

# GEF-8 REQUEST FOR CEO ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

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## General Project Information

Project Title

Land Degradation Neutrality for Increased Resilience to Climate Change in Dominican Republic

Region	GEF Project ID
Dominican Republic	11402
Country(ies)	Type of Project
Dominican Republic	FSP
GEF Agency(ies):	GEF Agency Project ID
FAO	748199
Project Executing Entity(s)	Project Executing Type
Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MIMARENA)	Government
GEF Focal Area (s)	Submission Date
Multi Focal Area	2/28/2025
Type of Trust Fund	Project Duration (Months)
MTF	60
GEF Project Grant: (a)	GEF Project Non-Grant: (b)
4,416,212.00	0.00
Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c)	Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d)
419,538.00	0.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d)	Total Co-financing
4,835,750.00	19,720,685.00
PPG Amount: (e)	PPG Agency Fee(s): (f)
150,000.00	14,250.00
Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f)	
5,000,000.00	

Project Tags

CBIT: No NGI: No SGP: No Innovation: No

Project Sector (CCM Only)

Climate Change Adaptation Sector

## Taxonomy

Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Land Degradation Neutrality, Food Security, Demonstrate innovative approaches, Influencing models, Deploy innovative financial instruments, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Stakeholders, Private Sector, Civil Society, Communications, Strategic Communications, Public Campaigns, Awareness Raising, Education, Beneficiaries, Local Communities, Participation, Type of Engagement, Gender Equality, Gender results areas, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Participation and leadership, Access and control over natural resources, Gender Mainstreaming, Gender-sensitive indicators, Women groups, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Knowledge Exchange, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Innovation, Capacity Development, Knowledge Generation, Learning, Field Visit, Peer-to-Peer, Focal Areas, Climate Change, Climate Change Adaptation, Climate information, National Adaptation Programme of Action, Climate finance, Small Island Developing States, Mainstreaming adaptation, Climate resilience, Livelihoods, Ecosystem-based Adaptation, National Adaptation Plan, Private sector, Disaster risk management, Community-based adaptation, Adaptation Tech Transfer, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Paris Agreement, Nationally Determined Contribution

## Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation	Climate Change Adaptation	Biodiversity	Land Degradation
Significant Objective 1	Principal Objective 2	Significant Objective 1	Principal Objective 2

## Project Summary

Provide a brief summary description of the project, including: (i) what is the problem and issues to be addressed? (ii) what are the project objectives, and if the project is intended to be transformative, how will this be achieved? (iii), how will this be achieved (approach to deliver on objectives), and (iv) what are the GEBs and/or adaptation benefits, and other key expected results. The purpose of the summary is to provide a short, coherent summary for readers. (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

Land and soil degradation are critical environmental issues faced by the Dominican Republic, together with climate-related threats including drought, fire, floods, landslides, and others, which disrupt livelihoods and exacerbate land degradation. The project targets communities in four provinces of the Ocoa and Nizao basins that are located in the southern part of the country. Climate projections indicate altered rainfall patterns, reduced precipitation and severe droughts, particularly in drier regions. Furthermore, vulnerability assessments reveal that three out of the four provinces targeted by the project are moderately to highly vulnerable to flooding, and that the entire project area faces a medium to high vulnerability to drought and to future climate change with the local population having very limited knowledge on climate change adaptation measures and being poorly prepared to cope with climate extreme events. Women face heightened climate vulnerability due to their reliance on subsistence agriculture, limited access to financial resources and training. Rural communities in the project area are thus highly vulnerable to both climate impacts and land degradation.

These challenges, compounded by low agricultural activity, dependence on natural resources and ecosystem services, limited credit access, small-scale production, and institutional gaps, undermine food security, exacerbate environmental degradation and the impact of climate related disasters. The agricultural activity of more than 100 rural communities in the targeted basins consist mainly of poorly mechanized and environment-dependent subsistence strategies, with a more than 60 thousand people and only 15% of the land dedicated to this type of land use. Livestock farming is predominantly extensive, contributing to negative environmental impacts in terms of soil compaction, erosion, and land degradation in both basins. The lack of formal land titles is common and there are pronounced tenure gender disparities, especially in rural and mountainous areas. For instance, only 12.5% of landowners are women in the project areas, significantly limiting their access to resources and decision-making opportunities.

Specifically, five **barriers** have been identified that limit the capacity of the country to address land degradation and climate risk in an integrated way. They are: 1) Limited Enabling Environment. 2) Limited Soil Information to support decision-making processes on LDN and data fragmentation. 3) Limited capability for integrated land planning and implementation of SSM/SLM for LDN. 4) Limited Capability to Confront the Climate Hazards of Flooding and Drought

and Related Land Degradation. 5) Limited availability of economic instruments to widen adoption of sustainable soil management (SSM) and sustainable land management (SLM) for climate change adaptation. Addressing these challenges requires implementing comprehensive policies that promote sustainable agricultural practices, reforestation, inclusive land tenure regularization, and strengthening local capacities for climate change adaptation and environmental management.

In alignment with the Dominican Republic’s National Adaptation Plan (NAP), UNFCCC commitments, LDN targets the project objective is to **achieve land degradation neutrality (LDN), enhance climate resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change through effective adaptation strategies and sustainable development**. To achieve it, the project strengthens institutional capacities and policy coherence through the actions planned under *Component 1*. With *Component 2* it improves the resilience of ecosystems and communities in 2 prioritized watersheds through sustainable and inclusive land management in productive areas and land restoration in target ecosystems. Under *Component 3* financial access, value chains of priority crops and access to markets improve, with entrepreneurial and managerial capacities enhanced through training and knowledge exchange. Knowledge management activities under *Component 4* increases awareness and make technical information and project results and lessons learnt available to stakeholders and other actors.

## Project Description Overview

### Project Objective

To achieve land degradation neutrality (LDN), enhance climate resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change through effective adaptation strategies and sustainable development in alignment with the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and the national LDN Targets

### Project Components

#### 1. Strengthening the enabling environment for informed and integrated land use planning to achieve land degradation neutrality and climate change adaptation

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
531,860.00	2,375,031.00

Outcome:

1.1. Strong enabling environment that supports improved decision-making towards LDN and adaptive development.

#### Indicators:

- 80% of key stakeholders that report increased capacity to monitor LDN and climate resilience

- 40 institutions and/or stakeholders actively participating in integrated land use planning

- 8 of female-led organizations actively participating in integrated land use planning

- GEF Core Indicator 6.6: 699,845.43 tCO<sub>2</sub>e GHG emissions avoided in the sector of Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use (indirect and 20 years of accounting)

- GEF Core Indicator 11: 4500 people benefiting from GEF-financed investments (900 women)

- SCCF Indicator 1: 19,732 number of direct beneficiaries (9,866 women)

- SCCF Indicator 2.3: 88,491 ha of rural landscape managed for climate resilience

- SCCF Indicator 3.1: 4 gender responsive plans (2 watershed-scale and 2 municipal instruments) developed and strengthened that will mainstream climate resilience

Output:

1.1.1. Interdisciplinary, interinstitutional, and intersectoral alliances strengthened towards sustainable management, protection of natural resources and climate adaptation

1.1.2. A National Soil Information System developed and integrated into the National Environmental Information System.

1.1.3. A spatially explicit decision support system (DSS) integrating land degradation, soil properties and climate change related indicators co-developed with national stakeholders.

1.1.4. Technical capacity development program, with a gender sensitive approach, on LDN and CCA designed and implemented.

1.1.5. Land use plans updated for the target watersheds and at least two municipalities

**1. Strengthening the enabling environment for informed and integrated land use planning to achieve land degradation neutrality and climate change adaptation**

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	SCCF-A
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
431,815.00	1,928,281.00

Outcome:

Output:

## 2. Improving the resilience of ecosystems and communities in 2 prioritized watersheds through sustainable and inclusive land management in productive areas and land restoration in target ecosystems

Component Type	Trust Fund
Investment	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
639,200.00	2,854,360.00

Outcome:

2.1. Land is sustainably managed, degradation is reduced, and productivity stabilized or increased, in the two priority watersheds.

Indicators:

- GEF Core Indicator 3: 1,960 ha of land and ecosystems under restoration

3.1: 1,000 ha of degraded agricultural lands under restoration

3.3: 960 ha of natural grass and woodlands under restoration

- GEF Core Indicator 4:

17,707 ha of landscapes under improved practices:

4.1: 15,477 ha of landscape under improved management to benefit biodiversity

4.3: 2,230 ha of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems (1,830 ha of agroforestry and 400 ha of silvopastoral systems)

- GEF Core Indicator 6.5: 1,727,215.30 tCO<sub>2</sub>e GHG emissions avoided in the sector of Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use (direct and 20 years of accounting)

- GEF Core Indicator 11: 13,907 people (5,934 women) benefiting from GEF-financed investments (improved fire management plans)

2.2. Farming communities are more resilient to drought and flood

Indicators:

- SCCF Indicator 2.1: 3,700 ha of agricultural land managed for climate resilience

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- SCCF Indicator 4: At least 2,500 people trained or with awareness raised (1,250 women)

- GEF Core Indicator 6.6: 166,086.72 tCO<sub>2</sub>e GHG emissions avoided in the sector of Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use (direct and 20 years of accounting)

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Output:

- 2.1.1. Priority slope lands in the upper basins and best management and restoration practices identified through participatory and gender responsive approaches.
- 2.1.2. Priority slope lands in the upper basins restored/rehabilitated.
- 2.1.3. Sustainable soil and land management practices implemented in prioritized lands, including agroforestry and silvopastoral systems
- 2.1.4. Technical assistance and rural advisory services strengthened to support sustainable land management and climate adaptation.
- 2.1.5. Community surveillance and wildfire protection systems established/strengthened.

- 2.2.1. Agricultural soils managed for increased green water storage through soil recarbonization
- 2.2.2. Blue water governance frameworks updated and measures to increase reservoir capacity implemented
- 2.2.3. Community scale drought and flood preparedness systems strengthened
- 2.2.4. Existing Early Warning System for drought and flood resilience strengthened

## 2. Improving the resilience of ecosystems and communities in 2 prioritized watersheds through sustainable and inclusive land management in productive areas and land restoration in target ecosystems

Component Type	Trust Fund SCCF-A
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
1,341,476.00	5,990,387.00

Outcome:

Output:

## 3. Improving financial environment and promoting entrepreneurship and sustainable livelihood development towards LDN and climate adaptation

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
309,830.00	1,383,551.00

Outcome:

### 3.1. Improved financial environment that enables scaling SLM and SSM towards climate adaptation

**Indicators:**

- Amount of funds mobilized through project financial mechanisms (tbd)

- GEF Core Indicator 11: 500 people benefiting from GEF-financed investments (100 women)

### 3.2. Strengthened capacity to create and manage sustainable and climate resilient livelihood alternatives.

**Indicators:**

-SCCF Indicator 5.4: 30 MSMEs incubated/accelerated with technical assistance, financial matchmaking, and/or direct financing

-

-5 initiatives funded that remain active after the first year of operation (2 of the funded initiatives must be of women)

- GEF Core Indicator 11: 100 people benefiting from trainings (50 women)

Output:

3.1.1. Mechanisms that catalyze private sector investment to scale and replicate SSM and SLM strategies developed

3.1.2. Market access improved including product differentiation strategies

3.2.1 Technical assistance program implemented to improve local businesses operations.

3.2.2. Investments in agriculture diversification and gender-sensitive and adaptive alternative livelihoods piloted

### 3. Improving financial environment and promoting entrepreneurship and sustainable livelihood development towards LDN and climate adaptation

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	SCCF-A
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
383,661.00	1,713,245.00

Outcome:

Output:

### 4. Knowledge management and Communication

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
169,450.00	756,682.00

Outcome:

4.1. Outscaling and sustainability of project results promoted through multilevel communication and knowledge management strategies.

**Indicators:**

*SCCF Indicator 4: At least 1,000 individuals with awareness raised (including at least 50% women and 25% youth)*

*- GEF Core Indicator 11: 100 beneficiaries (knowledge sharing and South-South exchanges for farmers) (20 women, 20 youth)*

- 80% of project stakeholders with increased awareness and knowledge on sustainable land management and climate change adaptation

- 80% of women targeted by project activities with increased awareness and knowledge on sustainable land management and climate change adaptation

Output:

4.1.1. Knowledge management plan developed and implemented

4.1.2. Gender and age sensitive communication strategy developed and implemented

#### 4. Knowledge management and Communication

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	SCCF-A
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
141,775.00	633,099.00

Outcome:

Output:

#### M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	GET
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
41,650.00	185,989.00

Outcome:

M&E 1. The project M&E system supports results-based management

Output:

M&E 1.1. Data for project indicators collected (at least) on an annual basis.

M&E 1.2. Gender-sensitive and responsive Annual Project Implementation Reports (PIR), Project Mid-Term and Final Evaluations submitted to GEFSEC in a timely manner.

M&E 1.3. Gender Action Plan implemented and tracked

#### M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
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Technical Assistance	SCCF-A
GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
215,200.00	960,980.00

Outcome:

Output:

## Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing (\$)	Co-financing (\$)
1. Strengthening the enabling environment for informed and integrated land use planning to achieve land degradation neutrality and climate change adaptation	531,860.00	2,375,031.00
1. Strengthening the enabling environment for informed and integrated land use planning to achieve land degradation neutrality and climate change adaptation	431,815.00	1,928,281.00
2. Improving the resilience of ecosystems and communities in 2 prioritized watersheds through sustainable and inclusive land management in productive areas and land restoration in target ecosystems	639,200.00	2,854,360.00
2. Improving the resilience of ecosystems and communities in 2 prioritized watersheds through sustainable and inclusive land management in productive areas and land restoration in target ecosystems	1,341,476.00	5,990,387.00
3. Improving financial environment and promoting entrepreneurship and sustainable livelihood development towards LDN and climate adaptation	309,830.00	1,383,551.00
3. Improving financial environment and promoting entrepreneurship and sustainable livelihood development towards LDN and climate adaptation	383,661.00	1,713,245.00
4. Knowledge management and Communication	169,450.00	756,682.00
4. Knowledge management and Communication	141,775.00	633,099.00
M&E	41,650.00	185,989.00
M&E	215,200.00	960,980.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>4,205,917.00</b>	<b>18,781,605.00</b>
Project Management Cost	74,495.00	332,660.00

Project Management Cost	135,800.00	606,420.00
<b>Total Project Cost (\$)</b>	<b>4,416,212.00</b>	<b>19,720,685.00</b>

Please provide Justification

## PROJECT OUTLINE

### A. PROJECT RATIONALE

Describe the current situation: the global environmental problems and/or climate vulnerabilities that the project will address, the key elements of the system, and underlying drivers of environmental change in the project context, such as population growth, economic development, climate change, sociocultural and political factors, including conflicts, or technological changes. Describe the objective of the project, and the justification for it. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

1. Land and soil degradation are critical environmental issues faced by the Dominican Republic<sup>[1]</sup> and are among the country's top environmental priorities, together with climate-related threats, which disrupt livelihoods and exacerbate land degradation. The agri-food sector is highly dependent on natural resources and ecosystem services. Human and economic development are thus hampered by environmental degradation and the occurrence of disasters related to climate change.

2. This project aims to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and enhance climate resilience in the Dominican Republic by strengthening policy coherence, improving capacities for planning and implementation of SLM, and providing an improved scenario for replicating and scaling sustainable practice.

#### Country setting

3. The Dominican Republic (DR) is a Small Island Developing State of nearly 11 million people. Within a relatively small land area of just over 48,000 square kilometers, the DR has a wide range of climatic conditions because of its mountainous terrain, which acts as a barrier to prevailing moisture-laden winds and creates distinct climate zones. DR's territory includes areas with typical arid and semi-arid climates, with an average annual precipitation barely exceeding 500 mm, as well as areas with a per-humid climate, where the average annual precipitation accumulates to over 2,500 mm. This wide climatic diversity is reflected in an even greater diversity of ecosystems and habitats, ranging from pre-desert regions to cloud forests, including ecosystems that are unique to the Caribbean and host a rich biodiversity, with high endemism, particularly with respect to reptile species, vascular plants, and bird species.

4. Approximately two-thirds of the Dominican Republic population are under the age of 34. Rural population is steadily decreasing, with 82.5% of the people residing in urban areas, a proportion expected to reach 92% by 2050. Despite being classified as a high-middle-income country with one of the most dynamic economies in Latin America and the Caribbean, official figures show that poverty stood at about 23.9% in 2021, affecting over 300,000 individuals, and 40% of Dominicans live in precarious circumstances, which makes them vulnerable to climate-related events and economic downturns<sup>[2]</sup>.

5. The agriculture, livestock, forestry, and fisheries sectors contribute about 5% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and grow about 4% annually, while agroindustry contributes an additional 11% annually. Agriculture, beyond its relative contribution to GDP and employment, plays a pivotal role in Dominican society by serving as the sole source of income for rural communities, since small-scale producers practicing subsistence agriculture are

predominant. Traditional agriculture has been in decline since the 1980s, with small-scale farmers facing challenges in maintaining production and income and nowadays it engages 9% of the country's labor force (364,302 individuals, 30,157 of which are women)<sup>[3]3</sup>. Lack of access to financial resources and technologies, as well as vulnerability to natural disasters, are key issues in the path towards sustainable production. Further, land tenure insecurity issues, including the absence of formal titles and the prevalence of informal tenure, pose substantial obstacles to sustainable agriculture.

6. The Dominican Republic's food security relies nowadays largely on external markets, which adds to population's vulnerability. High import and export costs, along with irregular trade flows, worsen the situation, together with other challenges that include low agricultural productivity, limited access to formal credit, inadequate value addition to agricultural commodities, and vulnerability to natural disasters. In contrast, the country has recently emerged as an exporter of fair trade, organic, and high-quality agricultural products, with a substantial organic farming sector, which provides opportunities for development.

7. Women play a vital yet often under-recognized role in the sector, particularly in small-scale farming and knowledge transmission. Nonetheless, women face heightened vulnerability, characterized by limited access to resources and employment opportunities. Gender inequalities are moderate/high in the Dominican Republic as demonstrated by a Gender Inequality Index of 0.43, being the 4<sup>th</sup> country with higher inequality in Latin America and Caribbean. Women also confront increased risk from disasters<sup>[4]4</sup>. They are disproportionately affected by various shocks, because of higher economic stress, additional caregiving responsibilities, increased domestic violence, migration, limited control over resources such as property and land, and reduced participation in decision-making processes. Female-headed households, which constitute 40 percent of all households in the DR, experience disproportionately higher poverty rates, with rural areas exhibiting higher poverty rates compared to urban regions<sup>[5]5</sup>. Additionally, women in rural areas often have limited access to training and education, which lowers their ability to adapt to climate change and participate effectively in resilience-building efforts.

#### Land Degradation

8. According to the country Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme (LDN-TSP) report to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) (2019), 31.25% of the total land area of the Dominican Republic is degraded<sup>[6]6</sup> and 49.31% of the population is exposed to land degradation. Further, about 92% of the country's economic production and 97% of its population are in areas vulnerable to two or more types of threats<sup>[7]7</sup>. Primary drivers of degradation encompass deforestation, resulting in the transformation of forests into shrublands, grasslands, farmlands, and urban areas, along with timber extraction. Additionally, factors such as overgrazing, inappropriate land use leading to erosion and soil compaction in farmlands, and the abandonment of farmlands resulting in conversion to bare soils contribute to decreased productivity and ecosystem degradation. Desertification processes are driven by deforestation, agricultural expansion into forest lands, the construction of irrigation canals in low-lying semi-arid areas, and the incorporation of large areas for irrigated agriculture. A total of 4.65 million ha (96.47% of land area) is under drought.

9. Land degradation severely threatens the rich biodiversity of the Dominican Republic, mainly through habitat destruction chiefly driven by agricultural expansion, livestock farming, tourism, and mining. By 2022,

agriculture and pastures covered 50.4% of the total country area, according to the World Bank<sup>[8]8</sup>, and tourism had a notable impact on coastal ecosystems. Habitat degradation is exacerbated by forest fires and land and water pollution. Forest fires have significantly reduced biodiversity, especially in pine forests and protected dry areas. Pollution, primarily from mining, agriculture, and waste, harms freshwater and coastal marine ecosystems. Overexploitation of native flora and fauna through excessive fishing, illegal hunting, and wildlife and plant collection is a major concern. Introducing invasive species, both animals and plants, has negatively affected terrestrial biodiversity.

10. Climate change is expected to significantly exacerbate land degradation pressures, impacting the country's landscapes and ecosystems<sup>[9]9</sup>. On the one hand, rising temperatures and altered precipitation patterns can also lead to more frequent and severe droughts, intensifying desertification processes. The expansion of arid and semi-arid conditions can also increase desertification, affecting areas previously used for agriculture and grazing. Desertification processes have been identified in several regions in the country, including the Valdesia Region, which is within this project's implementation area. On the other hand, changes in precipitation patterns can also result in more intense rainfall events resulting in soil erosion, reduced land productivity, and diminished vegetation cover.

#### Climate change

11. The Dominican Republic is among the first 15 most climate vulnerable countries in the world, making the island at the frontline of severe climate impacts. The country is already experiencing the impacts and effects of a drastically changing climate, including most intense tropical cyclones, storm surges, droughts, changing precipitation patterns, sea-level rise, coral bleaching, and invasive species, all of which are already detectable across both natural and human systems<sup>[10]10</sup>. Observed increases in average maximum and minimum surface temperatures and high interannual rainfall variability have brought an increase in evapotranspiration during dry spells and thus drier soils, also increasing the risk of runoff during heavy rainfall events.

12. Climate projections for the Dominican Republic depict different future scenarios depending on different global Greenhouse Gases (GHG) emission patterns <sup>[11]11</sup> <sup>[12]12</sup> <sup>[13]13</sup>. Two different scenarios are of relevance: one (Representative Concentration Pathway, RCP 4.5) envisions shifts in the onset and offset of the dry season, decreased annual precipitation, and the likelihood of severe droughts, especially in leeward areas, typically characterized by drier climates. The other scenario (RCP8.5) points to significant temperature increases across all timeframes up to 2100, particularly affecting minimum temperatures and the winter season. These scenarios form the basis for planning climate adaptation strategies within the context of this project. Furthermore, the dry season from November to April (1960-1990) is expected to shift to December- April both under RCP4.5 and RCP8.5, with impacts on timelines for economic activities such as agriculture, e.g., adjustments of crop calendars to changing onsets and offsets of the rainy/dry seasons and impacts on crops' phenology, with indirect impacts also on the quantity and quality of grassland and feed for livestock. Sea level rise is also expected to exacerbate soil erosion in coastal areas, involving damage to infrastructures, and increase saltwater infiltration<sup>[14]14</sup>.

13. Projected climate changes are expected to affect the agricultural sector in two ways: firstly, by increasing drought conditions, which increases the risk of water stress, and secondly, in coastal areas, leading to floods and aquifer contamination due to rising sea levels and coastal inundation. Both impacts limit water availability, effectively reducing crop productivity and significantly affecting harvests. This poses a high risk to farmers, who witness diminishing incomes, and to the general population, who, in the face of reduced supply, faces rising prices that impact their purchasing power. The analysis of hazard, exposure, and vulnerability levels shows that the agricultural sector faces a high risk<sup>[15]</sup><sup>15</sup>, bringing increased food insecurity issues.

