015 on the Ehania pilot site. This site includes 12,000 ha of industrial plantation and 34,000 local communities own village plantation. PALMCI works with 32,000 local producers operating on 140,000 ha of village plantations.

The project will ensure and establish a proper coordination mechanism with the projects and initiatives described in the base line section. These include:

- The CIV 10 Projects on Environment Protection and Management of Natural Resources; Forest Preservation Programme,
- The "Project for Agroforestry Zonguitakaha - Sénoufo in the Municipality of Korhogo:
- The " Project developing dry season gardening using a drill and a pump system by solar in Kafigué " City of Korhogo
- The project a "A Safer World is Possible, One Single Act is Necessary":
- The project "Cocoa, Friend of Forest Project".
- The Rural Area Investment Funds and Coffee Rehabilitation Programmes

Project coordination is also addressed in Annex H: Implementation arrangement and in the Stakeholders involvement table. Section B.1 below.

B. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NOT ADDRESSED AT PIF STAGE:

B.1 Describe how the stakeholders will be engaged in project implementation.

	Stakeholders	Role in the project
1	Ivorian Association of Soil Science Specialists	- Study and analyse of soils
2	Universities and research institutes e.g. University of Cocody	Technical support for the establishment of fighting land degradation systems and protocols Support species choice and introduction to ensure safeguard in collaboration with CNRA.
3	National Agricultural Research Centre (CNRA)	Research findings, tested in real environments, are available at the CNRA. The CNRA, as research structure, will facilitate access to improved seeds and seedlings of new clones of perennial crops such as cocoa trees (CNRA, Cocoa Council for Distribution) and food crops (CNRA). Conduct awareness-raising, education, and training about innovations and good agricultural practices, as well as capacity-building for stakeholders. Take part in some assessments and analysis to be conducted by the project In collaboration with University of Cocody, ensures safeguard for use of species.
4	Ivorian Association of Agronomic Sciences (AISA)	Knowledge of agricultural land skills
5	National Bureau of Development and Technical Studies (BNETD)	Production of thematic and area maps Workshop and seminar on SLM
6	Ministry of Animal resources and fisheries (MIRAH)	Workshop and seminar on SLM
7	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MINESUDD)	Responsible for the project's implementation. Ensure the smooth running of all activities Play a role of facilitator Responsible for providing the necessary administrative and financial support to the Steering Committee
7	Ministry of Waters and forests	Member of steering committee of the project. They will facilitate coordination with other initiatives. They will provide co-financing through the project executed under their responsibility.

8	Permanent Secretariat of Sustainable Development	Ensure that the SLM project activities are consistent with the sustainable development policy and the National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD) In addition, it will provide scientific and technical support to the Steering Committee
9	Ministry of the Interior	Identify local institutions of best practices dissemination for SLM
10	Ministry of Agriculture	Member of steering committee of the project. They will facilitate coordination with other initiatives. They will provide co-financing through the project executed under their responsibility.
11	Locales Communities	Implementation of SLM measures Benefit empowerment on different SLM practices.
12	Decentralized governments	Identify local institutions of best practices dissemination for SLM
13	Communes/municipalities	Contribute to creating a dialogue framework between NGOs and farmers Facilitate respect for land rights. Technical support various NGOs
14	Relevant NGOs (: Association Nationale des Organisations professionnelles Agricoles de Côte d'Ivoire = ANOPACI, Réseau des ONGs et Association de lutte contre la Désertification en Côte d'Ivoire - ROAD-CI, HELP ODIENNE, DVNIA CD, LAGAHOUN, Foresters' Union Federation)	Contribute to creating farmer unions inside communities. Conduct awareness sessions and training on good agricultural practices tools Allow agricultural communities to look to conventional organic soil improvement methods associated with agroforestry techniques
15	Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).	Develop tools for dissemination of best practices for SLM
16	GIZ, UE	Technically and financially support the SLM project implementation Responsible for promoting the discussion and negotiation platform during the Steering Committee Provide the committee with information necessary for developing the PTS and monitoring-evaluating activities while allowing the coordination to guide investments in compliance with agreements.
17	National Forest Development Company (SODEFOR)	Will be part of the project coordination mechanism in the areas of their responsibility. They will facilitate coordination with other initiatives. They will provide co-financing through the project executed under their responsibility
18	National Agency for Rural Development Support (ANADER)	Establishment and management of reforestation activities Diffusing firstly good agricultural techniques and secondly the project's outcomes. Create farmer field schools on cultural practices (corn, rice) and orchard management (cocoa, coffee, and cashew). Take part in some assessments and analysis to be conducted by the

		project
19	College of Agriculture (ESA)	Mapping of soil (detailed studies soil pedology and formation),
20	National Institute of Vocational Training on Agriculture (INFPA)	Training Empowerment of local communities
21	School of Wildlife and Protected Areas (EFAP)	Design and broadcast awareness programmes in SLMC
22	Ivorian Agricultural Research Fund (FIRCA)	Identification of local good SLM practices Capacity building and dissemination of good SLM practices
23	National Development Programme (PND)	Development of survey on SLM Establishment of SLM data base
24	village land management committee,	Build operational and institutional capacity of the local institutions and committees
25	Traditional chieftaincy	These local leaders will have important role to play in the project execution. They support project in the following ways: They will serve as intermediary between the project and local population by facilitating the contacts they will support the implementation of the recommendations that come out from local communities. They will help to manage potential conflicts among communities and between the project and the communities.
26	Chamber of Agriculture	Develop guidelines in favour of the promotion of SLM at local, sub national and national levels.