#### The Dominican Republic national developmental strategy

14. In response to the issues above, the Dominican Republic has adopted a proactive approach. The country's response focuses on reducing the country's vulnerability to climate issues and land degradation and underscores the integration of climate adaptation into its broader development planning. In addressing these multifaceted issues, the nation's key priorities revolve around enhancing sustainable production, improving farmer profitability, reducing rural poverty, and promoting social equity. To achieve these objectives, a range of strategies have been devised, including the promotion of sustainable agricultural practices, capacity building for small- and medium-sized producers, the facilitation of rural micro-financing services, and the development of robust value chains. At the core of this strategy is the overarching goal of reinforcing food and nutrition security, which is pursued through a combination of targeted measures and systemic enhancements within the agricultural sector while striving to fulfil the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The comprehensive approach laid on the country's Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategy, is further supported by the National Plan to Combat Desertification and the Effects of Drought (PAN-LCD 2018-2030)<sup>[16]</sup><sup>16</sup>, the National Plan for Climate Change Adaptation in the Dominican Republic (PNACC-RD) 2015-2030<sup>[17]</sup><sup>17</sup>, and related planning documents such as the National Plan for the Management of Priority Watersheds.

15. The PNACC-RD is an essential component of this overarching strategy in its aim to balance and coordinate mitigation and adaptation efforts. Recognizing the vital role of the agricultural sector in ensuring both food security and the nation's economic stability, the PNACC-RD places a strong emphasis on the promotion of sustainable and resilient agricultural practices. This includes measures to enhance water management for irrigation and to build the adaptive capacity of farmers, particularly in response to extreme weather events. The conservation and sustainable management of forests are also central to the objectives outlined in the PNACC-RD, advocating for reforestation and the restoration of degraded areas, with a specific focus on enhancing forests' capacity to absorb carbon. Significantly, the plan acknowledges the pivotal role of local communities in forest resource management and deforestation prevention. Furthermore, the plan confronts the critical issue of land degradation, striving to promote sustainable land management practices that reduce erosion and improve soil quality. This includes measures to restore degraded lands and prevent further degradation, with particular attention given to water management in agricultural landscapes to enhance water retention in the soil and reduce erosion. Recognizing that women are disproportionately vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, the PNACC-RD underscores the importance of gender equality. The plan actively seeks to involve women in decision-making processes and encourages their active participation in climate adaptation projects. Through targeted training and improved access to resources, the plan aims to empower women in the management of natural resources and enhance their adaptive capacity.

16. In its 2017 LDN-TSP<sup>[18]</sup><sup>18</sup>, the country committed to achieve land degradation neutrality in 2030 as compared to 2010, and to a voluntary additional increase forest cover in 8.5% of the country, improve forest condition in 30,000 ha of forests showing early degradation signs, reduce in 50% the fire-affected areas, improve agricultural productivity in 20,000 ha, enhance agricultural sustainability in 20% of croplands in slopes, improve net

productivity in 120,000 ha of forest, shrubland and rangeland, and, critically, to promote and support the development of land planning instruments in 30 municipalities. In that regard, the PNACC-RD places significant emphasis on aligning land use planning with climate adaptation objectives to reduce vulnerabilities and enhance the overall adaptive capacity of the country. It also highlights the need to link land use planning processes to economic development through analysis of climate variability and change scenarios for key sectors such as agriculture, to design tailored measures at both normative and field levels, and advocates for improved climate and environmental data collection and processing, particularly through digitalization of registries and improved data production capacities

17. In relation with that, the Dominican Republic's National Determined Contribution (NDC) for 2020<sup>[19]</sup><sup>19</sup>, lists the increase in adaptive capacity as one of the national paramount priorities in the face of impending rising maximum and minimum temperatures and projected increases in drought and flood events. This involves improving disaster risk management, including preparedness and early warning systems, and developing effective strategies for coping with extreme weather events, particularly given the country's vulnerability to hurricanes.

18. In recognition of the importance of gender equality for achieving the targets and objectives listed above, the Dominican Republic has issued the Gender Action Plan on Climate Change in the Dominican Republic (PAGCC-RD)<sup>[20]</sup><sup>20</sup>, which represented a significant milestone in addressing gender disparities within the context of climate change. Under the PAGCC-RD, several key advancements were realized. Firstly, it acknowledged the disproportionate impacts of climate change on women, particularly those in rural areas, underscoring the distinct roles and conditions in women's productive activities that rendered them more vulnerable. Secondly, the plan recognized the limited access of Dominican women to crucial resources, such as land ownership, credit, training, information, participation in decision-making spaces, and technology. Further, the gendered division of labor, especially prevalent in rural and coastal regions, exacerbated women's vulnerabilities, adding unpaid work burdens and constraining their capacity to cope with climate adversities. The plan also acknowledged that in many rural communities, women held and transmitted traditional knowledge and practices across generations, which could serve as invaluable contributions to climate change mitigation and adaptation processes. In 2023, the National Gender and Climate Change Table was officially established, with the primary purpose of accelerating the implementation of the Action Plan framed within the PAGCC-RD.

19. The Third National Gender Equity Plan in the Dominican Republic 2018-2030 (PLANEG III<sup>[21]</sup><sup>21</sup>) envisions a future with a stronger commitment to addressing gender disparities in the face of climate change, in the 2020 to 2030 decade, aligning with critical national and international frameworks, including the Dominican Republic's National Development Strategy, its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030. PLANEG III emphasizes the importance of considering gender to tailor climate-resilience actions to the specific needs of women, specifically mentioning planning processes.

20. Further, the Land Tenure and Resource Assessment for the Dominican Republic's Emission Reduction Program, conducted by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MIMARENA) in 2019<sup>[22]</sup><sup>22</sup>, highlights tenure as a key element requiring effective solutions and equity in land use. Previous projects that have implemented strategies such as issuing provisional titles for small-scale farmers, promoting payment for environmental services schemes, and involving communities in land management have proven to be effective<sup>[23]</sup><sup>23</sup>.

These successful experiences indicate that a combination of legal, economic, and social approaches can significantly contribute to overcoming barriers in land tenure and promoting sustainable practices.

### The project area

21. The two watersheds included in this project, the Nizao (1,039.8 km<sup>2</sup>) and Ocoa (679.4 km<sup>2</sup>), are in the southern region of the Dominican Republic (see map in Annex E: Project Map and Coordinates). They encompass four provinces: Peravia, which is home to 166,592 inhabitants, with 70,093 living in poverty; San Cristóbal, with a population of 522,641, of which 248,135 are in poverty; San José de Ocoa, where 61,194 inhabitants reside, with 20,053 facing poverty; and Azua, with an overall population of 208,898, including 97,280 individuals living in poverty. In terms of the rural population, Peravia houses 66,841 inhabitants, while San Cristóbal is home to 326,294. San José de Ocoa has 21,341 rural residents, and Azua 53,796 individuals. A total of 19,482 Ha of the land in the Ocoa basin and 20,560 Ha in the Nizao basin is degraded or under degradation processes, according to the country's last report on land degradation to the UNCCD. This represents 23% of the project area.

22. The biophysical characteristics of the Ocoa and Nizao watersheds are chiefly conditioned by topography and climate: they display a large altitudinal gradient (from 0 to 2550 meters a.s.l.), as they belong to the Central Mountain Range, which, together with trade winds from the Atlantic, produce two main rainy seasons: the first from May to June and the second from September to November. Between these periods, a relative decrease in rainfall is observed, with the driest season happening from December to April. This seasonal pattern is fundamental for agriculture and water resource management in the region.

23. Rain is not evenly distributed in the watershed areas, though, as a result of the altitudinal gradient, which results in a wide diversity of ecosystems that have large overall biodiversity and are critical for delivering ecosystem services, including water regulation. Important ecosystems range from the dry thorn forest of the lowland areas of the Ocoa river basin to the humid broadleaf forest, typical of the higher parts of the Ocoa basin and much of the mountainous areas of the Nizao basin. This high biodiversity justifies the inclusion of a significant portion of their territories (40% for Nizao and 25% for Ocoa) in the National System of Protected Areas.

24. The slopes of the mountainous and hilly areas in both basins are characterized by high instability, especially in areas where the original forest cover has been removed for agricultural cultivation. On one hand, this results in soil loss and reduced land productivity, and on the other hand, it causes accelerated sedimentation downstream, posing significant problems for water reservoirs. This is particularly critical in the case of the Nizao River basin, which hosts the Jigüey-Aguacate-Valdesia-Las Barías reservoirs and dam complex and provides water and electricity to 40% of the population of Santo Domingo (more than 1.5 million people). With an installed capacity of 205 MW, it provides an annual average generation of over 160 GWh of energy. Furthermore, over 18,000 hectares of land in the Peravia and San Cristóbal provinces rely on water from this watershed for irrigation.

25. The economy in both watersheds is predominantly agricultural, with 32% of the Nizao basin and 28% of the Ocoa devoted to agriculture. From the total of 259,971 agricultural producers in the Dominican Republic, 43,457<sup>[24]</sup><sup>24</sup>, correspond to the project watersheds (of which 19,732 are from the municipalities prioritized in this project). These producers are spread over an area of approximately 171,000 hectares, making an average of around 3.9 hectares per production unit. The farmers in the area are thus predominantly small-scale farmer<sup>[25]</sup><sup>25</sup>.

26. Poorly mechanized and environment-dependent subsistence strategies characterize the agricultural activity of more than 100 rural communities in both basins, with a population exceeding 60 thousand people and 15% of the land dedicated to this type of land use. Livestock farming is predominantly extensive, contributing to negative environmental impacts in terms of soil compaction, erosion, and land degradation in both basins. Greenhouse agriculture in the middle and upper parts of the Nizao watershed delivers up to 18% of the national production of vegetables such as tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, and others. Other cultivations include sugar cane, cacao and

avocados. Coffee production is predominant, especially in the mid-slope and upland areas of the Nizao watershed. These production systems are integrated into fragmented and often informal value chains, with limited transformation, low added value, and uneven access to stable markets. However, they present significant opportunities for upgrading through climate-resilient practices, improved producer organization, and sustainable land management approaches aligned with LDN and adaptation objectives. Some initiatives in the area have succeeded in organic production, showing high added value both socially and environmentally. The activity of e.g. coffee farmer cooperatives operating under the Federation of Coffee Growers of the South Region (FEDECARES) is an example of success that would benefit from further strengthening.

27. Regarding the legal status of agricultural production units, the 2015 National Agricultural Pre-Census indicates that approximately 67.5% are managed by individuals, 21.8% by agricultural enterprises or cooperatives (as seen in coffee cultivation in both watersheds), and the remaining 10.7% did not specify their status. Land tenure at the national level and within the project's intervention area includes various forms such as private ownership, communal lands, and state-owned lands. However, the lack of formal land titles is common, especially in rural and mountainous areas, and tenure gender disparities are pronounced. For instance, only 12.5% of landowners are women in the project areas, significantly limiting their access to resources and decision-making opportunities<sup>[26]</sup><sup>26</sup>.

28. Drivers of land degradation in the project area include agricultural expansion to marginal, which has increased in recent years, with associated deforestation and inadequate, unsustainable agricultural practices, resulting in increased degradation, in particular erosion of slope lands and contamination. Indeed, land use conflicts are widespread in both basins<sup>[27]</sup><sup>27</sup>, linked to violations of planned land uses and inconsistencies with land suitability. The percentage of territory in conflict reaches 54% in Ocoa and 47% in the Nizao River basin. In the former, more than 18% is being overused, especially for subsistence agriculture and pasture in areas with a typical forest vocation. In the latter, this percentage rises to 38%. On the other hand, a percentage ranging from 9% (Nizao River basin) to 35% (Ocoa River basin) is underutilized, particularly due to the lack of supplementary irrigation that would allow for the development of intensive agriculture systems. Pasture areas are estimated to cover 20% of the territory in both basins<sup>[28]</sup><sup>28</sup>.

29. Land use conflicts are frequently linked to land tenure insecurity, which exacerbates socio-economic inequalities that limit vulnerable groups' access to resources, credit, support programs and decision-making processes and pushes them to the cultivation of marginal lowly productive lands and discourages investments in sustainable land management practices<sup>[29]</sup><sup>29</sup>, thus increasing erosion and biodiversity loss. In fact, slow adoption of innovative technologies and unsustainable livestock grazing practices contribute to ongoing degradation as highlighted in the national LDN-TSP document.

30. Markets also have a prominent role as a driver of degradation. For example, the increasing profitability of crops different than coffee (particularly avocado) has encouraged farmers to shift away from coffee. While this shift may enhance short-term economic returns, it poses risks to biodiversity and ecosystem services, as coffee agroforestry systems traditionally support greater biodiversity and contribute to soil and water conservation more than other crops. Further, cultivating crops such as avocado on steep slopes can exacerbate soil erosion and increment water needs.

31. Additionally, wildfires are also a concern both at the national (from 1990 to 2020, approximately 5,011 wildfires occurred nationwide, affecting an area of 180,148.44 Ha) and local scales (the two project watersheds are mentioned in the LDN-TSP as wildfire hotspots), in most instances as a result of uncontrolled agriculture-related fires.

32. Climate change is an accelerator of land degradation and, in the absence of adaptation measures, jeopardizes agricultural livelihoods. In the two watersheds, records of rainfall indicate that patterns have changed significantly in the project watersheds, with severe hydrological and agronomic droughts. The analysis of current climate risks in the target territories reveals specific areas of concern. Notably, Peravia exhibits a high level of risk, primarily attributed to the potential for flooding resulting from extreme coastal events, the risk of heat waves due to rising temperatures, and the threat of water scarcity caused by decreased precipitation. Vulnerability assessments reveal that the four provinces within the Ocoa and Nizao river basins face a medium to high vulnerability to drought. Additionally, three out of the four provinces exhibit medium to high vulnerability to flooding<sup>[30]</sup><sup>30</sup>. The vulnerability to climate change is also assessed as medium to high in three out of the four provinces<sup>[31]</sup><sup>31</sup>.

33. Regarding future climate scenarios, both average maximum and minimum surface temperatures are projected to increase from 0.7°C under RCP2.6 to 1.7°C under RCP8.5 by mid-century (2041-2060) compared to the 1995-2014 baseline period <sup>[32]</sup><sup>32</sup>. Furthermore, for the Valdesia region, climate scenarios indicate a reduction in precipitation by approximately 17.5% and 20.3% by 2050 (2041-2060) and 2070 (2061-2080), respectively, under a high-emission scenario (RCP8.5), compared to the 1960-1990 baseline period <sup>[33]</sup><sup>33</sup>. This is also expected to result in a reduction in the mean annual Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI drought index) by 20% under both SSP1-2.6 and SSP5-8.5 by mid-century, and an intensification of dry spells<sup>[34]</sup><sup>34</sup>.

34. Rural communities are highly vulnerable to climate impacts. The local population has very limited knowledge about measures to adapt to climate change and are poorly prepared for coping with climate extremes, which involves further threats to food security, livelihoods, and water access. Women in these areas face heightened climate vulnerability due to their reliance on subsistence agriculture and limited access to financial resources and training. Addressing these challenges requires implementing comprehensive policies that promote sustainable agricultural practices, reforestation, inclusive land tenure regularization, and strengthening local capacities for adaptation and environmental management.

#### Identified barriers and project alternative

35. The efforts and initiatives identified above are not yet delivering the intended advances towards sustainable and climate resilient and land degradation neutral development. This is because the following barriers remain:

1. **Limited Enabling Environment.** Despite encouraging institutional coordination structures such as the Interinstitutional Technical Group (GTI, in its Spanish acronym) and the National Interinstitutional Drought Mechanism (launched in February 2025), the institutional, policy and normative environment is still heavily based in sectorial views and processes and lacks adequate cross cutting knowledge management infrastructures and networks, which make difficult an effective integration of the interlinks of land and climate change resilience aspects in national developmental strategies. Significant enhancement of technical capacities in key areas such as Soil Science and climate-smart and sustainable agriculture is also needed, which enables a consistent consideration of their role within climate-resilience and LDN programs.

- 2. *Limited Soil Information to support decision-making processes on LDN and Data Fragmentation:*** The Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) framework is designed to be flexible and, as such, is applicable to all land uses, including land managed for production (agriculture, forestry); land managed for conservation (protected areas) and land occupied by human settlements and infrastructure. However, the integration of LDN in national policy frameworks and planning instruments requires specific information on soils, namely on organic carbon, a critical parameter for LDN as well as for climate adaptation and climate-resilient land management. Both the national LDN-TSP and the Performance Review and Assessment of Implementation System (PRAIS) reports have been elaborated from global soil datasets, with insufficient resolution, and following the default calculations, in which Soil Organic Carbon (SOC) is estimated from land cover change only and so disregarding the effects of management on soils. The lack of accurate soil data significantly hinders the country's ability to make informed decisions on land degradation in the context of climate change. Up-to-date and georeferenced soil information is essential for climate adaptation strategies, climate-resilient agriculture, and achieving the nation's climate resilience goals.
- 3. *Limited capability for integrated land planning and implementation of Sustainable Soil Management (SSM)/Sustainable Land Management (SLM) for LDN.*** Recognizing that LDN is not the simple implementation of sustainable land management practices, but rather provides a framework for a balanced approach which considers trade-offs and anticipates new degradation, planning is needed as a bridge between land policies and healthy land. While, in RD, there is some level of familiarity with integrated planning aspects among technical specialists who are working with farmers and stakeholders in the field, the technical capacity available is still not enough. Protocols, technical resources, and methodologies to avoid, reduce and reverse land degradation in the context of changing climate and increased climate risks are mostly unavailable and seldom applied. Demonstration of SSM/SLM approaches within integrated land planning, accompanied by targeted capacity development programs and adequate knowledge transfer strategy, is needed to provide those capacities, as well as in terms of fostering behavioral change among stakeholders towards the adoption of climate-resilient and sustainable practices. The approach should encompass strategies for adapting to the changing climate, which is crucial for the long-term success of the project.
- 4. *Limited Capability to Confront the Climate Hazards of Flooding and Drought and Related Land Degradation.*** Particularly from the climate risk reduction perspective, the capacity of RD for addressing the climate hazard is far from adequate. Specifically, soils in slopes have lost the capacity to provide adequate hydrological regulation. Degraded soils and lands thus lead to a higher severity of climate impacts like floods and droughts, which, at the same time, exacerbate land degradation, in a perverse loop that limits resilience at the watershed scale. Also, climate adaptation and resilience strategies, such as alternative livelihoods and improved value chains, are still insufficiently implemented and need to be strengthened for providing improved coping capacity. From the point of view of enabling preparedness, communities are still largely unable to adopt readiness strategies. National systems of early warning are under development but need still to be enhanced and expanded with improved forecasting and alerting efficiency, particularly in the context of climate-induced disasters.
- 5. *Limited availability of economic instruments to widen adoption of SSM and SLM for climate change adaptation.*** While the nation is characterized by a dynamic economy, there is a pervasive financial barrier that hinders generalized adoption of climate adaptation strategies. Despite some successful experiences such as the loans scheme of the Agricultural Bank, this area remains weak in RD. Therefore, strategies that encourage investment from stakeholders and reduce the risk of adoption must be put in place, in order to facilitate adoption on the local scale and to upscale the LDN approach at the national scale. Furthermore, the Dominican Republic must strive to establish gender-inclusive financial mechanisms that bridge the gap in access to financial resources and credit, particularly for women and youth. These groups are disproportionately affected by financial

strains, and specific actions need to be taken to address their unique needs. In the project area, (for example, in Peravia, Azua San José de Ocoa and San Cristóbal), rural poverty disproportionately affects women, with barriers to adopting sustainable practices including restricted access to financial resources in part due to land tenure but also because of cultural norms that constrain women participation in community governance and decision-making spaces. The approach to solve this issue must thus be multifaceted.

36. The continuity of business-as-usual practices would mean that these barriers remain unresolved, and will result in increased land, water, and biodiversity degradation, with uncoordinated responses between and within scales that lack an integrated and strategic landscape view and perpetuate a high degree of exposure and vulnerability to shocks.

37. This project: *“Land Degradation Neutrality for Increased Resilience to Climate Change in Dominican Republic”* has been conceptualized to address these barriers. It consists of a comprehensive and integrative investment project based on the LDN framework, and its objective is to achieve land degradation neutrality, enhance climate resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change through effective adaptation strategies and sustainable development, in alignment with the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and the national LDN Targets and the Dominican Republic's vision of sustainable development and environmental protection, as articulated in its National Development Strategy 2030.

38. The project will promote policy coherence and integrated approaches, advancing in the cross-cutting incorporation of climate resilience and sustainable use of land into development strategies, and involving public and private sectors in the process, along with non-governmental and grassroots organizations, fostering technological innovation, and mobilizing financial resources for improved land management and risk reduction. Furthermore, the project's emphasis on community involvement and social participation echoes the policy of promoting citizen engagement in shaping public policies.

39. The proposed intervention addresses the feedback loops of climate change and land degradation by focusing on SSM, SLM and restoration in the Ocoa and Nizao watersheds, simultaneously addressing land degradation, climate, and associated risks<sup>[35]</sup><sup>35</sup>. These territories have been selected among the RD's priority basins<sup>[36]</sup><sup>36</sup> because they have a strategic importance for the country's economy and overall environmental health. They are, however, highly exposed to extreme atmospheric events, including climate change and climate variability, while also exhibiting numerous elements of degradation associated with a fragile environment and highly vulnerable resident populations. Sustainable land management and adaptation strategies will be integrated as fundamental components of sustainable development and resilience in the two watersheds through the LDN framework, including watershed-level planning, and hands-on capacity development programs.

40. In recognizing the dynamic nature of climate conditions, the project design aims not only to improve resilience to current climate stressors, but also to proactively prepare for future challenges. It thus considers evolving climate scenarios and is expected to enhance preparedness and adaptive capacities at local, regional and national scales, thus ensuring that interventions not only mitigate the immediate impacts of climate-related challenges but also establish a foundation for sustained resilience in the face of future climate uncertainties. An important part of this is the strengthening of Early Warning Systems (EWS) specifically for droughts and floods in line with the targets of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and National Determined Contributions (NDC).

41. Further, a key aspect of the project's adaptation strategy is addressing the structural inequalities that exacerbate vulnerability, particularly among women in rural communities. By integrating gender-sensitive interventions, such as targeted training and inclusive decision-making mechanisms, the project seeks to maximize both environmental and social resilience. Tenure aspects will be considered too in planning activities, building on

the lessons learned from previous successful initiatives<sup>[37]</sup><sup>37</sup> and the ongoing national efforts on providing secure tenure rights<sup>[38]</sup><sup>38</sup> in line with the Decisions 26/COP14 and 27/COP15 and the FAO-UNCCD technical guide on the integration of the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure for Land, Fisheries and Forest (VGGT) into the implementation of the UNCCD and LDN (FAO & UNCCD 2022)<sup>[39]</sup><sup>39</sup> for improved land planning.

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[1] The PRAIS report to the UNCCD (2019) indicates that 31.25% of the RD area is degraded and that 49.31% of the population is exposed to land degradation.

[2] “Marco de Cooperación de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo Sostenible 2023-2027.” Naciones Unidas en República Dominicana, 2023, <https://dominicanrepublic.un.org/es/232965-marco-de-cooperaci%C3%B3n-de-las-naciones-unidas-para-el-desarrollo-sostenible-2023-2027>. Accessed 6 October 2023.

[3] Ministerio de Agricultura, <https://agricultura.gob.do/category/estadisticas-agropecuarias/>. Accessed 6 October 2023.

[4] Gender Inequality Index (GII), 2022. Human Development Reports <https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/thematic-composite-indices/gender-inequality-index#/indicies/GII>. Accessed January 8, 2025

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[7] International Monetary Fund. (2021). *Dominica: Disaster Resilience Strategy* (IMF Country Report No. 21/182). Washington, D.C.: International Monetary Fund. Available at: [IMF Publications](#)

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[12] CEPAL / CAC-SICA (2020) Análisis espacial de datos históricos y escenarios de cambio climático en México, Centroamérica, Cuba, Haití y la República Dominicana (LC/MEX/TS.2020/43). Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe y Consejo Agropecuario Centroamericano del Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana. Ciudad de México. 282 pp. <https://www.cepal.org/fr/node/52948>

[13] CEPAL / INDOCAFE / CNCCMDL (2018) Café y cambio climático en la República Dominicana: Impactos potenciales y opciones de respuesta. Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe, Instituto Dominicano del Café y Consejo Nacional para el Cambio Climático y Mecanismo de Desarrollo Limpio.

Santo Domingo, República Dominicana. 208 pp. <https://www.cepal.org/es/publicaciones/44163-cafe-cambio-climatico-la-republica-dominicana-impactos-potenciales-opciones>

[14] CEPAL / CAC-SICA (2020) Análisis espacial de datos históricos y escenarios de cambio climático en México, Centroamérica, Cuba, Haití y la República Dominicana (LC/MEX/TS.2020/43). Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe y Consejo Agropecuario Centroamericano del Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana. Ciudad de México. 282 pp. <https://www.cepal.org/fr/node/52948>

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[23] For instance, the PSA-CYN Pilot Project, applying a Payment for Environmental Services scheme, extended incentives, and compensations to most beneficiaries without formal land titles. Informal tenure was recognized through verification of elements of prescription acquisitive, culminating in a contract outlining rights and obligations for compensation payments. The project targeted water conservation in the Yaque del Norte Basin, with a pilot phase focusing on reforestation in mountainous areas (approx. 80,000 hectares). Outcomes included flow regulation, reduced sedimentation, and improved water quality. The PSA mechanism incorporated three components: compensation for forest conservation, collaborative actions for land use change, and advocacy for overcoming factors affecting environmental services. Systematic evaluation, approval, and payments drive growing applications of interested stakeholders.

[24] <https://www.one.gob.do/media/saqjxqos/informe-final-de-resultados-precenso-nacional-agropecuario-censo-2015.pdf>

[25] **Nationally, agricultural producers are generally classified as follows: Small producers (farms smaller than 5 hectares), medium producers (farms between 5 and 20 hectares) y large producers (farms larger than 20 hectares).**

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[29] **Ibidem. <https://www.one.gob.do/media/saqjxqos/informe-final-de-resultados-precenso-nacional-agropecuario-censo-2015.pdf>**

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[34] FAO 2023. Op cit

[35] As per the views outlined in “The Nexus between Land, Drought, and Risk Management” developed by the Science-Policy Interface (SPI) of the UNCCD.

[36] As reflected in the PLAN NACIONAL DE MANEJO DE CUENCAS PRIORITARIAS of the RD’s Soil and Water Viceministry, which includes a quick action plan for Nizao watershed restoration, and in the investment project for the restoration of Ocoa basin from the Environment and Natural Resources Ministry

[37] For instance, the PSA-CYN Pilot Project, applying a Payment for Environmental Services scheme, extended incentives, and compensations to most beneficiaries without formal land titles. Informal tenure was recognized through verification of elements of prescription adquisitiva, culminating in a contract outlining rights and obligations for compensation payments. The project targeted water conservation in the Yaque del Norte Basin, with a pilot phase focusing on reforestation in mountainous areas (approx. 80,000 hectares).

[38] The Permanent Land Titling Commission of the State is actively processing files for the delivery of land titles <https://agricultura.gob.do/noticia/agricultura-anuncia-entrega-de-35-mil-titulosdefinitivos/>

[39] FAO and UNCCD. 2022. Technical Guide on the Integration of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security into the Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and land Degradation Neutrality.

## B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This section asks for a theory of change as part of a joined-up description of the project as a whole. The project description is expected to cover the key elements of good project design in an integrated way. It is also expected to meet the GEF’s policy requirements on gender, stakeholders, private sector, and knowledge management and learning (see section D). This section should be a narrative that reads like a joined-up story and not independent elements that answer the guiding questions contained in the guidance document. (Approximately 3-5 pages) see guidance here

**42.** A multiscale and problem-oriented project design has been developed that consists of the coordinated and synergic implementation of four project components, to address the barriers listed in the previous section. Together, they are expected to lead to the accomplishment of the project objective of **enhancing climate resilience, reducing vulnerability to climate change, and achieving land degradation neutrality through effective adaptation strategies**

**and sustainable development.** In addition to addressing land degradation drivers, the project incorporates targeted climate adaptation measures—such as risk-informed land use planning, early warning systems, soil recarbonization, and rainscaping—to directly reduce vulnerability and build adaptive capacity at the landscape and community levels. These adaptation-focused interventions are aligned with the country’s National Adaptation Plan to Climate change<sup>[40]</sup><sup>40</sup> (PNACC for its Spanish acronym), National Action Plan to Combat Desertification and the Effects of Drought<sup>[41]</sup><sup>41</sup> (PAN-LDC for its Spanish acronym) and the NDCs, while contributing to the achievement of the country’s LDN targets. Climate change adaptation strategies and actions included in the project are critical to enhance country’s capacity in addressing climate-related risks and vulnerabilities, which complement and reinforce LDN activities.

**43.** The project’s Theory of Change is articulated through four casual pathways that integrate these objectives (see figure 1):

- Causal pathway 1 (component 1): **IF** the institutional environment is improved, reliable and accurate land and climate data become available, and technical capacities for using such data in policy and planning are enhanced, **THEN** evidence-based, risk-informed decision making and coordinated action on land degradation and climate adaptation will be enabled, **RESULTING IN a strengthened enabling environment that supports integrated planning and better decision-making towards implementing adaptive development to climate change and achieving LDN Targets** (outcome 1.1).
- Causal pathway 2 (component 2): **IF** degraded lands are restored, sustainable soil and land management are implemented in suboptimally managed lands, and climate risk reduction, preparedness and early warning measures are implemented, with capacities developed in those topics, **THEN** climate risks will be reduced through lower exposure to climate-related hazards and extreme events, and climate resilience will be enhanced in the priority watersheds while degradation trends are curbed, **RESULTING IN reduced degradation and improved productivity** (outcome 2.1) and **farming communities with higher climate adaptation capacity** (outcome 2.2).
- Causal pathway 3 (component 3): **IF** mechanisms are put in place to attract private investments, improve access to climate resilient markets, and develop entrepreneurship and managerial capacities, **THEN** financial resources will be mobilized towards sustainable and adaptative land-based enterprises, **RESULTING IN an improved enabling environment for scaling SSM and SLM investments** (outcome 3.1) and **increased capacity of producers and entrepreneurs to create and manage diversified, climate resilient and adaptive livelihood alternatives** (outcome 3.2).
- Causal pathway 4 (component 4): **IF** technical approaches and lessons learned on sustainable land management and climate risk reduction are effectively shared with key stakeholders and the public, **THEN** awareness of land degradation and climate adaptation challenges and solutions will increase, **RESULTING IN the wider adoption and scaling of sustainable and adaptive strategies across sectors and territories** (outcome 4.1).

**44.** Upon completion, the project will yield **Global Environmental Benefits** (GEBs) in the form of 2,593,147.45 tCO<sub>2</sub>e of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduced, 1,960 ha restored and 17,707 ha of lands under improved management. At least 18,107 people (6,954 women) will benefit from project interventions on land degradation, with gender and age considerations applied for ensuring inclusivity and an egalitarian distribution of project activities and results. Regarding **climate adaptation** in particular, activities will focus on an additional 88,491 ha, that will be under improved land use, and further 3,700 ha under sustainable soil management for increased resilience against drought and flood, with 2,500 producers trained on that topic and additional 1,000 with increased awareness of climate risks and preparedness capacity, with particular attention to women participation and equity in the distribution of benefits.

An overall amount of 19,732 individuals (9,966 women) will benefit from climate adaptation- focused activities, such as climate-resilient land use planning, improved agricultural practices, enhanced access to climate information via early warning systems, and support for sustainable and inclusive livelihoods.

**45. In the mid-term**, the joint effect of the 6 project outcomes will produce an increased national capacity for a coordinated and integral response to land degradation and climate risks based on sound decision-making processes. The stakeholders, including private sector and communities, will change behavior towards SSM, SLM and adaptation strategies, as they see the benefits of, and continue to make investments in those aspects, and the gender gap is closed and youth incorporates into production sectors, so dis-adoption is reduced.

**46.** Assuming that there is a sustained high-level commitment to developmental strategies towards LDN and climate resilience, that the necessary policies and legal instruments are in place, and that the private sector continues to make investments that lead to sustainable post-project financing, **THEN adaptive development and LDN will be achieved and long-lasting in the Dominican Republic.**

**47.** The **scaling out** of the SSM and SLM approaches, initially implemented at local scale under components 2 and 3 will be supported by improved watershed scale planning, better access to financing and markets under component 3 and the gender and age sensitive knowledge management strategy of component 4, as well as by the project’s capacity development activities. The **upscaling** will be facilitated by access to up-to-date soil data, improved monitoring capacities and strengthened institutional environment.

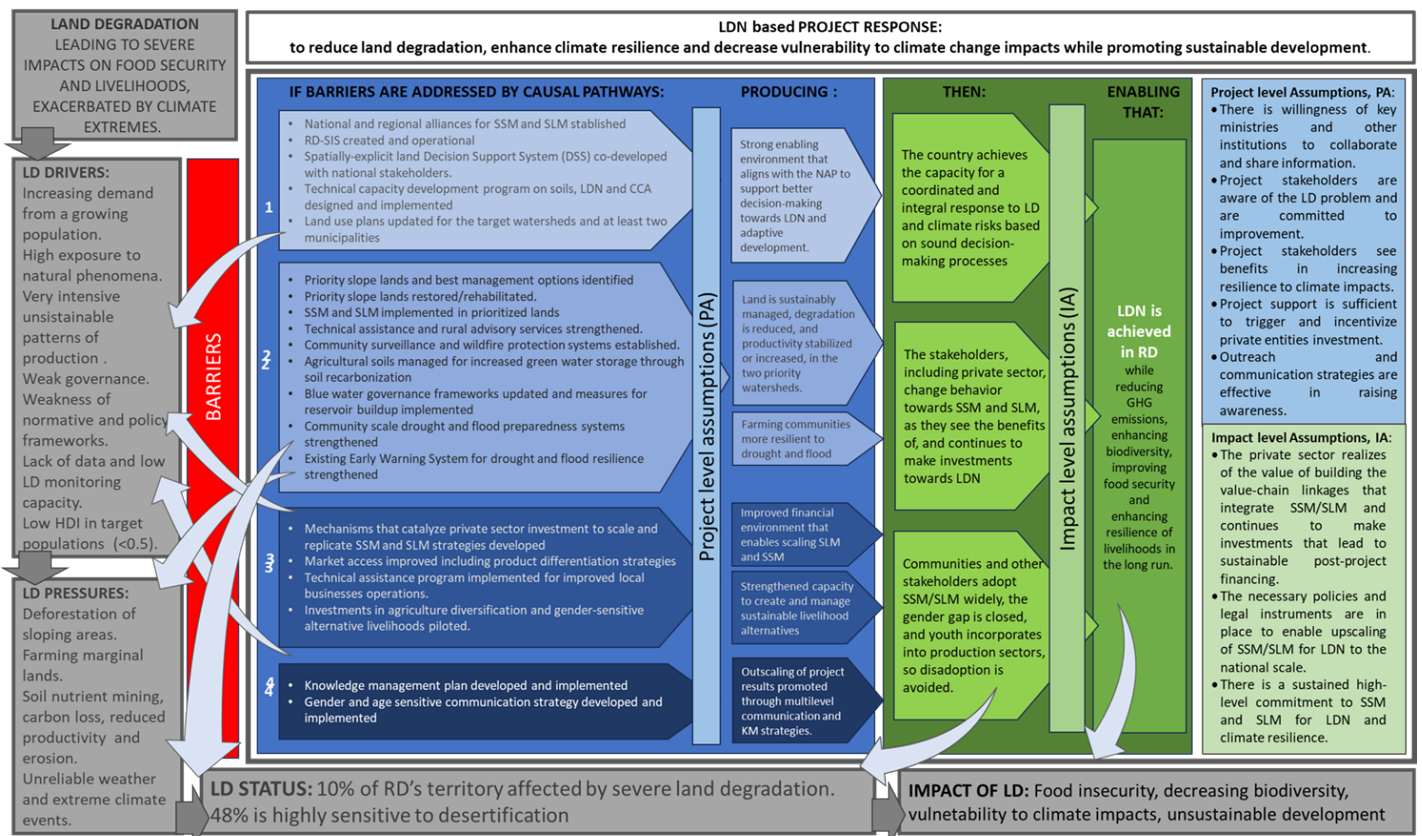


Figure 1: Schematic representation of the project’s Theory of change

### Detailed description of project components

#### COMPONENT 1. STRENGTHENING THE ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR INFORMED AND INTEGRATED LAND USE PLANNING TO ACHIEVE LAND DEGRADATION NEUTRALITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION.

**48.** This component focuses on improving the institutional environment and increasing capacities for well-informed and integral decision-making that considers the cross-cutting nature of land and climate aspects. Component 1 addresses barriers 1, 2 and 3, as identified in section A of this document. On one hand, building on the structures already existing in the country, such as the Dominican Republic Interinstitutional Technical Group (GTI, established by Presidential Decree No. 146 in 2003), the project will create the mechanisms to improve institutional capacity for integrated policymaking and strengthen inter-institutional coordination between ministries, municipalities and private entities. It will also enhance the technical capacity of government institutions to plan and implement developmental and land use policies that synergistically address land degradation and climate risks. On the other hand, the project will address the lack of up-to-date soil and land data -critical for decision-making- and integrate climate risk information -such as drought and flood exposure, soil moisture variability and resilience indicators- into a Dominican Republic's Soil Information System (RD-SIS) and a Decision Support platform (RD-DSS), created under the national GIS, which will directly inform land use planning instruments at watershed and municipal levels. The project will specifically support the incorporation of these climate-related metrics into national monitoring and decision-support systems, and the development of participatory, climate-resilient land use planning tools. These elements will enable institutions to evaluate trade-offs under different climate scenarios and to align national and local policies with adaptation priorities outlined in the PNACC and NDCs. Funds will also be used to strengthen current capacities of the National Soil and Water Conservation Service (SNCSA established under the Deputy Ministry of Soils and Waters by Resolution 036/2013 of the Ministry of Agriculture) and other stakeholders such as the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo (UASD), the Higher Institute of Agriculture (ISA) and Dominican Institute for Agricultural and Forestry Research (IDIAF), that will contribute to soil surveys, climate information generation, and land use planning, for an enabling environment that supports both LDN and climate adaptation goals.

**49.** This component's expected **Outcome (1.1)** is thus a **STRONG ENABLING ENVIRONMENT THAT SUPPORTS IMPROVED DECISION-MAKING TOWARDS LAND DEGRADATION NEUTRALITY AND ADAPTIVE DEVELOPMENT**. This will be achieved by the coordinated delivery of the following **outputs**:

*Output 1.1.1. Interdisciplinary, interinstitutional, and intersectoral alliances strengthened towards sustainable management, protection of natural resources and climate adaptation*

**50.** The RD institutional framework will be enhanced to support coordinated and risk-informed decision-making that addresses both land degradation and climate adaptation. First, a capacity assessment will be carried out that will inform the design of the capacity development program under output 1.1.4, from which different governmental stakeholders and the GTI in particular will benefit. The assessment will include an analysis of institutional capacities for climate risk integration and adaptation planning, identifying priority gaps in knowledge, coordination, and data use related to climate hazards and vulnerabilities.

**51.** A **bi-annual work program on land (Activity 1.1.1.1)** will be developed that will guide the GTI activity on the topic, in coordination with the GTI yearly operational plan, and resources for meetings and to produce position/policy option papers made available. Land tenure issues will be specifically looked upon, since they have a crucial role in the adoption of SLM, to advance towards an increased policy coherence and consistency with the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure for Land, Fisheries and Forest (VGGT), as per the FAO and UNCCD guidance<sup>[42]</sup> for advancing towards LDN. Drought will be also a focus, and collaboration with the recently created National Interinstitutional Drought Mechanism will be sought and planned. Other crucial issues such as the creation of a framework for tracking the impact of land related interventions as per output 1.1.3 will be also considered for inclusion in the work plan. This will ensure that institutional planning processes are informed by climate scenarios and are responsive to current and projected hazards, including droughts, floods, and shifting agroecological conditions.

**52.** Second, funds will be made available for **the creation and operationalization of the National Soil Partnership (RD-SP) (Activity 1.1.1.2)**. The RD-SP will be chaired by the GTI and have the SNCSA represented in its Steering Committee. It will consist of a multistakeholder and cross-cutting body of voluntary membership that will include land, water and other sectoral governmental and non- governmental stakeholders, such as scientific bodies and Academy, private sector and producer associations, and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). It will act as a science-policy advisory body for soil-related matters, enabling synergies between stakeholders, catalyzing cooperation within the country and with the wider region. It will also foster links with international soil-related initiatives, including making part of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) and Latin America and the Caribbean Soil Partnership decision-making

process, leveraging programming priorities, and benefiting from their capacity-development actions. Steps for the creation of the RD-SP include: i) stakeholder mapping and engagement, ii) agreement in scope and governance structures, iii) development and implementation of a work program (including activities to promote the Soil National Strategy, drafted by the Dominican Soil Science Society, and iv) liaison and collaboration with regional/global soil-related bodies.

**53.** Finally, **regular GTI coordination meetings** will be facilitated (**Activity 1.1.1.3**) to align institutional efforts and share progress on actions related to LDN and climate adaptation. These meetings will also support RD's participation in regional and global initiatives, fostering knowledge exchange and strengthening policy coherence at multiple levels. This is part of the project climate change adaptation support to ensure that these coordination spaces explicitly address adaptation goals, including the monitoring of adaptation-relevant indicators and the integration of climate risk information into national and subnational decision-making processes.

*Output 1.1.2. A National Soil Information System developed and Integrated into the National Environmental Information System.*

**54.** Updating and upgrading soil data is a pressing need in the Dominican Republic, since available soil information dates from the 1970's or earlier. This limits the capacity for problem-oriented and cross-cutting policymaking, land planning, agricultural extension and decision-making at all levels, including the grassroots. Activities under this output will focus on **compiling, digitizing, harmonizing, and georeferencing national soil legacy data (Activity 1.1.2.1)**. Additionally, digital mapping of soil properties such as SOC stocks, potential for SOC sequestration and soil nutrient budgets will be conducted (**Activity 1.1.2.3**). These activities will count with collaborating entities from the academy and research environment, such as the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo (UASD), the ISA University and/or the Dominican Institute of Agricultural and Forestry Research (IDIAF).

**55.** National soil data production capacities will be also upgraded, in particular regarding laboratory capacities and in for implementation of Standard Operation Procedures and analytical quality control/quality assurance (QC/QA) protocols, as per Output 1.1.4. The project will invest in promoting the establishment of a national Soil Laboratory network (DoSOLAN) under the FAO's Global Soil Laboratory Network (GLOSOLAN), thus supporting access to a diversity of soil related resources, including capacity development and participation in analytical proficiency testing exercises at the regional and global levels.

**56.** The information produced will take the form of a National Soil Information System (RD-SIS) integrated within the National Environmental Information System under the Environmental and Natural Resources Information Directorate (DIARENA, from its Spanish translation *Dirección de Información Ambiental y de Recursos Naturales*) (**Activity 1.1.2.4**). The RD-SIS will observe international standards for soil database design and will be linked to and benefit from the capacities and technological advances of FAO's Global Soil Information System (GLOSIS) and will consider the inclusion of geographically explicit indicators of gender in agriculture and soil management. The RD-SIS is expected to become a keystone for the implementation of the National Strategy for Sustainable Soil Management in the Dominican Republic.

**57.** The development of technical capacities within the MIMARENA, the identified Executing Partner, for addressing the activities under this output will be facilitated by the FAO Global Soil Partnership, complementing output 1.1.4 activities.

**58.** The activities under this output will not only enhance national soil data systems for sustainable land management but also generate critical information for climate change adaptation planning. Through the project climate change adaptation strategy support, the RD-SIS will incorporate soil attributes relevant for adaptation—such as, e.g., water retention capacity, erodibility, and infiltration rate—that are essential for reducing exposure and vulnerability and thus increase resilience to droughts and floods, and to extreme weather events. The RD-SIS will inform climate-resilient land use planning and contribute to identifying and prioritizing adaptive interventions contributing to activities under Components 2 and 4. Additionally, laboratory and institutional capacity enhancements will include protocols and training on climate adaptation related soil functions, ensuring that the soil data infrastructure can serve as a robust foundation for adaptation-oriented decision-making at national and subnational levels.

*Output 1.1.3. A spatially explicit decision support system (DSS) integrating land degradation, soil properties and climate change related indicators co-developed with national stakeholders.*

**59.** A **Google Earth Engine-based decision support tool (RD-DSS)** capable of fetching information from the national system at DIARENA as well as from global data repositories, and of producing multi-parameter analysis, **will be co-designed with national stakeholders (Activity 1.1.3.1)**. This participatory process will involve national institutions as well as local producers, farmer associations and *Consejos Comunitarios, Comités de Cuenca*, and women groups, among others, as part of the current process led by the MIMARENA of making geographic information available to stakeholders. The RD-DSS will complement and be incorporated to existing data-sharing infrastructures, namely the SIGEO-RD<sup>[43]</sup> platform, and is aimed at increasing the national capacity for monitoring land degradation trends and climate resilience indicators, and to track the implementation and impact of plans, programs, policies, and projects. The RD-DSS will include also indicators on spatially explicit gender aspects of land degradation and women's exposure and vulnerability to climate-related hazards.

**60.** To support this, **an impact-indicator framework for land-related interventions** will be developed by GTI, including a comprehensive consultation process (**Activity 1.1.3.2**), that will be used to evaluate the outcome level results and impact of previous, current and planned SLM and SSM projects and programs. The indicator framework will serve to directly relate land-related projects to the country's developmental objectives and track performance in that regard, over a specified timeframe that will depend on the type of project and indicator. It will be consistent with, and strengthen, the national policy and program monitoring system<sup>[44]</sup><sup>42</sup> and consider the guidance of the FAO's Technical Guide for Impact Evaluation of Agricultural Interventions<sup>[45]</sup><sup>43</sup>. All the information on impact-indicators will be mapped and hosted by DIARENA, from where the RD-DSS will be able to display it, so it is publicly available, and combine it with other land-related datasets for decision making. The **monitoring and evaluation of this project's impact** will serve as pilot for the application of the impact-indicator framework in subsequent initiatives (**Activity 1.1.3.3**). The MIMARENA, with the support of FAO regarding capacity development, will use the RD-DSS to produce and seek the **multistakeholder validation of maps of indicators relevant for LDN and climate change**, using the information hosted by DIARENA, in particular the information on soil properties as provided by the RD-SIS (output 1.1.2) and climate change relevant metrics (**Activity 1.1.3.4**).