B.2 Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the Project at the national and local levels, including consideration of gender dimensions, and how these will support the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF):

As indicated in the PIF, 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 SLM practices will increase productivity and alternative livelihood options provided by the project will avoid deforestation as result of agricultural land extension. Increase biomass with consequent ecosystem services and carbon sequestration potential in 600 ha of agricultural and other production systems. The exact GHG emission reduction/sequestration will be provided at Middle term using the TT.
- The local land use plans which be developed will mainstream the 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.

- As the project outcomes are (i) An enabling environment appropriate for SLM; (ii) Alternative livelihood options to reduce pressure on lands and increase revenue available; and (iii) Capable national institution and stakeholders for SLM , the project will contribute significantly to these outcomes through community land management resulting in, among other, the introduction of agro-ecological techniques to maintain soil moisture, increase fertility/productivity, mitigate drought, reduce greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere, and sequester carbon in the soil. These agro ecological technics put emphasis on land rehabilitation which exclusively involved women as the main actors for the field activities which generate revenue for these vulnerable group, In addition these ecological technics will help to produce more food and in good quality which will help to ameliorate the living condition of women as mothers and children thus fighting malnutrition. Moreover, the introduction of a participatory management system means maintaining ecological balance, which helps mitigate drought. Furthermore, by improving agricultural efficiency, the project will decrease deforestation resulting from agricultural encroachment. .The project allows local population even vulnerable community to increase the fertility of the main productive capital including soil. On the project activities special attention will be given to women participation and support women led live hood options.

The project will provide social benefit from improving the men and women conditions. In the project areas, women provide the family with food crops they grow especially vegetables (pepper, tomatoes, eggplant, lettuce, beans ...). Some of their production is sold out to support family need. By supporting policies development and institutions which provide support to SLM dissemination will have positive impacts of women as they will have increase production and possibility of increase earnings. Furthermore, male, heads of households grow cash crops which are source of income for the family. The project by supporting development of favorable policies for dissemination of good SLM practices will have a great socioeconomic benefit. The provision of alternative options for revenue generation, will not only improve the ecological conditions, but also will ameliorate socioeconomic.

Environmental impact and social safeguards explained in Annex-M. Outcomes of the project contribute to maintaining global environmental benefits by strengthening sound practices for SLM and thereby reducing pressures to natural ecosystems, resulting in improved biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation, besides supporting development of SLM policies which will be based on the findings from the land degradation assessment and SLM best practices. The project will also support capacity building and awareness raising for building capable institutions and stakeholders to deal with SLM in the country. The ultimate impacts will be the generation of agro ecosystems services and reduce the vulnerability of the ecosystems and land resources to the human pressure resulting from unsustainable land use and practices

B.3. Explain how cost-effectiveness is reflected in the project design:

The project addresses at the same time understanding of land degradation dynamic in different ecological zone of Cote d'Ivoire, dissemination of good SLM and agroforestry practices as demonstration and incentive models in different zone and build local, individual and institutional capacity in handling SLM. The designs which consider the above multidimensional, multiple benefits in SLM make the project cost effective. In addition, by addressing issues which affect the most important economic activities of the

country with reasonably a modest amount of GEF resources make more cost effective the use of GEF funds. Furthermore, the project is designed to provide policy, regulatory, institutional and capacity environment for the implementation of other projects/initiatives particularly those related to the development and deployment of PES and REDD+ as financial mechanism to support national and partners efforts on fighting deforestation and consequent impact on PA in the country.

B.4. Other additional information: 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. Another innovative aspect of the project is that it has been designed to provide enabling policy, knowledge and feasibility environment for other anticipated initiatives including GEF 6 projects. Furthermore, the project design is based on the primary understanding of land degradation and lost of fertility and consequence shifting of cocoa and coffee production zones. Even though this a historical trend no other initiatives have tried to understand the phenomenon and come up with recommendations which should have stop to continuous forest and PA loss for search of productive lands Last, but not least, as already flagged out at PIF stage, the project is innovating by putting capacity building, advocacy and awareness raising at the centre of adoption of SLM and agroforestry practices. This approach not only shows innovation but also it provides opportunity for ensuring project sustainability.

In term of sustainability, the project will be help to create strengthened institutions through increase knowledge of land degradation but also developing policies to mainstream at local levels SLM through development of local land use plans. When approved these plans will be the vehicle of continuous consideration of SLM thereby ensuring sustainability. Furthermore, as 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, though availability of good SLM practices as incentives which will provide alternative livelihoods. The awareness raising and the tools for disseminating SLM will ensure that the impacts of the incentive measures will continue to generate environmental and socioeconomic benefits and therefore will be used continuously by the local stakeholders. The institutionalization of SLM both at national and local level will be another mean of project sustainability. In addition, the project is design to provide background policy, legal, institutional and knowledge enabling environment which will used by other initiatives including the GEF 6 project on PES and REDD+. This approach will render the project result sustainable and opportunities for scaling up. As indicated in section A.1, the project is very well linked and will contribute to the extended until 2016 UNDAF but also the new one under development 2017 – 2020. As the project will be a mean of achievement some UNDAF and PND outputs, it will continue to be sustainable.