**61.** The integration of climate risk information into the RD-DSS will enable institutions and planners to identify spatial patterns of exposure and vulnerability to climate hazards such as droughts, floods, and extreme weather events. By supporting the analysis of resilience-relevant indicators and their application in land use and natural resource planning, the system will strengthen the capacity of decision-makers to implement adaptation strategies that are locally specific, evidence-based, and aligned with national climate change adaptation priorities.

*Output 1.1.4. Technical capacity development program, with a gender sensitive approach, on LDN and CCA designed and implemented.*

**62.** A technical capacity development program on topics relevant for LDN and Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) will be designed and implemented, based on a **capacity gap analysis (Activity 1.1.4.1)**. This program will include training on the LDN framework, the national Target Setting Process and reporting, and the use of the RD-DSS for land use planning and LDN, soil survey (fieldwork and laboratory analysis), Digital Soil Mapping, and Integrated Land Use Planning (ILUP). A **gender-sensitive approach** will be incorporated into the program's design (**Activity 1.1.4.2**), ensuring that the training modules consider gender-specific needs and participation across different stakeholder groups. The program will be coordinated with outputs 1.1.1, 1.1.2 and 1.1.5, and with the field activities under components 2 and 3, with different approaches implemented as needed, considering the stakeholder needs and the type of activity, ensuring accessibility and practical applicability (**Activity 1.1.4.3**).

**63.** Regarding ILUP, an on-the-job approach will be adopted, linked to the development of planning instruments under output 1.1.5 and to the field activities under Outcomes 2.1 and 2.2. This strategy is intended to provide a real

and long-lasting transfer of knowledge to national institutions on the use of land and climate data for participatory strategic planning.

**64.** The FAO will be a key partner for supporting capacity development under this output, and the program will plan for an effective knowledge transfer process to the national stakeholders. Training sessions and workshops related to **Component 1** will focus on **practical applications**, reinforcing stakeholders' ability to apply the acquired knowledge in real-world scenarios (**Activity 1.1.4.4**). The capacity development activities under this output will also play a critical role in strengthening the institutional and technical foundation for climate adaptation. By equipping national and local actors with knowledge and tools related to climate risk assessment, climate-resilient land use planning, and adaptive management of soil and water resources, the project will enhance the ability of institutions and practitioners to anticipate, respond to, and reduce the impacts of climate change on productive landscapes and vulnerable communities.

*Output 1.1.5. Land use plans updated for the target watersheds and at least two municipalities.*

**65.** A further output of this component, which is fundamental for mid- and long-term project impact, is the participatory development, led by MIMARENA in collaboration with the Vice-ministry of Land Planning and Regional Development (VIOTDR), of integrated land use planning (ILUP) for the target watersheds and improving planning instruments in at least two municipalities. The upgraded watershed scale plans will update and build on existing watershed land planning instruments such as the *Plan de Cuencas Prioritarias* and the rapid action projects under it. To support this, **climate risk assessments**<sup>[46]44</sup> will be conducted for the target watersheds (**Activity 1.1.5.1**), along with **land potential assessments** to inform watershed-scale planning (**Activity 1.1.5.2**). The assessments will inform not only the ILUP process but also the activities under outcomes 2.1 and 2.2.

**66.** Ecosystem services and ecological connectivity will be essential criteria for the land use zonation, which will also consider the updated soil information produced under outputs 1.1.2 and 1.1.3 and an Integrated Water Management (IWM) approach (actions in that regard implemented under Outcome 2.2) to adopt a climate adaptation perspective. Current and potential climate-change-related impacts and trade-offs will be specifically looked at in order to ensure advances towards climate-resilient LDN under different scenarios. The ILUP process will benefit from the RD-DSS created under Output 1.1.3, and will be comprehensively documented, including the development of **watershed land use and management instruments using a participatory approach (Activity 1.1.5.3)**. A technical manual for guiding ILUP for LDN-based climate adaptation at the watershed scale will be produced under component 4. This will provide the vehicle for outscaling ILUP to other watersheds and facilitate the upscaling of the project approaches.

**67.** At the municipal scale, the project will assess normative gaps, employ participatory processes to identify and navigate current land use conflicts, updating the existing land use conflict maps and assessing tradeoffs. It will also invest in data gathering, engaging and liaising with stakeholders, and contribute specialized technical input, including gender sensitive climate risk assessments, to update **municipal land use planning instruments (Activity 1.1.5.4)** to include a climate adaptation perspective and increasing their coherence with the watershed-scale ILUP process. The integration of climate risk considerations into land use planning processes will enable the prioritized intervention in areas showing high vulnerability to climate impacts such as floods, droughts, and subsequent land degradation. By incorporating resilience principles and scenario-based approaches into municipal and watershed-level plans, the project will enhance local capacity to manage climate-related risks and support adaptive land management decisions that align with long-term environmental and development goals.

## **COMPONENT 2. IMPROVING THE RESILIENCE OF ECOSYSTEMS AND COMMUNITIES IN 2 PRIORITISED WATERSHEDS THROUGH SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE LAND MANAGEMENT IN PRODUCTIVE AREAS AND LAND RESTORATION IN TARGET ECOSYSTEMS**

**68.** Component 2 is designed to enhance ecosystem and community resilience in line with the NAP and the 2020 NDCs for the Dominican Republic. The activities under component 2 will be led by the MIMARENA, and executed in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture.

69. Through sustainable land management (SLM) and targeted restoration efforts, this component addresses pressing ecological challenges for LDN and climate resilience, helping in the conservation of critical forest ecosystems through participatory approaches to the definition of priorities, enhancing community ownership and ensuring that interventions are tailored to local needs. Two outcomes are expected from the activities under this component:

**Outcome 2.1: LAND IS SUSTAINABLY MANAGED, DEGRADATION IS REDUCED, AND PRODUCTIVITY STABILIZED OR INCREASED IN THE TWO PRIORITY WATERSHEDS**, will be delivered through the five **outputs** and related activities:

*Output 2.1.1. Priority slope lands in the upper basins and best management and restoration practices identified through participatory and gender responsive approaches.*

70. This output will address in first place the selection of the specific on-the-ground implementation areas within the project watersheds, the beneficiaries and the investment priorities. Through a **participatory process (Activity 2.1.1.1)** will consider equitable representation and inclusivity, along with environmental, socio-economic, climate, and gender dimensions and will be shaped through consultations and multistakeholder discussions, including local communities, experts, and gender-focused groups. The project's potential beneficiaries encompass a diversity of stakeholders among the producers and the governance bodies, with a particular focus on those led by females and those with potential for expanded economic contributions and improved environmental stewardship.

71. Furthermore, an **inventory of available proven technologies and potentially effective approaches** for restoration (**Activity 2.1.1.2**) in the target watershed will be conducted, considering traditional knowledge. A catalogue of available practices will be published under component 4. Local-scale climate risk will be considered during field participatory discussions for selecting the lands and the site-specific management/restoration approaches, which will form the basis of the site intervention plans (as per outputs 2.1.2 and 2.1.3).

72. To support the implementation of field programs, funds will also be allocated to ensure that there is enough seed/vegetative material. This will involve conducting an **assessment of currently available resources** and investing in **strengthening or building nurseries** where necessary (**Activity 2.1.1.3**).

*Output 2.1.2. Priority slope lands in the upper basins restored/rehabilitated.*

73. Activities leading to this output will begin with the **development a site-specific intervention plan for restoring ecological functions in selected lands (Activity 2.1.2.1)**, that will consider different approaches depending on the biophysical site characteristics and the extent and type of degradation. These plans will outline different restoration approaches, such as reforestation, assisted natural revegetation, soil restoration, ensuring tailored interventions. The agreed strategy will guide on-the-ground implementation, with short guideline documents produced under component 4. On the ground activities will start in Year 2 of the project, targeting the **restoration of 1,960 hectares of forest land (Activity 2.1.2.2)**. The effectiveness of the rehabilitation process will be **monitored through aboveground biomass and biodiversity quantification (Activity 2.1.2.3)** and applying the FAO's Protocol for the Assessment of Sustainable Soil management (hereafter the SSM Protocol) for soil biodiversity and soil health assessments.

*Output 2.1.3. Sustainable soil and land management practices implemented in prioritized lands, including agroforestry and silvopastoral systems*

74. This output aims to improve management on suboptimally managed productive lands. The first step will be the **development a guideline document for SLM within Agroforestry and Livestock Systems**, that will include a section on gender aspects, to guide the implementation of sustainable agroforestry and silvopastoral systems (**Activity 2.1.3.1**). This protocol will be published and disseminated under component 4 to support broader adoption. **On-the-ground activities** will target 1,830 Ha of agroforestry (coffee) lands (**Activity 2.1.3.2**) and 400 Ha to silvopastoral systems (**Activity 2.1.3.3**) in which management will be improved according to the mentioned guidelines. Specific intervention plans will be developed through participatory processes and informed by local scale climate risk assessments. The gains in other ecosystem services from these activities will **be monitored using FAO's SSM Protocol (Activity 2.1.3.4)**, while Ex-Ante and Ex-Post livelihood assessments will be carried out under component 3.

*Output 2.1.4. Technical assistance and rural advisory services strengthened to support sustainable land management and climate adaptation*

75. The implementation of the on-the-ground activities under Outcome 2.1 and 2.2 will be underpinned by a gender-sensitive scheme for strengthening the stakeholders' capacities for SSM and SLM implementation, that will be coordinated through output 1.1.4 and executed under this component. As a first step, a **comprehensive assessment of rural advisory services** will be conducted (**Activity 2.1.4.1**) to tailor their capacity to address climate-smart sustainable land management needs. Based on the assessment, **a capacity building program for rural extension agents will be designed and implemented (Activity 2.1.4.1)**, focusing on SSM, SLM and climate smart practices. Specifically, the project will build on the National Soil Conservation Service (SNCSA) for targeting the staff of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Instituto Dominicano del Café (INDOCAFE) and the Livestock General Directorate (DIGEGA). The **rural extension services will be also strengthened through community-based initiatives such as the FAO's Global Soil Doctors Programme (GSDP)**<sup>[47][45]</sup> (**Activity 2.1.4.3**) including the Soil Recarbonization and Soil Nutrients modules. The GSDP is a farmer-to-farmer training program that has already been successfully implemented in other watersheds of the country and in other countries of the region. The implementation of the GSDP will result in 50 extension agents trained (30 from Ministry of Agriculture, 15 from INDOCAFE, and 5 from DIGEGA) and 300 'Soil Doctors' certified, ensuring knowledge dissemination and peer-led learning at community level.

76. **Collaborations and knowledge exchange** experiences are planned between extension agents and farmers of the target watersheds and from other areas of the country (**Activity 2.1.4.4**), as well as with other countries in the region through field visits and on-site workshops in coordination with component 4. Knowledge will be also shared through an *ad hoc* information-sharing platform to facilitate knowledge exchange among farmers and communities on SLM and climate adaptation strategies. Links of this platform with regional knowledge hubs on the topic will be sought under component 4.

*Output 2.1.5. Community surveillance and wildfire protection systems established/strengthened*

77. This output will **support the design and implementation of Community Surveillance and Wildfire Protection Systems** covering 15,477 hectares (**Activity 2.1.5.1**). Building on traditional knowledge, **community forest fire monitoring systems will be strengthened (Activity 2.1.5.2)**, including support to the formation of new fire management units in areas where fire departments are non-existent or insufficient. The fire management plans will identify critical and vulnerable areas, designating zones where prescribed burning is necessary and areas that must remain untouched, and include prevention and combat measures. The plans will also specify the optimal timing and seasons for controlled burns to ensure fires are set at the right times, places, and under safe conditions.

78. The plans will be underpinned by capacity building of fire brigades that will be provided with tools, equipment and training in fire prevention, controlled burning and fire investigation methods. Training will focus on **preventative measures and post-fire assessments (Activity 2.1.5.2)**.

79. To enhance preparedness, the **national wildfire early warning system**, which operates at the municipal level and provides alerts and advice on the likelihood of fire outbreaks, **will be also strengthened (Activity 2.1.5.3)**, through improved data collection systems to improve the analysis of causes and evidence-based prevention measures. Information campaigns will be launched under component 4, to raise public awareness of the causes and devastating effects of forest fires. Communication actions will place a particular focus on peri-urban areas and rural-urban interface, where unplanned settlements abound, and human populations face a higher risk.

80. It is also foreseen the participation of local community members in an exchange program with other areas of Latin America and the Caribbean, to share experiences and lessons learned, and to promote access to state-of-the-art strategies and tools employed in other countries' fire management programs.

81. Regarding **Outcome 2.2**, the project is expected to result in **FARMING COMMUNITIES MORE RESILIENT TO DROUGHT AND FLOOD** through sustainable land management, including soil re-carbonization. It focuses on enhancing the resilience of farming communities in the Nizao and Ocoa River basins, particularly against the adverse impacts of drought and floods in alignment with adaptation priorities outlined in the PNACC and NDCs, and in consistency with

the country's National Drought Plan (PAN-LDC 2018-2030)<sup>[48]46</sup>. The outcome will be delivered through a series of measures to reduce the risk of drought and flood through decreased exposure and increased community-scale preparedness, as per the following **outputs**:

*Output 2.2.1. Agricultural soils managed for increased green water storage<sup>[49]47</sup> through soil recarbonization.*

**82.** Activities to reduce drought and flood risk are primarily focused on improving the capacity of soils for hydrological regulation, thus reducing runoff and increasing the green water reservoir. For that, the soils of 3,700 Ha of land will be managed for improved water infiltration and water holding capacity implementing soil recarbonization (**Activity 2.2.1.2**). The **specific areas and practices will be selected through participatory processes**, after a local scale climate risk assessment identification of existing proved and effective approaches (**Activity 2.2.1.1**). The **on-the-ground implementation** of the Soil Doctors Programme under this output will benefit 1,500 farmers (**Activity 2.2.1.3**) (SCCF Indicator 4) that will be empowered for better soil management and productivity while increasing climate resilience. At least 20% of the beneficiaries of the programme will be females<sup>[50]48</sup>. Actions and measures for women identified in the project GAP will be included for increasing women participation. Improvements will be **monitored using FAO's Sustainable Soil Management (SSM) Protocol (Activity 2.2.1.4)**. The activities under this output will consider a gender perspective as per FAO's "Addressing gender equality in sustainable soil management" manual<sup>[51]49</sup>.

*Output 2.2.2. Blue water<sup>[52]50</sup> governance frameworks updated and measures to increase reservoir capacity implemented*

**83.** The reduction of the risk of ecological and agronomic drought will be also addressed by improving blue water reservoirs governance, through the **participatory design of governance instruments (Activity 2.2.2.1)**. These strategies will be consistent with the watershed-scale land use plans developed under component 1. Tenure aspects will be considered and measures to protect surface and groundwaters (blue water) included. Complementary to governance improvements, the **design and implementation of rainscaping features**, such as e.g. bioretention structures and bioswales, will be addressed to reduce runoff and increase infiltration in slope lands, thus enhancing groundwater amounts and reducing erosion and flooding risk (**Activity 2.2.2.2**). Site selection and designs will be informed by local-scale climate risk assessments and stakeholder consultations.

**84.** The **effectiveness of both governance instruments and rainscaping measures** in improving **blue water reservoirs** will be **monitored and evaluated** to ensure their impact and sustainability (**Activity 2.2.2.3**).

*Output 2.2.3. Community scale drought and flood preparedness systems strengthened*

**85.** Based on the risk assessments conducted for the ILUP process under component 1, **higher resolution flood and drought risk maps will be produced** for the target watersheds, incorporating gender aspects **to address community specific vulnerabilities (Activity 2.2.3.1)**. These maps will guide the **design of community scale drought and flood risk reduction strategies through participatory processes (Activity 2.2.3.2)**. This process will include an inventory of existing options and lessons learned from past experiences. **Preparedness strategies will be implemented in 15 communities**, targeting 1,000 individuals from agricultural and livestock households (CI.11) (**Activity 2.2.3.3**). Key measures may include water harvesting infrastructure, landscaping strategies to manage runoff, crop diversification and drought tolerant varieties, selection of climate-resilient breeds and rotational grazing. The activities will be underpinned by reinforced extension support, including workshops and field visits, in-situ coaching

and one-on-one outreach to develop the capacities of producers for drought and flood preparedness. Specific actions will be targeted at women only, with consideration to their specificities regarding climate vulnerability, in alignment with the project's Gender Action Plan. Additionally, water management structures will be improved in 150 Ha of agricultural lands through combined strategies such as water harvesting and effective or renewable irrigation.

*Output 2.2.4. Existing Early Warning System for drought and flood resilience strengthened*

**86.** Investments under this output will focus on strengthening capacities to monitor and respond to agricultural drought and flood risks effectively in alignment with the Dominican Republic's NAP (2018-2030)<sup>[53]<sup>51</sup></sup>. To achieve this, **capacity-building activities will be carried out to improve climate information management** across multiple stakeholder levels, including through the water observatory and agrometeorological stations (**Activity 2.2.4.1**). These activities will enhance the ability of national and local actors to monitor drought and flood risks and ensure data availability for decision-making. To complement these efforts, **forecasting models for drought and flood occurrence will be strengthened**, improving predictive capabilities and supporting early response measures (**Activity 2.2.4.2**).

**87.** At the municipal level, **Early Warning Systems (EWS) will be designed or strengthened (Activity 2-2-4-3)**, incorporating a roadmap for implementation that aligns with the Emergency Operations Center (COE-Centro de Operaciones de Emergencias) guidelines. This roadmap will define roles, establish response protocols, and enhance coordination mechanisms between authorities and stakeholders, including Municipal Prevention, Mitigation, and Response (PMR) Committees. Key elements of the roadmap will include periodic updates through hazard assessments, discussions on climate change impacts and resource sharing strategies to improve local emergency response. To facilitate this process, the EWS will leverage strengthened Agro-climatic Technical Tables, which will integrate INDOMET (Dominican Institute of Meteorology) data. Capacity building activities such as training sessions and workshops will be carried out to improve climate information management and integration across multiple stakeholder levels.

**88.** Weather information will be made accessible through digital platforms (e.g., mobile applications), enabling communities to receive timely updates. In addition, public awareness campaigns will be implemented in coordination with component 4, ensuring that communication strategies are tailored to target audience needs. These campaigns will use audience-specific communication channels to enhance the clarity and reach of emergency warnings. Importantly, the integration of ASIS (Agricultural Stress Index System) will play a vital role in improving agricultural drought monitoring and enabling data-driven decision-making. By incorporating these measures, the strengthened EWS will provide a robust framework for addressing agricultural and flood risks, fostering resilience and adaptive capacity in vulnerable communities. This initiative will not only enhance emergency preparedness but also contribute to long-term sustainable land management and climate resilience in the Dominican Republic.

**89.** These interventions under Output 2.2.4 will directly contribute to SCCF Core Indicator 1 by ensuring that each productive unit in the target watersheds benefits from improved access to climate information and early warning tools. Through mobile platforms, localized communication channels, and training activities, producers and rural residents will be empowered to anticipate and respond to drought and flood risks, thus providing timely, actionable information at scale. The strengthened Early Warning System will reach at least one individual per agricultural holding—of a total of 19,732 holdings in the project area—of which at least 50% will be women.

**COMPONENT 3: IMPROVING FINANCIAL ENVIRONMENT AND PROMOTING ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD DEVELOPMENT TOWARDS LDN AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION.**

**90.** Component 3 builds the structures and actively seeks the engagement of the private sector in climate resilient and adaptive sustainable land management projects (SCCF-A), to enable broader adoption. Particular focus is placed on the improvement of agricultural value chains, on economic diversification and on capacity development, considering climate risk and gender aspects, to promote the outscaling of mitigation and adaptation initiatives also after the project end date.

In that regard, the expected **Outcome 3.1** is an **IMPROVED FINANCIAL ENVIRONMENT THAT ENABLES SCALING SLM AND SSM towards climate adaptation** through 2 outputs:

*Output 3.1.1. Mechanisms that catalyze private sector investment to scale and replicate SSM and SLM strategies developed*

91. The project will invest in the **participatory development of a roadmap for establishing community revolving funds** to expand access to enable expanded adoption of sustainable management and access to technologies, including renewable energy sources, in agriculture and forestry (**Activity 3.1.1.1**). A multistakeholder and multisectoral working group led by the GTI and including government departments, financial institutions, private sector and producer associations, will discuss and agree on the details of the proposed mechanism for the Funds. *Ad hoc* meetings and workshops will be organized to foster dialogue, and women participation will be actively sought. The roadmap design will consider building on and expanding upon existing initiatives such as the one of the RD Agricultural Bank for the livestock sector, which was initiated through the GEF-6 funded project “Promoting Climate-smart Livestock Management in the Dominican Republic” (GEFID 10054)<sup>[54]</sup><sup>52</sup> and, is the first line of green financing in the Dominican Republic, as well as the initiatives of the Coopera Program of the Reserve Bank<sup>[55]</sup><sup>53</sup>.

92. A second key activity consists of the **development of incentive schemes for incentivizing private sector investments on SSM and SLM**, mirroring previous successful experiences in other watersheds, that had the support of Dominican Hydroelectric Generation Company (EGEHID) (**Activity 3.1.1.3**). The scheme will be adapted to the specificities of the project watersheds, with a proposal for implementation produced and initiated.

93. The project will **assess the feasibility of developing and piloting a biodiversity credits mechanism (Activity 3.1.1.2)**<sup>[56]</sup><sup>54</sup> linked to biodiversity conservation outcomes and potentially integrated with payment for results system (e.g REDD+ ERPA) <sup>[57]</sup><sup>55</sup>. The analysis will focus on one of the six municipalities previously prioritized for REDD+ implementation (Baní, Cambita Garabito, San José de Ocoa, Los Cacaos, Sabana Larga, Rancho Arriba) and will include baseline assessments of above- and below- ground biodiversity, the evaluation of the enabling environment and the stakeholder interest, and the identification of potential pathways and partners. The study will examine existing standards and tools<sup>[58]</sup><sup>56</sup>. (such as, e.g., Plan Vivo, Verra’s Nature Framework. Gold Standard & Organization for Biodiversity Certificates, rePLANET, South Pole) to ensure transparent and credible monitoring. It will also explore and propose options for institutional anchoring within the national financing architecture (e.g. consistent with the ERPA). From the result of the assessment, the mechanism will be piloted in one municipality, in coordination with the other financial and incentive mechanism supported by the project. A proposal for replication of a biodiversity credit mechanism at the country scale will be drafted, including a recommended institutional framework.

*Output 3.1.2. Market access improved including product differentiation strategies.*

94. This output builds upon the findings of the Ex-Ante and Ex-Post Assessments conducted under component 2, which evaluated the viability of income-generating alternatives such as agroforestry systems, silvopastoral practices, and other interventions. These assessments will serve as a baseline for identifying opportunities and barriers, informing a broader **assessment of sustainable income-generating alternatives** in the **target areas (Activity 3.1.2.1)**. This process will incorporate land tenure considerations and a gender perspective to ensure inclusive and equitable market access.

95. To expand on this foundation, the project will: **(Activity 3.1.2.2) develop gender and climate change risk assessments of priority value chains** (e.g., coffee, fruit crops) and non-timber forest products (e.g. honey) to identify barriers and opportunities to improve market access, pathways to enhance value addition for products produced in the intervention areas. **Develop and implement gender sensitive product differentiation strategies (Activity 3.1.2.3)** to increase market competitiveness and product recognition, such as: green seals/labels for sustainable products, promoting geographical indications or Origin designation initiatives to elevate market positioning. The project will also build upon existing efforts, such as the Valdesia Geographical Indications to create new market opportunities. **Facilitate national Business to Business (B2B) events** to connect producers, buyers and financial institutions to facilitate direct connections between local producers and potential buyers or investors, fostering partnerships that improves access to markets and finance, focusing on traditional, artisanal, small-scale producers **(Activity 3.1.2.4)**.

96. In parallel, the project plans to deliver **Outcome 3.2: STRENGTHENED CAPACITY TO CREATE AND MANAGE SUSTAINABLE and CLIMATE RESILIENT LIVELIHOOD ALTERNATIVES**

*Output 3.2.1. Technical assistance program implemented to improve local businesses operations*

97. Through this output, the project will provide support for the development of adaptive livelihood alternatives in the agriculture sector, focusing on agro-entrepreneurs in coffee and fruit value chains. This support will include a **Mentoring and capacity building program** designed to build entrepreneurship capacity in key areas, such as adding value to agricultural commodities through food processing and supporting the development of agrotourism projects **(Activity 3.2.1.1)**. The program will **also provide customized business support for innovative, nature positive, ventures**, helping agro-entrepreneurs develop business skills, including finance, business modelling, marketing, ICT SMART technologies, food technology, and climate action **(Activity 3.2.1.2)**. To ensure inclusivity, the program will actively engage women and youth. Agro-entrepreneurs will receive customized interventions tailored to their specific needs and business development stages. **(Activity 3.2.1.3) Peer-learning and collaboration opportunities** will also be facilitated, enabling agro-entrepreneurs to exchange experiences, develop bankable project proposals and provide guidance on market research, intellectual property potential and prototype development.

*Output 3.2.2. Investments in agriculture diversification and gender-sensitive and adaptive alternative livelihoods piloted*

98. The project will **conduct an inventory of existing youth and women's cooperatives/other forms of formalization (Activity 3.2.2.1)**. Youth or women-led projects will be selected for investment after an ex-ante assessment of viability. The selected entrepreneurs will be included in the capacity development activities of output 3.2.1 ensuring they gain the necessary skills and business support to enhance their enterprises. In addition to capacity-building efforts, selected youth and women-led agribusinesses will receive **targeted financial and technical support** to improve their operations, enhance productivity, and scale their businesses **(Activity 3.2.2.2)**. Funds will be also used to **support the establishment or strengthening of five (5) community-based rural tourism enterprises**, chosen after an inclusive call for applications and selection process, that are based on the sustainable utilization of existing tourism resources, e.g. agro-tourism (coffee, cocoa, fruits), or ecotourism linked to forestry **(Activity 3.2.2.3)**.

#### **COMPONENT 4: KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION**

99. This component focuses on systematically generating and communicating knowledge including climate change adaptation strategies to prevent land degradation, best practices for soil health improvement, biodiversity conservation, and climate resilience in land management. Attention will be given to disseminate the project approaches and lessons learned to foster a robust knowledge base at the national scale, to the communication of the project results to relevant stakeholders and to raise awareness at the political level and within the public, so the outscaling of the project results is enabled.

100. The project will apply FAO's Knowledge Management (KM) strategy, promoting continuous learning, documentation and information generation, systematization, best practices, and lessons learned to support the climate change adaptation, sustainability and scaling up of results, as well as visibility strategies for capacity development and local and regional policy advocacy

**101.** The project KM strategy fosters stakeholder engagement, enhances institutional capacity, and promotes informed decision-making for achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and climate change adaptation and resilience to climate extreme events. By linking activities to outputs, the project ensures a coherent approach to knowledge sharing and capacity building, supporting adaptive management practices and long-term environmental benefits. The estimated budget for this component of USD 342,580 covers the full spectrum of knowledge management and communication activities, from planning and implementation to evaluation and dissemination. This allocation underscores the project's commitment to achieving sustainable and scalable outcomes through effective knowledge exchange and stakeholder collaboration. In addition to supporting LDN goals, the KM and communication strategy will play a key role in strengthening adaptation outcomes by making climate risk knowledge accessible to producers, institutions, and communities. The project will generate and disseminate knowledge on climate change adaptation practices—including drought and flood preparedness, early warning systems, climate-resilient land and soil management, and climate-informed planning—ensuring that stakeholders across scales are better equipped to anticipate and respond to climate variability. Communication materials and training tools will integrate climate-specific messages tailored to different audiences, with particular attention to gender- and age-responsive approaches to climate adaptation.

**102.** This component is expected to deliver **Outcome 4.1: OUTSCALING AND SUSTAINABILITY OF PROJECT RESULTS PROMOTED THROUGH MULTILEVEL COMMUNICATION AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES**, through the following outputs:

*Output 4.1.1. Knowledge management plan developed and implemented*

**103.** This output will support the design and implementation the project's knowledge transfer strategy, that will be gender and age responsive, that promotes both land degradation neutrality and climate change adaptation. It will include the **design of curricula and learning materials on SSM/SLM** that integrate climate resilient practices, **tailored for primary schools, high-schools, universities (Activity 4.1.1.1)**. As part of this effort, a Soil Doctors based activity, called Mini Soil Doctors, will be designed and promoted within primary schools, to educate next generations on soil aspects and to fight negative preconceptions on agriculture-related livelihoods and climate smart agriculture.

**104.** In addition, the project will allocate funds for **South-South cooperation knowledge sharing activities** within the region (**Activity 4.1.1.2**) sharing lessons on adaptation through farmer-to-farmer exchanges and participation in regional platforms like the CSIDS-SOILCARE project (GEF ID 10195 and 11390<sup>[59]</sup><sup>[57]</sup>) SLM Knowledge Hub, which focuses on Caribbean Small Island Developing States. Exchanges/joint training initiatives with other SLM/SSM projects in the region will also be implemented, including farmer exchanges under the and Global Soil Doctors Program with e.g. Mexico, where the program has been fully integrated in extension services and is being mainstreamed as part of the country's National Soil Conservation Strategy. Women's participation and their perspectives in knowledge generation and sharing on adaptation solutions will be actively promoted through targeted engagement.

**105.** The project will also **support the production, publication and dissemination of technical documents and knowledge products** that arise from the project implementation and that inform adaptation policy and practice (**Activity 4.1.1.3**). This includes a report on soil survey methods and indicators (output 1.1.2), the guidelines for watershed scale ILUP (output 1.1.5), a Protocol for Agroforestry and Livestock Systems (output 2.1.3), the inventory of existing SSM/SLM practices (output 2.1.1), and guideline documents for restoration and adaptive SSM and SLM implementation and monitoring (output 2.1.2, 2.1.3 and 2.2.2).

*Output 4.1.2. Gender and age sensitive communication strategy developed and implemented*

**106.** An inclusive **communications and awareness raising strategy**, including a campaign to increase public knowledge on the impact of land degradation and climate change to support climate adaptation, **will be designed (Activity 4.1.2.1) and implemented (Activity 4.1.2.2)**. The communication strategy will be based on a baseline assessment to identify target audiences and select the most effective communication channels target-wise, such as radio, press, TV, field-based events, flyers, podcasts, social media webinars, and websites. Campaigns will

communicate both project achievements and practical guidance on drought preparedness, flood response, and adaptation options for rural communities. It will also incorporate key lessons learned from previous interventions in land management and climate adaptation in the Dominican Republic, to address limited stakeholder engagement.

**107.** Specific communication products will target women, for which the available information on gender will be extracted from the national precensus. Current gender gaps and barriers regarding land degradation and climate change adaptation, specifically in agriculture, will be identified, and the data fed into the DSS created under output 1.1.3, so it is publicly available. The baseline statistics will be updated with the information produced by components 1, 2 and 3 of the project on gender aspects of decision making, tenure, participation in production, markets and value chains, and climate risk.

**108.** Focus will be also placed in youth, elder and other vulnerable groups, integrating their needs and perspectives into communications. Activities under these outputs will facilitate knowledge-sharing among diverse stakeholders, including government institutions, private sector actors, and local communities.

**109.** **Awareness-raising actions** will be specifically designed and implemented for different target audiences, ensuring that messages are tailored and accessible (**Activity 4.1.2.3**). Specific initiatives will include creating online platforms, conducting training sessions, and organizing annual dissemination events.

## MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M&E)

**110.** Under this component the project adheres to Result-Based Management principles to effective monitoring and adaptive implementation of the project objectives. It involves designing and operationalizing a gender sensitive project Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system, enabling timely tracking of progress and outcomes. A gender breakdown by gender of all data will be carried out, monitoring the number of gender-sensitive products or results.

**111.** Activities will be delivered through **OUTCOME M&E 1. THE PROJECT M&E SYSTEM SUPPORTS RESULTS-BASED MANAGEMENT** and outputs:

### M&E 1.1. Data for project indicators collected (at least) on an annual basis

**112.** Project indicators are carefully monitored and, when relevant, sex-disaggregated data is collected to monitor and evaluate project objectives and achievements. Data collection is essential for the

### M&E 1.2. Gender-sensitive and responsive Annual Project Implementation Reports (PIR), Project Mid-Term and Final Evaluations submitted to GEFSEC in a timely manner.

**113.** Gender sensitive and responsive Project Implementation Reports (PIR), Mid-term Review (MTR) and Terminal Evaluation (TE) undertaken with results fed back into project management. PIR are carried annually, an MTR of the project will be undertaken for adaptive management purposes at the midpoint-point of project cycle, and a TE within 6 months of official closure of the project

### M&E 1.3. Gender Action Plan implemented and tracked

**114.** The Gender Action Plan is followed and implemented throughout the project cycle, contributing to the successful development of project activities.

## Innovation & Transformative Change, Knowledge management, Policy coherence and Capacity development

**115.** This project is purposely designed to be transformative, aligning with GEF STAP guidelines by addressing systemic barriers and creating enabling conditions for long-term sustainability. Its transformational capacity is based on the incorporation of the GEF-8 transformational levers as follows:

i) enabling and promoting **policy coherence and LDN mainstreaming**, as per Outcome 1.1. The creation of a *National Soil Information System (NSIS)* and *Decision Support Systems (DSS)* will enable evidence-based planning and policy, that will promote the scaling up of the project approaches, and the cross-cutting integration of climate change, soil health, and land degradation issues into developmental decision-making processes towards biodiversity conservation, LDN, and adaptation strategies. The project also promotes gender-sensitive policies, addressing systemic inequalities.

ii) **knowledge exchange and multistakeholder and multiscale collaborations** within the national institutional framework, as well as with the wider regional setting (Outcomes 1.1 and 4.1). Participatory processes will promote multistakeholder dialogues and initiatives such as the 'Soil Doctors' program will create a community-based system of knowledge transfer. Knowledge-sharing activities include South-South cooperation, participatory workshops, and regional forums, ensuring that lessons learned are disseminated effectively to stakeholders and replicated in future initiatives. Digital platforms, policy briefs, and interactive training materials will be produced to create awareness and to share lessons learned.

iii) **reinforced land governance** through improved planning instruments and participatory decision-making processes (Outcome 1.1). The project will take an integrated land use planning approach that considers, in addition to environmental and cultural values, also stakeholders' economic priorities and social aspects, with particular attention to gender and marginalized groups inclusivity, thus fostering stakeholder engagement and a whole-of-society approach that enables scaling the results of the project deep. By integrating SLM and LDN goals into municipal and watershed scale development plans and aligning these with wider national instruments, the project ensures consistent governance across levels.

iv) **increased capacity** of stakeholders for SLM adoption towards LDN and climate resilience, with a gender and age-sensitive approach (Outcomes 2.1, 2.2, 3.2 and 3.4): the project will enhance human, institutional, and technical capacities through training programs (including hands-on activities) targeting all stakeholder levels. Farmers, women, and youth will specifically benefit from gender-focused leadership initiatives that will empower them to actively participate in decision-making. By improving local producers' financial literacy and market access, and by providing technical tools for planning that can be used elsewhere in the country, the project will ensure the capacity for scaling SLM practices out to other watersheds and farming communities. Institutional capacity for planning, SLM implementation and monitoring will be strengthened through training, workshops and technical assistance to the government stakeholders and local administrations.

## Stakeholder engagement

**116.** The project was developed through extensive consultations with 27 stakeholders, including governmental agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations, academic institutions, private sector actors, and community organizations. This process ensured the integration of diverse perspectives, aligning project objectives with national priorities and international commitments, such as the UNCCD and LDN targets. These consultations informed priority areas, governance structures, and implementation strategies, ensuring relevance and effectiveness.

**117.** The project relies on diverse stakeholders whose roles span policy leadership, technical expertise, community mobilization, and private sector innovation. Key actors such as the Ministry of Environment lead the overarching governance framework, while local organizations like Association for the Development of San José de Ocoa (ADESJO) and Federation of Coffee Growers of the Southern Region (FEDECARES) drive community-based restoration efforts. Private sector stakeholders, including Empresas Samir and FONT GAMUNDI, contribute through investments in green technologies and sustainable practices. The table below summarizes the contributions of stakeholders and highlights the expected co-benefits, ensuring a holistic approach to achieving land degradation neutrality and climate resilience.

**118.** The project will engage rural communities in the Nizao and Ocoa watersheds, including smallholder farmers, livestock keepers, women's cooperatives, youth groups, and local associations. These stakeholders participate in Component 1 through participatory planning process by identifying degraded lands and climate-vulnerable areas, selecting sustainable land and soil management practices, and co-developing community-based drought and flood preparedness strategies. As a result, they will benefit from improved land productivity, restored ecosystem services, reduced exposure to climate hazards, diversified livelihoods, and access to early warning systems and climate information. Through Component 2, they participate in the design and execution of project activities and trainings, receiving technical assistance and peer-led training under the Soil Doctors Programme. Communities will participate in project activities also by implementing on-the-ground measures such as soil restoration and water harvesting, participation in planning and training, and facilitating land access where required. Through Component 3, the financial

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environment and entrepreneurship is increased through a collaborative and participative approach promoting ownership, enhancing social inclusion, and ensuring the long-term effectiveness of interventions addressing both land degradation and climate resilience within the communities. Through Component 4, communities receive knowledge information on climate change adaptation and land degradation strategies making communities more resilient to climate change extreme events and with an increased adaptability. Specific communication and knowledge products will target women, youth, and other vulnerable groups, integrating their needs and perspectives into messaging.

**119.** For comprehensive details, please refer to the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (Annex J).

### Stakeholder Contributions and Roles

Stakeholder	Type of Stakeholder	Role/Contribution	Comp	Co-benefits
Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	Public	Leads the technical execution of the project; ensures compliance with national and international commitments; supervises implementation of NDT, NDC, and biodiversity goals.	1, 2, 3, 4	Improved governance; strengthened institutional capacity; biodiversity conservation; sustainable soil and water management
Department of Social Participation of the MIMARENA	Public	Support women to close gaps that limit participation, access to information, and inequalities in financing	1,2,3,4	Strengthening the structures and governance of agricultural organizations. Active participation and leadership of women in decision-making space, ecosystems and value chain
Ministry of Agriculture	Public	Develops and promotes sustainable agriculture policies; provides technical expertise for land use planning and integrates gender-responsive approaches into rural development strategies.	1, 2, 3, 4	Enhanced soil fertility; increased agricultural productivity; improved resilience to droughts and floods
Dominican Coffee Institute (INDOCAFE)	Public	Implements innovative technologies and good practices in coffee production; contributes to national NDT and NDC goals through innovative technology adoption.	2,3	Enhanced coffee sector productivity; increased resilience to climate impacts
General Directorate of Livestock (DIGEGA)	Public	Develops policies to promote dairy self-sufficiency and competitiveness; ensures adoption of sustainable livestock management practices.	2, 3	Improved livestock productivity; reduced environmental impact
National Council for the Regulation and Promotion of the Dairy Industry (CONALECHE)	Public	Develops dairy sector strategies; improves milk quality and promotes sustainable livestock management practices; contributes to strengthening value chains.	3	Increased food security; strengthened value chains
Women s Agricultural Sector Office Ministry of Agriculture (OSAM)	Public	Support women to close gaps that limit participation, access to information, and inequalities in financing	1,2,4	Strengthening the structures and governance of agricultural organizations. Active participation and leadership of women in decision-making space, ecosystems and value chain
Dominican Hydroelectric Generation Company (EGEHID)	Public	Management of hydroelectric parts in both basins. Potential co-financier	2,3	Ensures water flow and quality, and the conservation of terrestrial biodiversity.

Autonomous University of Santo Domingo (UASD)	Public	Provides training and technical support; supports soil sampling and agricultural evaluations; contributes to evidence-based decision-making. It is the National Reference Laboratory in the country for the Global Soil Laboratory Network.	1, 2, 4	Enhanced research capacity; improved land restoration practices
Universidad ISA	Private	Focuses on research and training in agroforestry and agricultural economics; supports capacity-building initiatives.	1,2,4	Enhanced technical expertise; strengthened research capacity
Dominican Institute of Agricultural and Forestry Research (IDIAF)	Public	Conducts agricultural and forestry research; supports validation of sustainable practices and innovative technologies.	1,2	Strengthened evidence-based policymaking; improved land restoration practices
Association for the Development of San José de Ocoa (ADESJO)	Private/CSO	Leads community-driven sustainable land management and restoration initiatives in the Ocoa region; supports women and youth inclusion.	1, 2, 3, 4	Restored ecosystems; improved community livelihoods; inclusive development
FEDECARES	Private/ CS	Facilitates organic certification and market connections for coffee producers in the southern region.  strengthens sustainability in coffee value chains.	2,3	Improved incomes; expanded market access
Banilejas Industries (INDUBAN)	Private	Promotes entrepreneurship and value chain development in coffee production; facilitates access to international markets.	3	Strengthened economic sustainability; increased global market integration
Women's and Participation Center (CEDEMUR)	Private/ CSO	Supports women's participation in sustainable agriculture and governance; advocates for gender-responsive approaches in project implementation	1, 2, 3, 4	Gender equality; equitable access to opportunities
Plan Sierra	Private/ CSO	Provides expertise in sustainable forestry and agriculture; supports community-driven conservation efforts.	2, 4	Strengthened capacity for sustainable practices, enhanced knowledge sharing
Municipal Governments	Public	Integrate project goals into municipal development plans; facilitate local implementation; align municipal priorities with national objectives.	1, 3	Improved local governance; strengthened community resilience
Consejos de Cuenca (Ocoa, Nizao)	Consultative body of hidrografic basins	Coordination and multistakeholder dialogues, consensus building bodies	1,2,3	Improved governance and decision making for the comprehensive management of the basin

Association of Women in Action	Private/Civil Society Organizations	Support women to close gaps that limit participation, access to information, and inequalities in financing	2,3	Strengthening the structures and governance of agricultural organizations. Active participation and leadership of women in decision-making space, ecosystems and value chain
Local Private Sector Entities (e.g., Empresas Samir, FONT GAMUNDI)	Local Private Sector Entities	Invest in green technologies and sustainable practices; support value chain enhancement in key sectors.	3	Improved production efficiency; strengthened coffee markets
Financial Institutions	Private	Promote socio-economic development through support for cooperative social enterprises producing goods and services. Provide financing and technical assistance to smallholders; supports adoption of sustainable agricultural practices	2,3	Strengthened financial inclusion; sustainable enterprise growth.  Improved productivity; enhanced access to financial resources
Junta Campesina Unificada de Rancho Arriba (JUNCURA)	Private/ CSO	Promotes rural development; facilitates sustainable agriculture practices in Rancho Arriba.	1,2,3	Improved local capacity; restored ecosystems

## Private sector involvement

**120.** The private sector is instrumental in achieving the project’s goals of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and climate resilience by transforming market systems, integrating green technologies, and enhancing value chains. Key private sector stakeholders include agribusinesses like **INDUBAN**, **FONT GAMUNDI**, and **Empresas Samir**, which promote sustainability and market access in coffee production, as well as entities like **FEDECARES** and **La Esperanza Coffee Growers Association**, which support organic certification and expanded market opportunities for farmers. Cooperatives such as **COOPERARRIBA** and **APRIO** drive local adoption of sustainable practices, improving productivity and resilience. Financial institutions, for example **Banco Agricola** and **BANRESERVAS**, play a vital role by providing tailored financing mechanisms that prioritize inclusivity and empower women- and youth-led enterprises. The table below summarizes their contributions, roles, and the co-benefits derived from these and other stakeholder involvement in the project.

Stakeholder	Role/Contribution	Comp	Co-benefits
Banilejas Industries (INDUBAN)	Promotes entrepreneurship and value chain development in coffee production; facilitates access to international markets.	3	Strengthened economic sustainability; increased global market integration
Empresas Samir	Focuses on coffee production and processing; supports sustainable value chains and environmental conservation	3	Improved production efficiency; strengthened coffee markets; sustainable practices in coffee production.
FONT GAMUNDI	Innovates in production and export capacities; aligns agro-industrial practices with sustainability.	2, 3	Improved livestock productivity; reduced environmental impact
APRIO (Association of Greenhouse Producers in Ocoa)	Promotes controlled-environment agriculture; supports sustainable practices in greenhouse production	2	Enhanced productivity; reduced pesticide use; sustainable crop management
COOPERARRIBA (Agricultural Cooperative of Rancho Arriba)	Provides support to agricultural producers; facilitates adoption of sustainable practices; promotes agribusiness and agroforestry	2,3,4	Strengthened rural livelihoods; enhanced value chains; inclusive economic growth.
La Esperanza Coffee Growers Association	Strengthens coffee production in Nizao Basin; promotes eco-friendly practices in coffee cultivation.	3	Increased market opportunities; improved biodiversity; sustainable livelihoods for farmers.
Patronato de Desarrollo de Los Cacaos (Civil Society Organization (CSO))	It brings together all organizations of the municipality of Los Cacaos and Supports coffee producers in Nizao Basin; facilitates adoption of sustainable farming techniques through La Esperanza Coffee Growers Associations	3	Enhanced Coffee productivity; improved soil health; resilience to climate variability.
Federation of Southern Coffee Growers (FEDECARES (CSO))	Facilitates organic certification for coffee producers; connects coffee producers with international markets.	2,3	Improved incomes for coffee farmers; expanded market access; sustainability in coffee value chains
BANRESERVAS	Promotes socio-economic development through support for cooperative social enterprises producing goods and services.	2,3	Strengthened financial inclusion; sustainable enterprise growth
BANCO AGRICOLA	Provides financing and technical assistance to smallholders; supports adoption of sustainable agricultural practices.	2,3	Strengthened financial inclusion, sustainable enterprise growth. Improved productivity, enhanced access to financial resources

[40] [adaptacion.cambioclimatico.gob.do/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Plan-Nacional-de-Adaptacion-para-el-Cambio-Climatico-en-RD-2015-2030-PNACC.pdf](http://adaptacion.cambioclimatico.gob.do/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Plan-Nacional-de-Adaptacion-para-el-Cambio-Climatico-en-RD-2015-2030-PNACC.pdf)

[41] [faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/dom215194.pdf](http://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/dom215194.pdf)

[42] FAO and UNCCD. 2022. Technical Guide on the Integration of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security into the Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and Land Degradation Neutrality. FAO, Rome and UNCCD, Bonn. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cb9656en>

[43] <https://sigeord.ambiente.gob.do/>

[44] The National Monitoring and Evaluation System (SNMyE) is the articulated set of institutional information systems that encompass the various processes of planning, execution, monitoring, and evaluation of public policies. It enables the systematic verification of the degree of compliance with objectives and goals, as well as the measurement and evaluation of the effectiveness, efficiency, quality, impact, and sustainability of these policies and the achievement of national development objectives. <https://mepyd.gob.do/monitoreo-y-evaluacion#Sistema>

[45] FAO. 2024. Impact evaluation of agricultural interventions – A technical guide. Rome. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cd1828en>

[46] The climate risk assessment will be carried out using FAO tools and approaches as per XXX. The land potential assessment will follow the GEF STAP and UNCCD guidance as per <https://stapgef.org/index.php/resources/advisory-documents/guidelines-land-degradation-neutrality> <https://www.unccd.int/resources/reports/contribution-integrated-land-use-planning-and-integrated-landscape-management>

[47] <https://www.fao.org/global-soil-partnership/soil-doctors-programme/about-the-programme/en/>

[48] “Implement the preparedness measures for droughts, in order to anticipate their occurrence and assess the effects and impacts they produce on the environmental, social, and economic order, as well as on water resources”. <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/dom215194.pdf>

[49] Green water refers to the portion of water in the hydrological cycle that is stored in the soil and available for uptake by plants through their roots. It is essentially the moisture retained in the soil after rainfall, which supports plant growth and agricultural activities that rely on rain-fed water rather than irrigation.