The replicability potential of the project is demonstrated as the measures to be implemented to disseminate SLM and generate environmental and socio economic benefits concern only few regions of the country. The anticipated plan is that these experiences will be replicated throughout the country where land degradation and fertility are issues to be addressed. The project design will help to generate lessons

and knowledge product through components implementation and which will serve both nationally and at the global level as part of the GEF global Knowledge Management process. The immediate replicability of the project results is expected to be used by the GEF 6 project on PES and REDD+ under development. Linked to the project, various initiatives are currently ongoing with other supports, providing additional means of the replicability of the project results,

C. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M &E PLAN:

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget from GEF	Budget co-finance	Time Frame
Inception Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Implementation Unit (PIU) • UNEP 	\$5,000		Within 2 months of project start-up
Inception Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PIU • UNEP 	None		1 month after project inception meeting
Measurement of project indicators (outcome, progress and performance indicators, GEF tracking tools, Carbon sequestration, GEG avoided/sequestered) at national and local levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PIU • Executing agencies and consultants 	None (included in management budget)		Outcome indicators: start, mid and end of project Progress/perform. Indicators: annually
Semi-annual Progress/ Operational Reports to UNEP and FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PIU 	None		Within 1 month of the end of reporting period i.e. on or before 31 January and 31 July
Project Steering Committee meetings and National Steering Committee meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PIU • UNEP • National partners 	\$20,000 Budgeted under 3.4		Once a year minimum
Reports of PSC meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PIU 	None		Annually
PIR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PIU • UNEP 	None		Annually, part of reporting routine
Monitoring visits to field sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PIU • UNEP • National partners 	None – covered by field missions' costs.		As appropriate

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget from GEF	Budget co-finance	Time Frame
Mid Term Review/Evaluation including reporting on Carbon sequestration and GHG emission avoided/sequestered	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PIU • UNEP • External consultants 	\$20,000		At mid-point of project implementation
Terminal Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PIU • UNEP • External consultants 	\$35,000		Within 6 months of end of project implementation
Audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNEP 	\$10,000 budgeted under PMC		Annually
Project Final Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PIU • UNEP 	None		Within 2 months of the project completion date
Co-financing report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PIU 	None		Within 1 month of the PIR reporting period, i.e. on or before 31 July
Publication of Lessons Learnt and other project documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PIU • UNEP 	\$15,000 under 3.3.		Project publications
Total M&E Plan Budget		\$105,000		


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 form. For SGP, use this OPF endorsement letter).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)
Alimata Kone Bakayoko	Permanent Secretary &GEF OPF 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 CEO endorsement/approval of project.

Agency Coordinator, Agency Name	Signature	Date (Month, day, year)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Brennan Van Dyke, Director, GEF Coordination Office UNEP		November 14, 2016	Adamou Bouhari Task Manager BD/LD &RFP	+25420762 3860	Adamou.Bouhari @unep.org

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

Submitted as a separate file

ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

Submitted as a separate file

ANNEX C: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES AND THE USE OF FUNDS¹²

A. PROVIDE DETAILED FUNDING AMOUNT OF THE PPG ACTIVITIES FINANCING STATUS IN THE TABLE BELOW:

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: \$100,000			
<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF Amount (\$)</i>		
	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent To date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>
Consultants	40,373	40,373	0
Travels	15,000	15,000	0
Meetings/stakeholders consultations	31,944	31,944	0
Bank charges, communication, Offices supplies and	4,007	4,007	0
Total	91,324	91,324	0

B. STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATIONS

During the PPG phase a lot of consultations have been conducted with national stakeholders to ensure project ownership but also share views and welcome comment on project intended design. The Inception Workshop was conducted at national level in margin with the NAP validation as the project has been put in the context of first operations for the NAP implementation in the country. At local level, consultations meetings with local stakeholders (local populations, local authorities, NGO, etc.) in the 5 regions where the project will be executed, were conducted. National consultants supported baseline data collection and detailed consultations with local and national stakeholders. The consultant baseline data and the project document have been validated through nation workshops which include technical staff, NGO, representatives of local communities and the private sectors.

Minutes of these different consultation meetings can be provided (in French) upon request.

¹² If at CEO Endorsement, the PPG activities have not been completed and there is a balance of unspent fund, Agencies can continue undertake the activities up to one year of project start. No later than one year from start of project implementation, Agencies should report this table to the GEF Secretariat on the completion of PPG activities and the amount spent for the activities.

ANNEX D: CALENDAR OF EXPECTED REFLOWS (if non-grant instrument is used)

Provide a calendar of expected reflows to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF Trust Fund or to your Agency (and/or revolving fund that will be set up)

N/A