[50] This is considered an ambitious target given the share of women in the agricultural sector in the country. According to data from the last Agricultural Precensus of the Dominican Republic (2015), only 16.3% of the (surveyed) producers are women.

[51] FAO, 2023. Can be accessed at <https://www.fao.org/3/cc5289en/cc5289en.pdf>

[52] Blue water refers to the fresh surface and groundwater resources available for use by humans. This includes water in rivers, lakes, reservoirs, and aquifers that can be extracted for activities such as irrigation, drinking water supply, industrial processes, and hydroelectric power generation.

[53] Under its specific objective 1: “Implement the preparedness measures for droughts, in order to anticipate their occurrence and assess the effects and impacts they produce on the environmental, social, and economic order, as well as on water resources”. <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/dom215194.pdf>

[54] The GEF-6 funded project Promoting Climate-smart Livestock Management in the Dominican Republic was implemented by FAO in Yuna basin. It ended in November 2022, but the green financing scheme in collaboration with the RD Agricultural bank remains active.

[55] This national banking program is implemented by the Sustainability and Social Responsibility Directorate of the Reserve Bank, which promotes the socio-economic development of national producers, through the promotion and support of cooperative-type social enterprises that produce goods and services.

[56] <https://ambiente.gob.do/app/uploads/2024/06/Estrategia-Nacional-REDD-ENREDD.pdf>

[57] <https://ambiente.gob.do/proyectos/reduccion-de-las-emisiones-producto-de-la-deforestacion-y-la-degradacion-ambiental/>

[58] The Global Soil Biodiversity Observatory is a FAO led initiative that aims to monitor and forecast the status of soil biodiversity globally

[59] CSIDS-SOILCARE: Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) multicountry soil management initiative for Integrated Landscape Restoration and climate-resilient food systems, Phase 1 and 2.

[https://unfao-my.sharepoint.com/personal/anadel\\_rodriguezrocha\\_fao\\_org/Documents/Desktop/PRODOC%20GEF%20AL%2028.01.2025/01.%20Project%20Document%20Dominican%20Republic%2011402.docx](https://unfao-my.sharepoint.com/personal/anadel_rodriguezrocha_fao_org/Documents/Desktop/PRODOC%20GEF%20AL%2028.01.2025/01.%20Project%20Document%20Dominican%20Republic%2011402.docx) - [ftnref1](#)

[https://unfao-my.sharepoint.com/personal/anadel\\_rodriguezrocha\\_fao\\_org/Documents/Desktop/PRODOC%20GEF%20AL%2028.01.2025/01.%20Project%20Document Dominican%20Republic 11402.docx](https://unfao-my.sharepoint.com/personal/anadel_rodriguezrocha_fao_org/Documents/Desktop/PRODOC%20GEF%20AL%2028.01.2025/01.%20Project%20Document%20Dominican%20Republic%2011402.docx) - ftoref1

[https://unfao-my.sharepoint.com/personal/anadel\\_rodriguezrocha\\_fao\\_org/Documents/Desktop/PRODOC%20GEF%20AL%2028.01.2025/01.%20Project%20Document Dominican%20Republic 11402.docx](https://unfao-my.sharepoint.com/personal/anadel_rodriguezrocha_fao_org/Documents/Desktop/PRODOC%20GEF%20AL%2028.01.2025/01.%20Project%20Document Dominican%20Republic 11402.docx) - ftoref1

[https://unfao-my.sharepoint.com/personal/anadel\\_rodriguezrocha\\_fao\\_org/Documents/Desktop/PRODOC%20GEF%20AL%2028.01.2025/01.%20Project%20Document Dominican%20Republic 11402.docx](https://unfao-my.sharepoint.com/personal/anadel_rodriguezrocha_fao_org/Documents/Desktop/PRODOC%20GEF%20AL%2028.01.2025/01.%20Project%20Document Dominican%20Republic 11402.docx) - ftoref1

[https://unfao-my.sharepoint.com/personal/anadel\\_rodriguezrocha\\_fao\\_org/Documents/Desktop/PRODOC%20GEF%20AL%2028.01.2025/01.%20Project%20Document Dominican%20Republic 11402.docx](https://unfao-my.sharepoint.com/personal/anadel_rodriguezrocha_fao_org/Documents/Desktop/PRODOC%20GEF%20AL%2028.01.2025/01.%20Project%20Document Dominican%20Republic 11402.docx) - ftoref1

[https://unfao-my.sharepoint.com/personal/anadel\\_rodriguezrocha\\_fao\\_org/Documents/Desktop/PRODOC%20GEF%20AL%2028.01.2025/01.%20Project%20Document Dominican%20Republic 11402.docx](https://unfao-my.sharepoint.com/personal/anadel_rodriguezrocha_fao_org/Documents/Desktop/PRODOC%20GEF%20AL%2028.01.2025/01.%20Project%20Document Dominican%20Republic 11402.docx) - ftoref1

[https://unfao-my.sharepoint.com/personal/anadel\\_rodriguezrocha\\_fao\\_org/Documents/Desktop/PRODOC%20GEF%20AL%2028.01.2025/01.%20Project%20Document Dominican%20Republic 11402.docx](https://unfao-my.sharepoint.com/personal/anadel_rodriguezrocha_fao_org/Documents/Desktop/PRODOC%20GEF%20AL%2028.01.2025/01.%20Project%20Document Dominican%20Republic 11402.docx) - ftoref1

[https://unfao-my.sharepoint.com/personal/anadel\\_rodriguezrocha\\_fao\\_org/Documents/Desktop/PRODOC%20GEF%20AL%2028.01.2025/01.%20Project%20Document Dominican%20Republic 11402.docx](https://unfao-my.sharepoint.com/personal/anadel_rodriguezrocha_fao_org/Documents/Desktop/PRODOC%20GEF%20AL%2028.01.2025/01.%20Project%20Document Dominican%20Republic 11402.docx) - ftoref1

## Institutional Arrangement and Coordination with Ongoing Initiatives and Project.

Please describe the Institutional Arrangements for the execution of this project, including financial management and procurement. If possible, please summarize the flow of funds (diagram), accountabilities for project management and financial reporting (organogram), including audit, and staffing plans. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

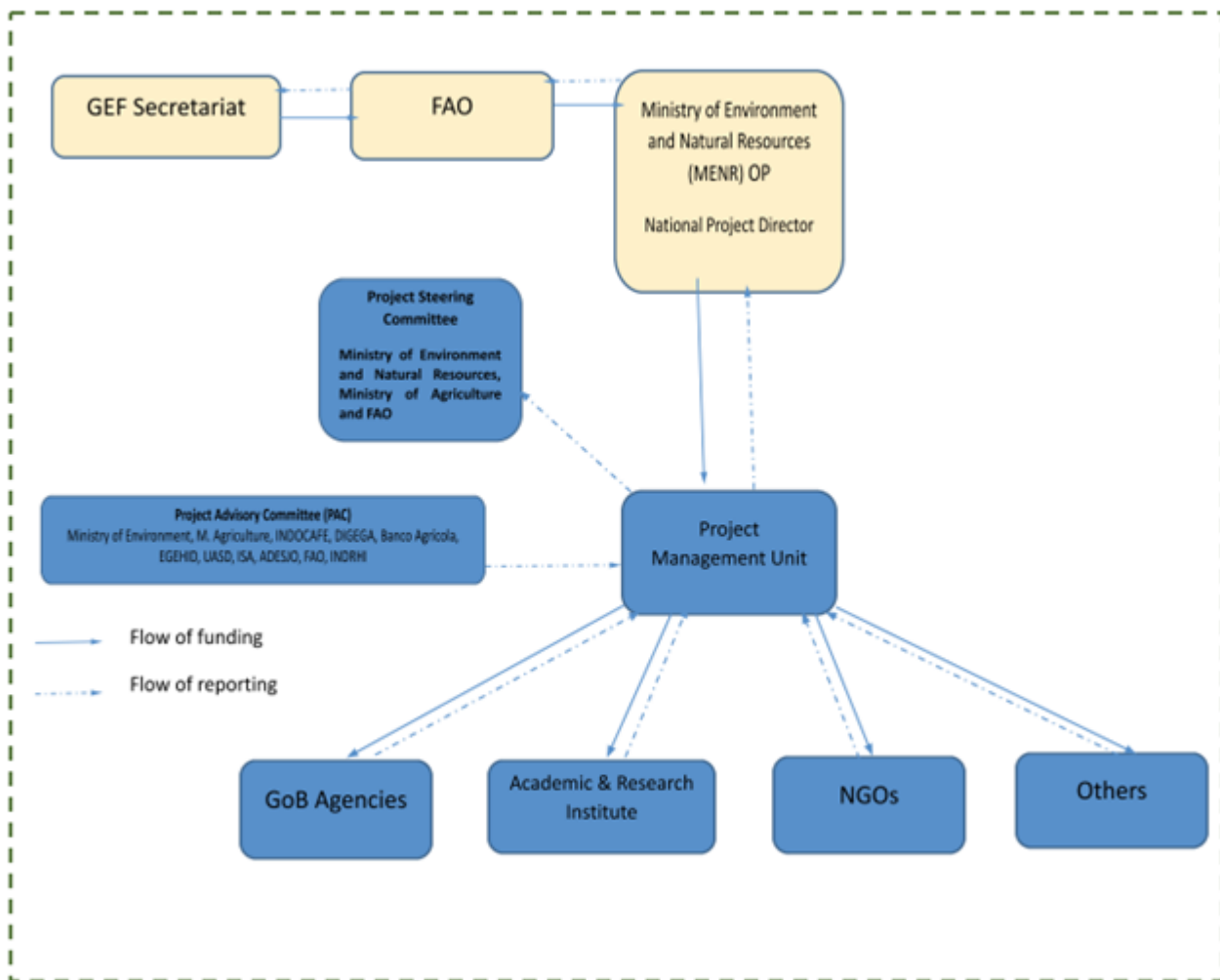
**121.** The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MIMARENA) is the designated Executing Partner and will be responsible for the day-to-day management of project results entrusted to it in full compliance with all terms and conditions of the Operational Partnership Agreement signed with FAO<sup>[60]</sup><sup>58</sup>.

**122.** A fiduciary and capacity assessment of the Partner is being conducted, the identified Operational Partner may change due to FAO internal due diligence and agreement procedures if not yet been concluded at the time of submission of the GEF CEO Endorsement Request. Significant risk partners will not be considered. If the assessment concludes that MIMARENA is a low to medium risk partner, an Operational Partnership Agreement (OPA) will be signed by FAO, and MIMARENA will be designated as the project executing agency (Operational Partner). As Executing Partner of the project, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources is responsible and accountable to FAO for the timely implementation of the agreed project results, operational oversight of implementation activities, timely reporting, and for effective use of

GEF resources for the intended purposes and in line with FAO and GEF policy requirements. MIMARENA will ensure close coordination with these activities, including the ongoing initiatives mentioned in previous sections.

**123.** FAO is the project’s implementing agency to ensure timely engagement of national stakeholders and expedites the execution process with established procedures outlined in the agreements. Leveraging its global network and reputation, FAO facilitates comprehensive multi-stakeholder engagement, ensuring broad participation and buy-in from government agencies, civil society organizations, and the private sector, as specified in the agreements.

**124.** The project organization structure is as follows:



**125.** The Government designates a **National Project Director (NPD)**. Located in the *Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, in Santo Domingo city*, the NPD is responsible for coordinating the activities with all the national bodies related to the different project components, as well as with the project partners. He/she also is responsible for supervising and guiding the National Technical Coordinator (see below) on Government policies and priorities.

**126.** The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources chairs the **Project Steering Committee (PSC)** which will be the main governing body of the project. The PSC will approve Annual Work Plans and Budgets on a yearly basis and will provide strategic guidance to the Project Management Team and to all executing partners.

**127.** The PSC will be composed of representatives from the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Ministry of Agriculture and FAO. The members of the PSC will each assume the role of a Focal Point for the project in their respective agencies. Hence, the project will have a Focal Point in each concerned institution. As Focal Points in their agency, the concerned PSC members will: (i) technically oversee activities in their sector; (ii) ensure a fluid two-way exchange of information and knowledge between their agency and the project; (iii) facilitate coordination and links between the project activities and the work plan of their agency; and (iv) facilitate the provision of co-financing to the project. The PSC will convene at least biannually to ensure:

- i) Oversight and assurance of the technical quality of project outputs.
- ii) Establish close linkages between the current project and other relevant ongoing projects and programs.
- iii) Ensure timely availability and effectiveness of co-financing support.
- iv) Address the sustainability of crucial project outcomes, emphasizing up-scaling and replication.
- v) Facilitate effective coordination among government partners involved in the project.
- vi) Approve the biannual Project Progress and Financial Reports, as well as the Annual Work Plan and Budget.
- vii) Make consensus-driven management decisions whenever guidance is sought by the National Technical Coordinator of the Project Management Unit (PMU).

**128. Project Advisory Committee (PAC):** The PAC will be established with technical representatives from institutions with actions directly related with the project goals, in order to maintain an integral approach, discuss all key project technical decisions, ensure appropriate coordination and synergies. It will have the responsibility to:

- i) Solve in the first instance coordination problems encountered during the implementation of the project.
- ii) Provide timely technical assistance to the Project Management Unit.
- iii) Review technical documents generated by the PMU.
- iv) Review of TORs proposed by the PMU.
- v) Review of Annual Work Plans.
- vi) Review of Annual Budgets.
- vii) Participate in meetings convened by the PSC.

**129.** This Committee will meet quarterly, and will be comprised by the following institutions: Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (Directors from the International Cooperation, Soil and Water-GTI, climate change and Forest Resources), Ministry of Agriculture (climate change and extension department), INDOCAFE, Livestock General Directorate (MEGALECHE), EGEHID, CONALECHE, Banco Agrícola, ADESJO, ISA University and FAO.

**130.** A **Project Management Unit (PMU)** will be jointly funded by the GEF and FAO, with its establishment within the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources in the Dominican Republic. Its primary role will be to ensure efficient management, coordination and implementation of the project, aligning activities with national strategies. Guided by the Project Steering Committee, PMU will oversee efficient execution of the annual work plans, budgets and monitoring systems. The PMU will be comprised of key national staff including: **Chief Technical Advisor**, responsible for overall technical oversight of project activities; **Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist**, tasked with designing and implementing MEL frameworks to ensure accurate progress tracking and data-driven decision making, **Operations and Finance Manager**, providing financial oversight, ensuring adherence to budgetary protocols, and managing resource allocation; **NDT and Soil Specialist**, focusing on sustainable land management practices, soil organic carbon monitoring and ecosystem resilience, **Climate resilience and risk management Specialist**, addressing climate risks and integrating resilience strategies into project activities; this specialist is also responsible for the overall implementation and monitoring of the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), acting in close collaboration and coordination with the Social and Gender Specialist. **Climate Finance Mechanisms and PES Specialist**, Focused on climate finance activities and payment mechanisms for environmental services and biodiversity credits. **Knowledge management and communication specialist**, managing communication strategies, knowledge sharing and project visibility. To complement the unit, the following profiles will be recruited to implement the activities: **Social and Gender Specialist**, fostering inclusive stakeholder engagement, mainstreaming gender-sensitive practices, promoting equitable participation, implementing and monitoring the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP). This specialist is specifically responsible for Social Safeguards and acts in coordination with the Climate resilience and risk specialist; **GIS Specialist**, offering expertise in geospatial analysis and mapping to support restoration and sustainable land management interventions; **Specialists in sustainable livestock and agroforestry**, who will provide technical knowledge on sustainable production systems and community forest management; These specialists, integrated within the PMU, will collaborate closely to ensure that the project activities are implemented effectively, guided by the PSC, and aligned with national and international environmental objectives. Their combined expertise will be instrumental in achieving the project's objectives effectively and in accordance with relevant policies and regulations.

**131.** A **National Technical Coordinator (NTC)** will oversee the daily management, administration, and technical aspects of the project, operating on behalf of the operational partner and within the PSC's established framework. Further details are included in Annex L: Terms of Reference for Project Core Staff.

**132.** The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) will be the GEF Implementing Agency (IA) for the Project, providing project cycle management and support services as established in the GEF Policy. As the GEF IA, FAO holds overall accountability and responsibility to the GEF for delivery of the results. In the IA role, FAO will utilize the GEF fees to deploy three different actors within the organization to support the project (see Annex M for details):

- The Budget Holder, which is usually the most decentralized FAO office, will provide oversight of day-to-day project execution.

- The Lead Technical Officer(s), drawn from across FAO will provide oversight/support to the projects technical work in coordination with government representatives participating in the Project Steering Committee.
- The Funding Liaison Officer(s) and the GEF Technical Officers (GTO) within FAO will monitor and support the project cycle to ensure that the project is being designed and carried out in accordance with FAO and GEF minimum fiduciary and technical standards.

**133.** FAO responsibilities, as GEF agency, will include:

- Administrate funds from GEF in accordance with the rules and procedures of FAO.
- Oversee project implementation in accordance with the project document, work plans, budgets, agreements with co-financiers, Operational Partners Agreement(s) and other rules and procedures of FAO;
- Provide technical guidance to ensure that appropriate technical quality is applied to all activities concerned;
- Conduct at least one supervision mission per year; and
- Reporting to the GEF Secretariat and Evaluation Office, through the annual Project Implementation Review, the Mid Term Review, the Terminal Evaluation and the Project Closure Report on project progress;
- Financial reporting to the GEF Trustee.

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[60] It should be noted that the FAO internal due diligence and agreement procedures regarding the identified Operational *Partner(s)* are not yet concluded at the time of submission of the CEO Endorsement Request.

Will the GEF Agency play an execution role on this project?

No

If so, please describe that role here and the justification.

Also, please add a short explanation to describe cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects, including potential for co-location and/or sharing of expertise/staffing (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

**134.** This initiative will collaborate with ongoing programs in the country, including:

-*Integrated Landscape Management in Dominican Republic Watersheds (GEFID 10216)*, implemented by the World Bank. It will leverage approaches and methodologies developed to improve watershed management.

-*Promoting Climate-smart Livestock Management in the Dominican Republic (GEFID 10054)*, building on livestock management models such as the Climate Smart Livestock Assessment and Strategy, training

program to promote best practices including greenhouse gas reduction. Lessons learned will inform participatory processes in the target basins.

**135.** Opportunities will be explored to collaborate with other initiatives currently under development in the context of different integrated programs. This includes knowledge-sharing efforts with Trinidad and Tobago (GEFID 11259) and Cuba (GEFID 11253), both under the Blue and Green Islands Integrated Program, which target food and urban sectors. Further collaboration will extend to the ISLANDS Atlantic Regional Project (GEFID 10848), focusing particularly on the methodologies being developed by FAO and UNEP to reduce the use of chemicals.

**136.** FAO's technical assistance initiative for the implementation of activities related to forest fire prevention and management (UNFA/DOM/021/UND) within the framework of the GEF project 'Mainstreaming Conservation of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Productive Landscapes in Threatened Forested Mountainous', aims to strengthen the technical capacities of the Ministry of Environment and community actors for integrated forest fire management in three prioritized mountain landscapes, including training, early warning system, and assessment of burned areas. The lessons learned and good practices generated from this initiative will be shared and leveraged to support the implementation of this project.

**137.** In the technical assistance initiative to the Ministry of Agriculture within the framework of the Resilient Agriculture project (PARGIRH) with funding from the World Bank (UTF/DOM/031/DOM), aimed at promoting sustainable production systems in priority watersheds of Yaque del Norte and Ozama, lessons learned and good practices validated in the field will be generated to implement sustainable agroforestry system models with coffee, cocoa and livestock, through business plans. Likewise, the capacities of the extension department will be strengthened to offer technical assistance and training to producers in soil and water conservation, through the methodology of Field Schools, as a strategy to recover the national soil and water conservation service.

**138.** Coordination will be established with several GCF-funded projects, such as the Readiness and Preparatory Support “Developing Capacities to Advance the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Process of the Dominican Republic” and “Ecosystem-Based Adaptation to Increase Climate Resilience in the Central American Dry Corridor and Arid Zones of the Dominican Republic”. This collaboration will facilitate the exchange of information and experiences related to early warning systems for droughts and floods, ecosystem-based adaptation for integrated natural resources management in hydrographic basins and sustainable practices such as agroforestry, soil conservation and rainwater harvesting, articulated with financial mechanisms.

**139.** The project aligns with the ongoing national banking program implemented by the Sustainability and Social Responsibility Directorate, which fosters socio-economic development among national producers. By promoting and supporting cooperative-type social enterprises that produce goods and services, this initiative complements the project's objectives of strengthening sustainable value chains and enhancing community resilience through inclusive economic opportunities.

## Core Indicators

Indicate expected results in each relevant indicator using methodologies indicated in the GEF-8 Results Measurement Framework Guidelines. There is no need to complete this table for climate adaptation projects financed solely through LDCF and SCCF.

### Indicator 3 Area of land and ecosystems under restoration

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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1960	1960	0	0
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**Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural lands under restoration**

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
Cropland		1,000.00		

**Indicator 3.2 Area of forest and forest land under restoration**

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
1,960.00			

**Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and woodland under restoration**

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
Natural grass		960.00		

**Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (including estuaries, mangroves) under restoration**

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

**Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)**

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
15700	17707	0	0

**Indicator 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, qualitative assessment, non-certified)**

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
	15,477.00		

**Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations**

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

**Type/Name of Third Party Certification**

**Indicator 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems**

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
15,700.00	2,230.00		

**Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value or other forest loss avoided**

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

#### Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
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#### Documents (Document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title
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#### Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
<b>Expected metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e (direct)</b>	0	1893302.02	0	0
<b>Expected metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e (indirect)</b>	0	699845.43	0	0

#### Indicator 6.1 Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided in the AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
<b>Expected metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e (direct)</b>		1,893,302.02		
<b>Expected metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e (indirect)</b>		699,845.43		
<b>Anticipated start year of accounting</b>		2025		
<b>Duration of accounting</b>		20		

#### Indicator 6.2 Emissions Avoided Outside AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) Sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
<b>Expected metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e (direct)</b>				
<b>Expected metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e (indirect)</b>				
<b>Anticipated start year of accounting</b>				
<b>Duration of accounting</b>				

#### Indicator 6.3 Energy Saved (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Total Target Benefit	Energy (MJ) (At PIF)	Energy (MJ) (At CEO Endorsement)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at MTR)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at TE)
<b>Target Energy Saved (MJ)</b>				

#### Indicator 6.4 Increase in Installed Renewable Energy Capacity per Technology (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)
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#### Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
<b>Female</b>		6,954		
<b>Male</b>		11,153		
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18,107</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Explain the methodological approach and underlying logic to justify target levels for Core and Sub-Indicators (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)

#### GEF-8 CORE INDICATORS

Core Indicator 3: the project will restore 1,960 ha of land which are currently under suboptimal land use, as defined in the national land use conflict. The planned activities consist in restoration (GEF Core Indicator 3.3: 960 ha) and natural assisted revegetation of agricultural lands (GEF Core Indicator 3.1: 1,000 ha) and will be executed in coordination with the National Reforestation Plan and its cofinancing.

Core Indicator 4: the project will directly improve management in a total of 17,707 ha. Of those, 15,477 ha correspond to forests outside Protected Areas (Pas) in which improved plans for wildfire prevention and suppression will be implemented (GEF Core Indicator 4.1). These are steep areas at the fringe of PAs which suffer frequent fires, in many cases derived from agricultural activities that encroach in forest areas, including the use of slash-and-burn practices for clearing and soil fertility management. Further, management will be improved in 2,230 ha (GEF Core Indicator 4.3), 1,830 ha of which are cultivated with coffee (agroforestry) and 400 ha of silvopastoral lands. These correspond to moderately steep lands where soil erosion processes can be severe, and in which intensive use is discouraged by the country land use policy.

Core Indicator 6: Has been estimated using the FAO's Nationally Determined Contribution Expert Tool (NEXT). With 1,960 ha of forests restored (Core Indicator 3) the project will sequester 52,735.27 tCO<sub>2</sub>e, while the 17,707 ha of improved management (Core Indicator 4) are expected to result in a reduction of 2,540,412.18 tCO<sub>2</sub>e after 20 years from the start of the project, totaling 2,593,147.45 tCO<sub>2</sub>e by the end of 2044. Of the total GHG emissions avoided/reduced, 1,893,302.02 tCO<sub>2</sub>e are attributed to direct project actions (through activities in component 2), while 699,845.43 tCO<sub>2</sub>e are due to indirect effects (through activities in component 1). The indirect effects were calculated considering 0,05% of forest cover recovery per year in lands currently under land use conflict, and a 0.05% biomass increase in the rest of the area. By the end of the project in 2030, 421,035.19 tCO<sub>2</sub>e of emissions will have been reduced/avoided.

The carbon balance presented above represents the lower limit of the project's climate change mitigation potential, since calculations were done excluding potential reductions in deforestation after the project end date, that are expected to result from the implementation of improved land use plans. This reduced deforestation would translate into additional 2.303.435,28 tCO<sub>2</sub>e (using a conservative yearly deforestation rate of 0.01%, which would mean an estimated 7,146 ha of forests lost in the period 2030-2055, which the project will help to avoid).

Core indicator 11: At least 18,107 individuals will directly benefit from project activities. For the activities that will reach the general population, a 50% of women is targeted. For the rest of the activities, the percentage of women will be 20%, as indicated in the Gender Action Plan (Annex K of the Agency Project document) and in the results framework . In the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector, a 20% is considered an ambitious target because of the percentage of women working in the sector nationwide . The number of beneficiaries is estimated to be divided as follows:

- Data production activities and increased data accessibility at the national scale (through RD-SIS and DSS, component 1) will benefit the entire country population, although only 2,500 individuals, which is a 5% of the total users of MARENA's GIS (total users 45,000) are accounted for under this core indicator.
- Participatory processes within the different project activities will involve at least 1,100 people.
- 11,110 individuals will benefit from the implementation of fire management plans (80 % of the population of the areas included under the plans, 50% women).
- Improved management and enhanced ecosystem services as a result of restoration and improved agroforestry and silvopastoral management will benefit at least 797 individuals (calculated using an average land size per producer in the project area of 3.9 ha)

- Improved value chains (component 3) and market access, and PES schemes will benefit an estimated 500 producers and entrepreneurs.
- Capacity development actions will involve at least 2000 individuals.
- Knowledge transfer activities will benefit at least 100 people through a knowledge exchange platform and B2B and peer-learning events for producers

## SCCF INDICATORS

SCCF Core Indicator 1: The project will directly benefit 19,732 individuals, estimated on the basis of the number of producers in the project area (data from the 2015 pre-census) and considering at least one person per holding in the Nizao and Ocoa watersheds. This calculation is based on the rationale that the entire area of the project will be better adapted to climate change as a result of the improved land use plans, with specific benefits identified for the agriculture sector. Because the beneficiaries can be any person within each holding (not necessarily the owner), we consider safe to target a 50% (9,866) women. In addition, these 19,732 beneficiaries, as well as the wider population, will benefit from other project actions, in particular the activities under outcome 2.2 on resilience to drought and flood, outcome 3.1 and 3.2 on improved access to finances and markets and strengthened entrepreneurship capacities, and outcome 4.1 on knowledge management, which also includes measures and activities specifically targeted at women, in accordance with the GAP.

SCCF Core Indicator 2: (a) Area of land managed for climate resilience: 92,191 ha, that are divided as such:

- Core Indicator 2.1: 3,700 ha of croplands will be subject to actions towards improved soil management, including soil recarbonization-based improved practices to reduce flood and drought risk, with 150 ha of them including also measures for improved water management (e.g. structures for improved water infiltration and irrigation).
- Core Indicator 2.3: 88,491 ha are targeted with improved land use plans (calculated as the total area of the two watersheds excluding PAs and the lands under other activities, although all the project actions will incorporate an adaptation approach).

SCCF Core Indicator 3: The project will strengthen 2 watershed scale planning instruments through the development of adaptation-oriented Integrated Land Use Plans (ILUPs) for the Nizao and Ocoa watersheds (Core Indicator 3.1). In addition, municipal planning instruments will be updated to include adaptation measures in 2 municipalities. The planning process will be accompanied by actions to increase capacities to integrate climate adaptation into land planning frameworks at multiple governance levels.

SCCF Core Indicator 4: At least 3,500 people (1,750 women), will benefit from climate adaptation activities that enhance their capacity to manage climate risks. This includes 1,500 individuals reached through the Soil Doctors Programme (250 women), assuming that the Soil Doctors Programme will reach a maximum of 20% women, given the percentages of women in agriculture in the project areas (12.5% according to the 2015 pre-census). In order to promote equity in benefit-sharing, activities to specifically reach non-farmer female population will be implemented as part of output 2.2.3, involving further 1,000 women that will have improved awareness and preparedness capacity against drought and flood risks, as part of community-scale climate risk management plans. Additional 1,000 individuals (50% of which are women and 25% are youth) will be reached through Component 4 activities, by implementing gender- and age-responsive communication campaigns and knowledge-sharing platforms that improve public understanding of drought and flood risks and support informed decision-making at the household and community levels, with actions specifically addressed to women.

Core Indicator 5: 30 MSMEs will be incubated/accelerated through technical assistance, financial matchmaking, and/or direct financing (Core Indicator 5.4) through output 3.2.1.

## META INFORMATION – SCCF

LDCF <b>false</b>	SCCF-B (Window B) on technology transfer <b>false</b>	SCCF-A (Window-A) on climate Change adaptation <b>true</b>
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Is this project LDCF SCCF challenge program?  
**false**

This Project involves at least one small island developing State(SIDS).  
**true**

This Project involves at least one fragile and conflict affected state.  
**false**

This Project will provide direct adaptation benefits to the private sector.  
**true**

This Project is explicitly related to the formulation and/or implementation of national adaptation plans (NAPs).  
**false**

This project will collaborate with activities begin supported by other adaptation funds. If yes, please select below

Green Climate Fund <b>true</b>	Adaptation Fund <b>false</b>	Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR) <b>false</b>
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This Project has an urban focus.  
**false**

This project will directly engage local communities in project design and implementation  
**true**

This project will support South-South knowledge exchange  
**true**

This Project covers the following sector(s)[the total should be 100%]: \*

Agriculture	30.00%
Nature-based management	20.00%
Climate information services	20.00%
Coastal zone management	0.00%
Water resources management	10.00%
Disaster risk management	20.00%
Other infrastructure	0.00%
Tourism	0.00%
Health	0.00%
Other (Please specify comments)	0.00%
Total	100.00%

This Project targets the following Climate change Exacerbated/introduced challenges:\*

Sea level rise <b>false</b>	Change in mean temperature <b>false</b>	Increased climatic variability <b>true</b>	Natural hazards <b>true</b>
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Land degradation <b>true</b>	Coastal and/or Coral reef degradation <b>false</b>	Groundwater quality/quantity <b>true</b>
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## CORE INDICATORS – SCCF

	Total	Male	Female	% for Women
CORE INDICATOR 1 Total number of direct beneficiaries	19,732	9,866.00	9,866.00	50.00%
CORE INDICATOR 2 (a) Area of land managed for climate resilience (ha) (b) Coastal and marine area managed for climate resilience (ha)	92,191.00 0.00			
CORE INDICATOR 3 Number of policies/plans/ frameworks/institutions for to strengthen climate adaptation	4.00			
CORE INDICATOR 4 Number of people trained or with awareness raised	3,500	1,750.00	1,750.00	50.00%
CORE INDICATOR 5 Number of private sector enterprises engaged in climate change adaptation and resilience	0.00			

### SUB INDICATOR 1

	Total	Male	Female
1.1 Number of direct beneficiaries from more resilient physical and natural assets	19732	9,866	9,866
1.2 Number of direct beneficiaries with diversified and strengthened livelihoods and sources of income	0	0	0
1.3 Number of direct beneficiaries from the new or improved climate information services including early warning systems	0	0	0
1.4 Number of youth (15 to 24 years of age) benefiting from the project	0	0	0
1.5 Number of elderly (over 60 years of age) benefiting from the project	0	0	0
1.6 Increased income, or avoided decrease in income (per capita in \$ across all relevant beneficiaries)	0		

## **SUB-INDICATOR 2**

2.1 Hectares of agricultural land

3,700

2.2 Hectares of urban landscape

0

2.3 Hectares of rural landscape

88,491

2.4 Hectares of forests

0

2.5 Hectares of marine area

0

2.6 Hectares of freshwater area

0

2.7 Number of residential houses

0

2.8 Number of public buildings

0

2.9 Number of irrigation or water structures

0

2.10 Number of fishery or aquaculture ponds or cages

0

2.11 Number of ports or landing sites

0

2.12 Km of road

0

2.13 Km of riverbank

0

2.14 Km of coast

0

2.15 Km of stormwater drainage

0

2.16 Number of new adaptation technologies supported

0

## **SUB INDICATOR 3**

3.1 Number of policies/plans developed and strengthened that will mainstream climate resilience

(regional, national, sub-national)

4

3.2 Number of systems and frameworks established for continuous monitoring, reporting and review of climate adaptation impacts

0

3.3 Number of national climate policies and plans enabled, including national adaptation planning processes

0

3.4 Number of institutional partnerships or coordination mechanisms established or strengthened

0

3.5 Number of institutions with increased capacity to plan, implement, monitor, and report for climate adaptation

0

3.6 Number of institutions with increased capacity to attract, and manage climate adaptation finance

0

3.7 Number of local community organizations benefitting from and/or engaged in institution strengthening, partnerships, or financing

0

3.8. Number of climate risk and vulnerability assessments conducted

0

#### SUB INDICATOR 4

4.1 Number of people trained or made aware of climate change impacts and appropriate adaptation responses	Total	Male	Female
a) National government	0	0	0
b) Local government	0	0	0
c) Local community organizations	0	0	0
d) Extension services	0	0	0
e) Hydromet and disaster risk management agencies	0	0	0
f) School children, university students, and teachers	0	0	0
g) Youth	0	0	0

#### SUB INDICATOR 5

	Total	Male	Female
5.1 Amount of investment mobilized (US\$) from private sector sources	0		
5.2 Number of entrepreneurs supported for climate adaptation or resilience			

	0	0	0
5.3 Total financial value of lines of credit and/or investment funds	0		
5.4 Number of MSMEs incubated/accelerated with technical assistance, financial matchmaking, and/or direct financing	30		

## Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	Moderate	<p>Risks: The project area is highly vulnerable to extreme weather events, including droughts, floods, and landslides, which may disrupt activities, damage infrastructure, and hinder the achievement of global environmental benefits (GEBs). Mitigation measures: the project incorporates activities outlined in Outcome 2.2 and its outputs, such as implementing community-based preparedness measures (Output 2.2.2) and establishing an Early Warning System for drought and flood resilience (Output 2.2.3). These efforts will be informed by real-time monitoring and adaptive decision-making tools, as well as climate risk assessments conducted during the preparation phase. Further, measures like promoting drought-resistant crop varieties (Output 2.2.1) and strengthening stakeholder capacity to monitor and adapt to climate risks (Outcome 1.1) will enhance resilience. Implementation schedule will consider seasonal climate variations and allow for flexibility to accommodate weather uncertainty. Contingency funding and resource plans will be developed to mitigate delays or damage caused by extreme weather, ensuring that resilience-building measures directly contribute to sustainable land management and reduced degradation.</p>
Environmental and Social	Moderate	<p>The FAO Environmental and Social Standards (ESS) triggered by the project (Annex F) are: ESS 1: Biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of natural resources (ESS 1.3) Risk (Moderate): This project aims to take advantage of forest resources, activities in silvopastoral systems and agriculture. During these activities there are multiple risks, such as: use of species not suitable for the area; interventions not appropriate for topographic or climatic conditions; destabilization of slopes due to inadequate processes that cause erosion, flooding or other negative effects can be generated. Mitigation measures: During implementation, the use of introduced species will be avoided, and the sustainable use of resources will be promoted. Additionally avoid carrying out activities within legally designated protected areas that may lead to the reduction of recognized Vulnerable, Endangered or Critically Endangered species (following the IUCN categories); Ensure that, if the implementation of activities is necessary, ensure that they are in full</p>

compliance with the management plans of the protected areas, productive activities cannot be carried out in category I or II areas. Avoid resource extraction, hunting and agriculture activities, especially in areas of high criticality. ESS 2: Resource efficiency, pollution prevention and management (ESS 2.2 – 2.3 – 2.4 – 2.5 – 2.6 – 2.7) Risk (Moderate): In the area of implementation of the project, a lot of productive activity is carried out, where agro-input products and water consumption are used. The project can implement activities in degraded, impoverished or contaminated soils. However, there are extenuating circumstances. Mitigation measures: The project will carry out relevant analyses (e.g. soil analysis) and identify options to replace polluting fertilizers with alternatives. The adaptability of the environment is high, which should reduce possible pollution problems. The project seeks to contribute to decontamination or restoration; The impacts of previous contamination can be easily managed with existing technology. Training activities and awareness campaigns are contemplated to promote sustainable land management practices and good practices that can improve water and soil quality, raise awareness about agro-inputs, waste management, among others. ESS 3: Climate change and disaster risk reduction (ESS 3.1 – 3.2) Risk (Moderate): The selected basins are vulnerable to the effects of climate change. The project may affect the ability of non-target communities to use natural resources that are under pressure due to climate change. The potential impacts are known and manageable. The climate-related resources or services promoted by the project could generate dependencies after the project ends, but a sustainable exit strategy is agreed (e.g. the government will continue to fund updates to a weather information application). Mitigation measures: Promote climate change adaptation and mitigation activities that support the reduction of vulnerability and increase resilience capacity. Carry out training and awareness-raising activities for the adoption of good practices that improve climate resilience in the areas of implementation of the project. Including awareness on the legal framework for climate change adaptation and disaster risk management. Develop a spatially explicit decision support system (DSS) that integrates indicators related to land degradation, soil properties and climate change. Develop plans to strengthen adaptation to climate change. ESS 4: Decent Work (ESS 4.4) Risk (Moderate): Workers in the agricultural sector are vulnerable due to their low qualifications, dependence on this type of employment for their subsistence, difficulties in enforcing their rights, types of contracts and remuneration, among other factors. The project will have minimal occupational safety and health risks that are easily manageable and will not promote or use any technology or practices that pose risks to farmers, other rural workers or rural populations in general. Mitigation measures: Promote decent working conditions and opportunities to increase human capital and skills development through awareness-raising campaigns and inclusive technical trainings to empower women and youth. Implement a capacity-building program for local businesses to improve their operations and working conditions. ESS 5: Community Health, Safety and Security (ESS 5.1 – ESS 5.4) Risk (Low): Health risks to communities and their livestock due to

the project's activities are expected to be negligible. E.g. project will not implement activities on the ground, or communities are used to managing such risks, so they are effectively avoided or minimized. Mitigation measures: Limit unnecessary access of workers to residential areas. Ensure the proper disposal of waste and wastewater generated by workers, avoiding environmental pollution. Establish clear communication channels for the community to report safety or health concerns. Limit unnecessary worker access to residential areas. Ensure the proper disposal of waste and wastewater generated by workers, avoiding environmental pollution. Establish clear communication channels so the community can report safety or health concerns. Additionally, promote compliance with local and international laws and regulations related to occupational safety. Instruct all project personnel on safety procedures, use of personal protective equipment (PPE), and emergency management. Use safe work techniques in specific activities, such as reforestation. Provide shaded areas and drinking water in hot climates. Have first aid kits equipped in the workplace and in the vehicles where project personnel travel. Review security conditions on site and compliance with protocols. Offer counseling sessions for workers facing stress or emotional difficulties.

ESS 6: Gender equality and prevention of gender-based violence (GBV) (ESS 6.1) Risk (Moderate): Specific risks are well understood by the project team and implementing partners. However, the project may inadvertently increase or perpetuate existing gender inequalities if it does not properly identify and address gender-related concerns. Mitigation measures: This project seeks to reduce gender inequality and based on this, it has designed a Gender Action Plan (Annex K), which explains the actions to be developed for each component. Measures proposed in the Gender Action Plan (Annex K), considering FAO's strict policy on protection against sexual exploitation and abuse and other gender issues.

ESS 7: Land tenure, displacement, and resettlement Risk (Low): The project aims to improve the area of intervention of the project, strengthening the enabling environment, with improvement in the decision-making and information system, reducing gaps, contributing to the sustainable use of natural resources and land use in order to achieve land degradation neutrality and adaptive development. Mitigation measures: The Project will not work on the issue of land ownership as such, but the productive activities are intended to be implemented at the farm level and through this process the ownership information could be collected to share it with the competent national authorities, with the necessary care to not raise false expectations. Additionally Strengthen the enabling environment for informed and integrated land-use planning to achieve land degradation neutrality and adaptive development. Design and implement a technical capacity development programmed, with a gender-transformative approach in LDN and CCA, based on a gap analysis, and including the use of DSS for land use planning and LDN. Develop a spatially explicit decision support system (DSS) that integrates indicators related to land degradation, soil properties and climate change. Develop land use plans for the target watersheds and at least two municipalities.

Political and Governance	Moderate	<p>Risks: Changes in government leadership or key personnel could disrupt agreements or delay co-financing, potentially undermining commitments to sustainable land management (SLM). Mitigation measures: the project builds on activities under Outcome 1.1, which focus on creating a strong enabling environment aligned with the NAP. Formalizing agreements early in implementation and embedding project activities, such as land use plans (Output 1.1.5), into national programs will institutionalize commitments and ensure continuity. Inter-agency coordination mechanisms, strengthened through interdisciplinary alliances (Output 1.1.1), will reduce fragmentation and maintain effective collaboration across departments. Additionally, decentralizing knowledge and capacity-building efforts to local and regional levels (Outcome 1.1) will reduce dependency on key individuals, while contingency plans for delayed co-financing will safeguard critical activities and sustain project momentum.</p>
INNOVATION		
Institutional and Policy	Moderate	<p>Risks: The project introduces innovative frameworks, including integrating the National Soil Information System into the National Environmental Information System and linking it with the Caribbean Soil Information System. Resistance from stakeholders unfamiliar with these tools or delays in embedding project outputs into national policies could hinder adoption. Mitigation measures: the project will engage stakeholders early, ensuring buy-in through participatory design processes. Outputs such as land-use plans and decision support systems (DSS) will align with the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets to ensure policy relevance. Pilot testing in select regions or institutions will help identify and address barriers before national rollout, supported by periodic policy reviews to adapt to institutional changes.</p>
Technological	Moderate	<p>Risks: Adopting new tools, such as the National Soil Information System and DSS, poses risks of technical integration challenges, user resistance, and long-term reliability. Mitigation measures: the project will pilot the DSS with select user groups, incorporating feedback to refine the tool before full-scale implementation. Capacity-building programs targeting national and local stakeholders will be implemented to ensure effective use and maintenance of these tools. Collaboration with regional partners, such as the Caribbean Soil Information System, will enhance scalability and reliability by sharing lessons learned. A dedicated technical support team will troubleshoot issues and ensure the tools remain functional throughout the project lifecycle</p>
Financial and Business Model	Moderate	<p>Risks: The project's efforts to mobilize sustainable finance and improve value chains may face risks, including delays in securing co-financing, limited private-sector engagement, or challenges in sustaining business models after the project end date. Mitigation measures: the project will focus on activities under Outcome 3.1, which includes improving access to sustainable finance mechanisms through targeted interventions in the target areas (Output 3.1.1). Capacity-building programs for local businesses (Output 3.2.1) will strengthen financial literacy and management skills, helping beneficiaries sustain</p>

		operations and improve market access. Investments in agricultural diversification and value chain improvements (Output 3.2.2) will reduce reliance on single-income sources, fostering financial resilience. Early engagement with private-sector stakeholders will be critical to securing co-financing commitments, while regular monitoring of financial mechanisms will allow the project to identify and address gaps in funding or implementation strategies.
EXECUTION		
Capacity	Moderate	Risks: The project depends on the capacity of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MIMARENA) to implement and manage financial, technical, and procurement activities. While MIMARENA has demonstrated a strong capacity in financial and procurement processes, potential challenges may arise if its ability to execute FAO-implemented projects becomes constrained. Mitigation measures: FAO will initiate a call for Expressions of Interest to identify an alternate executing partner during the early stages of the preparation phase if necessary. This contingency ensures continuity in project execution and minimizes disruptions
Fiduciary	Low	Risks: Difficulties in budget planning and execution are considered low due to MIMARENA's strong financial and procurement track record. Mitigation measures: However, regular monitoring and technical support will be provided to ensure timely disbursement and proper allocation of resources. FAO's oversight mechanisms and financial management guidelines will further reduce risks, ensuring transparency and compliance with project standards.
Stakeholder	Low	Risks: The project anticipates minimal risks related to stakeholder engagement due to the comprehensive measures outlined in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP). However, challenges such as a lack of interest among farmers, limited participation from certain groups, or misaligned priorities among stakeholders may arise during implementation. Mitigation measures: the project will actively target motivated producers through local associations and cooperatives, ensuring alignment with project goals and readiness for adoption of climate-smart practices. Ongoing participatory consultations with diverse stakeholder groups will address concerns, gather feedback, and adapt project activities to meet community expectations. To incentivize engagement, the project will emphasize tangible socio-economic benefits, such as increased productivity and market access, highlighting the financial advantages of adopting proposed practices. A robust grievance redress mechanism (GRM) will provide stakeholders with accessible and confidential channels for reporting grievances or offering feedback, ensuring timely resolution of conflicts and fostering trust. Additionally, gender-sensitive approaches and targeted inclusion of historically underrepresented groups, such as women and youth, will ensure broader societal representation and alignment with national gender equity policies. These strategies collectively strengthen stakeholder buy-in, reduce engagement risks, and enhance the project's overall impact

Other	Low	Risks: Potential health risks, such as those related to pandemics, may disrupt project implementation activities. Mitigation measures: FAO has adopted coping strategies at both national and international levels to ensure continuity during such events. During implementation, provisions for remote working conditions will be activated where appropriate to maintain progress on technical assistance activities. Fieldwork will primarily rely on national and government staff, reducing dependency on international travel and ensuring local capacity remains central to project delivery. These measures are designed to minimize disruptions and maintain momentum even under challenging health-related circumstances.
Overall Risk Rating	Moderate	The project's overall risk is rated as Moderate, reflecting challenges associated with its environmental, institutional, and operational context. In terms of Context, climate-related risks such as extreme weather events may disrupt activities and infrastructure, while socio-environmental conflicts are minimal due to participatory planning and grievance mechanisms. Political and governance risks, such as changes in leadership, are mitigated by embedding project actions into national frameworks and decentralizing knowledge and capacity-building to ensure continuity despite transitions. Under Innovation, integrating new tools such as the National Soil Information System and Decision Support System (DSS) involves risks related to technical challenges and stakeholder adoption. These are mitigated through pilot testing, capacity-building, and alignment with existing systems. For Execution, risks tied to institutional capacity are addressed by leveraging FAO's oversight mechanisms and establishing contingency plans, while stakeholder engagement strategies ensure motivation through socio-economic incentives and participatory processes. Together, these measures balance the project's complexity with safeguards that enhance resilience and maximize impact. Further details are available in Annex F: Environmental and Social Safeguards

### C. ALIGNMENT WITH GEF-8 PROGRAMMING STRATEGIES AND COUNTRY/REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Explain how the proposed interventions are aligned with GEF- 8 programming strategies and country and regional priorities, including how these country strategies and plans relate to the multilateral environmental agreements.

For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e., BD, CC or LD), please identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and explain how.

Confirm if any country policies that might contradict with intended outcomes of the project have been identified, and how the project will address this. (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)

**140.** The proposed project aligns with the Land Degradation focal area -Objective 1: Avoiding and reducing land degradation through sustainable land management (SLM)-, and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF-A) targeting climate change adaptation. It builds on the Dominican Republic's Land Degradation Neutrality Targets, National Adaptation Strategy, National Development Strategy (NDS), and territorial planning process.

**141.** Under Component 1, the project will enhance the enabling environment for SLM by collecting soil and climate change data to support decision-making, designing a decision support system using Google Earth Engine, and

developing land use and investment plans to reduce degradation and strengthen resilience. By promoting practices like agroforestry, reforestation, and soil conservation, it directly supports LDN objectives and aligns with the country's commitment to achieving LDN. Components 2 and 3 will implement best practices, including regenerative agriculture practices and drought-smart land management, to improve ecosystem and community resilience. The project will invest in livelihoods by promoting entrepreneurship and sustainable finance, targeting women and youth farmers to diversify production, reduce vulnerability to hazards, and improve managerial capacity and value chains. Efforts to enhance soil health, biodiversity, and climate-smart land management align with the country's climate change adaptation strategy. Recognizing the link between land management and climate resilience, the project aims to mitigate the impact of climate change through sustainable practices. In component 2, the project contributes to compliance with the Sendai Framework, a global UN agreement that seeks to reduce the risk of disasters and their consequences, as well as the national policies on the matter established in Law 142-02 on risk management, through the incorporation of Early Warning Systems (SAT)

**142. The project incorporates the principles of the Dominican Republic's National Development Strategy (NDS) for 2030** envisioning a prosperous, equitable country, grounded in ethical values and participatory democracy. Addressing institutional, social, economic, and environmental challenges through four strategic axes, the NDS emphasizes an efficient state, equality of opportunities, an innovative economy, and sustainable production and consumption. It seeks to overcome inequalities, strengthen governance, and promote sustainable practices and active public participation as a pillar for eradicating poverty and inequality. The project supports the NDS goals for 2030 by addressing environmental and sustainability priorities through its four strategic axes: *A social and democratic state of law*, promotes environmental management plans, forest restoration, and climate-resilient practices; *A society with equal rights and opportunities*, enhances food security, reduces inequality and improves living conditions for vulnerable communities; *A territorially and sectoral integrated economy*, promotes sustainable growth through climate-resilient agricultural, resource efficiency, and equitable development; *A society with a culture of sustainable production and consumption*, tackles soil degradation, biodiversity loss, and climate change by fostering sustainable agricultural and land management practices.

**143. The Dominican Republic has committed to achieve LDN by 2030** through restoring degraded and preventing degradation across 262,200 hectares. To meet this goal, the country has outlined the following targets: *i) increase forest cover by 8,5%*, through reforestation of 11,900 ha by 2030; *ii) improve land productivity in 30,000 hectares of dry forest by 2025* through sustainable forest management, capacity building in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and implementing payment for ecosystem services program; *iii) reduce the area affected by forest fires by 50% (42,000 ha) by 2030* through improved forest management, prevention and awareness campaigns; *iv) enhance net primary productivity in 20,000 hectares of agricultural lands by 2025* through sustainable land management, soil conservation, efficient irrigation and improved farming practices; *v) reduce hillside agriculture by 20% (14,000 ha) by 2030* on lands with slopes of 15% or more by promoting sustainable production alternatives, training programs, policy enforcement and incentive programs as outlined in Act 64-100; *vi) improve net primary productivity in 100,000 hectares of shrubs and pasturelands by 2030*, through controlled grazing, genetic livestock improvement, grassland management and soil conservation practices; *vii) induce natural regeneration on 20,000 hectares of shrubs and grasslands by 2030 with coniferous and broadleaf forests*; *viii) promote land use planning in 30 pilot municipalities by 2030* in areas critically exposed to land degradation<sup>[67]59</sup>. The proposed project will contribute to SDG 15.3 (land degradation neutrality), and to achieving the country's LDN targets by restoring degraded lands through sustainable land management, reforestation, and agroforestry, particularly in targeted areas vulnerable to degradation and climate risk. Under Component 2, the project will improve land productivity and reduce erosion through drought-smart agriculture, soil conservation, and water-efficient practices, contributing to targets (ii), (iv), and (vi). Forest fire prevention and awareness measures, alongside efforts to reduce hillside agriculture, will contribute to targets (iii) and (v). Reforestation and natural regeneration activities—supported through restoration planning and pilot interventions—will support targets (i) and (vii). Component 1 will strengthen land use planning frameworks and institutional capacity in selected municipalities, contributing directly to target (viii).

**144.** The project supports SDG 13 (Climate Action) and the implementation of the National Adaptation Plan for Climate Change (PNACC-RD, 2015–2030), particularly Strategic Axis 4 (ecosystem and biodiversity resilience) and Axis 5 (productive sector competitiveness and climate resilience). It contributes to PNACC strategic lines, including climate risk reduction (outcomes 1.1, 2.1 and 2.2), early warning systems (outcome 2.2), interinstitutional coordination (outcome 1.1), gender-sensitive adaptation (all project outcomes), and monitoring and evaluation (outcomes 1.1, 4.1 and M&E-1). It is also aligned with the Third National Communication on Climate Change (2017), the Strategic Plan for Climate Change (PECC, 2011–2030), and the National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change in the Agricultural Sector (2014–2020). In supporting alternative livelihoods and resilient production systems, the project advances the objectives of the Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) and the National Plan for Food and Nutritional Sovereignty and Security (2019–2022). In addition, the project aligns with the Dominican Republic’s current and forthcoming Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC-RD), particularly its adaptation priorities in agriculture, ecosystems, and risk management.

**145.** In relation to the policies above, the National Drought and Desertification Plan (PAN-LDC) 2018-2030 has the objective “to minimize land degradation throughout the Dominican Republic and mitigate the impacts of droughts, in order to contribute to achieving sustainable development and improving the living conditions of the population.” Under this general objective, there are seven thematic components for the implementation of the PAN-LCD, that are directly related to the actions foreseen under this project, namely:

- Institutional Strengthening: relates to component 1;
- Training and Technical and Professional Development of Local Human Resources: links with actions under components 1, 2 and 3;
- Scientific Research and Technological Innovation: the data produced under components 1 and 2 will provide a basis for research and innovation in agriculture;
- Monitoring of Degradation and Drought: Component 2 EWS feeds directly into this item;
- Education and Public Awareness: Linked to component 4;
- Gender Inequality Issues and Women's Participation in the PAN-LCD: Gender is embedded into all project actions; and
- Integrated Financial Strategy (IFS) or Investment Component: linked with the project’s component 3.

**146.** The project also contributes to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), adopted under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 2022. While the project is implemented outside protected areas, it supports several GBF targets through restoration, sustainable use, and ecosystem-based approaches (components 1 and 2). It contributes directly to Target 2, aiming to restore at least 30% of degraded ecosystems, through actions such as agroforestry, reforestation, and land rehabilitation in areas vulnerable to degradation and climate risk (outcome 2.1). It supports Target 3 by enhancing ecological connectivity (outcome 2.1), and Target 6 through the use of native or endemic species in agroecological production systems (outcome 2.2). Through improved practices in solid waste management—including addressing crop residues, agrochemical containers, and plastic use—the project also contributes to Target 7 (outcomes 2.1 and 2.2). In terms of climate-biodiversity synergies, the project aligns with Target 8 by implementing nature-based solutions that strengthen ecosystem resilience and contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation (outcome 2.2). It also supports Target 9 by ensuring the sustainable use of biodiversity in agriculture and forest landscapes (outcomes 2.1 and 2.2), and Target 10 through the promotion of sustainable production systems, including agroecological and innovative land management approaches (outcomes 1.1, 2.1, 3.1 and 3.2). Furthermore, it contributes to Target 12 by supporting incentive mechanisms such as payments for ecosystem services (outcome 3.1), and to Targets 21 and 22 by ensuring inclusive, participatory decision-making processes and the integration of gender equality principles (all project components and, particularly, outcome 1.1).

## Alignment to FAO Strategic framework, SDGs and Country Programming Framework

**147.** The project contributes to the following direct effects of the UNSDCF and outcomes of the CPF 2023-2027:

*-Direct Effect 3:* The population, with an emphasis on women, youth, and other vulnerable groups, has greater access to inclusive opportunities for productive employment, decent work, and sustainable and resilient livelihoods, in the context of an economic and digital transformation that drives higher productivity, competitiveness, and innovation, without leaving any territory behind.

*-CPF Outcome 2.3.* Strengthened the capacity of public institutions to provide technical assistance to producers with a view to improving inclusive access to productive and sustainable practices and technologies.

*-Direct Effect 4:* People, communities, national and local institutions face the challenges of climate change and promote the sustainable management of ecosystems and urban and rural human settlements, in a resilient, inclusive, gender-equal, planet- and future-generationally responsible environment.

*-MPP Outcome 3.2.* Public institutions, the private sector, and academia have strengthened capacities for generating evidence that supports informed decision-making regarding the mitigation and adaptation of food systems to climate change, the sustainable management of ecosystems and natural resources, and integrated disaster risk management.

*-MPP Outcome 3.3.* Public institutions, producer organizations, the private sector, and academia have strengthened capacities to promote equitable access to financial mechanisms, renewable energies, innovative technologies, and best practices that foster the mitigation and adaptation of food systems to climate change, the sustainable management of ecosystems and natural resources, and integrated disaster risk management.

**148.** The project is aligned with the following Programme Priority Areas and SDGs:

Better Environment 1: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation in Agrifood Systems, SDG: 2.4.1, 6.4.1, 13.2.1.

Better Production1: Innovation for Sustainable Agriculture Production, SDG: 15.2.

Better Life 4: Resilient Agrifood Systems, SDG: 1.5, 2.4, 2.4.1

Better Environment 3: Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for Food and Agriculture, SDG: 15.3,

### Lessons learned from past projects

**149.** The proposed project builds on valuable lessons from previous initiatives in the Dominican Republic and the wider region to enhance efficiency and efficacy. Key insights have been drawn from baseline projects such as the World Bank's "Integrated Landscape Management in Dominican Republic Watersheds," focusing on Yaque del Norte and Yuna watersheds, and the UNDP-implemented "Mainstreaming Conservation of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Productive Landscapes" in Sierra de Neyba, Valle Nuevo, and the Middle Ozama River Basin. FAO's technical assistance in forest fire management and the "Promoting Climate-smart Livestock Management" project also provide crucial foundations. Additionally, the World Bank (2023-2026) initiative on agroforestry and sustainable livestock systems reinforces soil conservation practices and capacity enhancement for extensionists.

**150.** *Key lessons* take the form of methods and approaches to tailor actions to local realities, engage communities in restoration design, and foster respectful, inclusive relationships. Restoration criteria needs to be adapted to community needs, to build trust and motivated producers, and collaboration with governmental institutions and strategies for increased participation are needed, while training programs are required to address specific socio-economic and agricultural contexts.

**151.** *Challenges persist*, such as limited access to agricultural credit and administrative barriers, which hinder investments in sustainable practices. Revising financial mechanisms is essential to improve accessibility and foster innovation. Mountain ecosystems also face rainfed systems and weak value chain integration, requiring resource

mobilization to overcome these constraints. Another key challenge is strengthening internal communication and coordination within institutions to effectively share knowledge and products across different areas and divisions.

**152.** Despite challenges, previous projects have advanced in developing skilled local actors, including women and youth, aware of land degradation issues and solutions. This knowledge base supports replicating successful practices, expanding impact, and advancing sustainable production towards LDN.

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[67] <https://www.unccd.int/our-work/country-profiles/voluntary-ldn-targets>

## D. POLICY REQUIREMENTS

### Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

**We confirm that gender dimensions relevant to the project have been addressed during Project Preparation as per GEF Policy and are clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B).**

Yes

**1) Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive-measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women's empowerment?**

Yes

If the project expects to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment, please indicate in which results area(s) the project is expected to contribute to gender equality:

**Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources;**

Yes

**Improving women's participation and decision-making; and/or**

Yes

**Generating socio-economic benefits or services for women.**

Yes

**2) Does the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?**

Yes

### Stakeholder Engagement

We confirm that key stakeholders were consulted during Project Preparation as required per GEF policy, their relevant roles to project outcomes has been clearly articulated in the Project Description (Section B) and that a Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been developed before CEO endorsement.

Yes

### Select what role civil society will play in the Project

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor;

Co-financier; **Yes**

Member of project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body ; **No**

Executor or co-executor; **Yes**

Other (Please explain)

### Private Sector

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

**Yes**

And if so, has its role been described and justified in section B project description?

**Yes**

### Environmental and Social Safeguards

We confirm that we have provided information regarding Environmental and Social risks associated with the proposed project or program, including risk screenings/ assessments and, if applicable, management plans or other measures to address identified risks and impacts (this information should be presented in Annex E).

**Yes**

Please provide overall Project/Program Risk Classification

#### Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
Medium/Moderate	Medium/Moderate		

### E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

#### Knowledge management

We confirm that an approach to Knowledge Management and Learning has been clearly described during Project Preparation in the Project Description and that these activities have been budgeted and an anticipated timeline for delivery of relevant outputs has been provided.

**Yes**

#### Socio-economic Benefits

We confirm that the project design has considered socio-economic benefits to be delivered by the project and these have been clearly described in the Project Description and will be monitored and reported on during project implementation (at MTR and TER).

### **Socio-economic Benefits**

**153.** At the national level, the project aligns with the Dominican Republic's commitments under the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), contributing to food security, biodiversity conservation, and climate change adaptation. Activities under Component 2 will improve the management of 92,191 hectares of land (SCCF 2), including 3,700 hectares of soils managed for water infiltration and retention. Furthermore, the project contributes to the restoration of 1,960 hectares of forest land (GEF Core Indicator 3) and 17,707 ha of improved management (GEF core indicator 4). These measures will enhance the availability of ecosystem services, including increased agricultural productivity (therefore, the increase in the beneficiaries' income), carbon sequestration, and biodiversity conservation.

**154.** At the local level, the project will directly benefit farmers through capacity-building programs, improving their technical knowledge in soil and land management, and enabling them to adopt sustainable practices. These initiatives will reduce their vulnerability and resilience to climate shocks, promote sustainable livelihoods, and enhance food security and climate change adaptation. Additionally, the project will support gender-responsive approaches to ensure equitable participation of women and youth in decision-making and capacity-building activities, fostering inclusivity in socio-economic benefits.

#### **Promoting Decent Rural Employment**

**155.** The project actively supports the promotion of Decent Rural Employment (DRE) in alignment with the FAO's Four Pillars of Decent Work:

- 1. Employment Creation and Livelihood Opportunities:** Through Output 3.2.2, the project pilots' investments in agricultural diversification and gender-sensitive alternative livelihoods, supporting local entrepreneurship and expanding income-generation opportunities. Activities will strengthen market access and create value chains that provide stable, productive employment for rural communities.
- 2. Social Protection:** The project emphasizes building resilience to climate-related shocks, particularly droughts and floods, through Output 2.2.3. Community-scale drought and flood preparedness systems will reduce risks to livelihoods, ensuring that rural workers are better protected against environmental vulnerabilities.
- 3. Standards and Rights at Work:** Training programs under Output 4.1.1 and the Soil Doctors program will introduce principles of occupational safety and rights, ensuring that beneficiaries understand and implement practices that promote safe and fair working conditions.
- 4. Social Dialogue:** The project fosters inclusive multi-stakeholder participation through Output 1.1.1, strengthening interdisciplinary and interinstitutional alliances. Community participation in planning and decision-making processes ensures that the needs and rights of rural workers are represented and addressed.

#### **Contribution to Global Environmental and Adaptation Benefits**

**156.** The project's socio-economic benefits directly contribute to achieving global environmental and adaptation benefits. By restoring degraded lands, promoting sustainable agricultural practices, and enhancing ecosystem resilience, the project supports carbon sequestration (CI 6), improved biodiversity (CI 3), and increased productivity (CI 4). These outcomes align with the goals of the SCCF and contribute to mitigating climate change, enhancing resilience, and fostering sustainable development. Additionally, the focus on gender-responsive and

inclusive practices ensures that socio-economic benefits are equitably distributed, contributing to the empowerment of marginalized groups and the long-term sustainability of project impacts.

157. Summary of benefits:

- **Direct Beneficiaries:** 19,732 people through land use planning activities, early warning systems, and capacity-building programs.
- **Employment Opportunities:** Creation of new enterprises, diversification of livelihoods, and strengthened value chains in rural areas.
- **Enhanced Resilience:** Adoption of sustainable land and water management practices to reduce vulnerability to climate risks.
- **Gender Inclusivity:** Active participation of women and youth in decision-making, capacity-building, and livelihood opportunities.
- **Global Environmental Benefits:** Restoration of 1,960 hectares of forest land (GEF Core Indicator 3), 17,707 hectares if improved practices (GEF Core Indicator 4), sustainable management of 92,191 hectares of productive landscapes (SCCF Indicator 2), and reduced GHG emissions through soil and land management practices (GEF Core Indicator 6).

**ANNEX A: FINANCING TABLES**

GEF Financing Table

Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Grant / Non- Grant	GEF Project Grant(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total GEF Financing (\$)
FAO	GET	Dominican Republic	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-1	Grant	1,766,485.00	167,815.00	1,934,300.00
FAO	SCCF-A	Dominican Republic	Climate Change	SCCF-A Country allocation	Grant	2,649,727.00	251,723.00	2,901,450.00
<b>Total GEF Resources (\$)</b>						<b>4,416,212.00</b>	<b>419,538.00</b>	<b>4,835,750.00</b>

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Was a Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount (\$)

150000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

14250

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	PPG(\$)	Agency Fee(\$)	Total PPG Funding(\$)
FAO	GET	Dominican Republic	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation: LD-1	60,000.00	5,700.00	65,700.00
FAO	SCCF-A	Dominican Republic	Climate Change	SCCF-A Country allocation	90,000.00	8,550.00	98,550.00
<b>Total PPG Amount (\$)</b>					<b>150,000.00</b>	<b>14,250.00</b>	<b>164,250.00</b>

Please provide Justification

#### Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total(\$)
FAO	GET	Dominican Republic	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	2,000,000.00
<b>Total GEF Resources</b>					<b>2,000,000.00</b>

#### Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Co-financing(\$)
LD-1	GET	1,766,485.00	7888273
CCA-2-1	SCCF-A	2,649,727.00	11832412
<b>Total Project Cost</b>		<b>4,416,212.00</b>	<b>19,720,685.00</b>

#### Confirmed Co-financing for the project, by name and type

Please include evidence for each co-financing source for this project in the tab of the portal

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
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Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MIMARENA)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	7510000
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Agriculture	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	600000
Recipient Country Government	Banco Agricola	Loans	Investment mobilized	11000000
Recipient Country Government	Dominican Coffee Institute (Instituto Dominicano del Café INDOCAFE)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	167000
Others	ISA University	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	50000
Others	Autonomous University of Santo domingo (UASD)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	86000
Private Sector	San José de Ocoa Coffee Producers Nucleus (NUCASJO)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	22500
Private Sector	Esperanza Coffee Producers Association (ASOCAES)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	37500
GEF Agency	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	247685
<b>Total Co-financing</b>				<b>19,720,685.00</b>

Please describe the investment mobilized portion of the co-financing

- Investment mobilized from Banco Agricola corresponds to potential loans and grants mobilized by project beneficiaries. The proposed project will work with Banco Agricola to develop new lines of credit or reduce risk in existing ones

## ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

### GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Type	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
GEF Agency Coordinator		Jeffrey Griffin		
Project Coordinator		Hernan Gonzalez		hernan.gonzalez@fao.org
Project Coordinator		Asja Cortellessa		asja.cortellessa@fao.org

Record of Endorsement of GEF Operational Focal Point (s) on Behalf of the Government(s):

Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter(s) with this template.

Name of GEF OFP	Position	Ministry	Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
Milagro De Camps	Deputy Minister of Climate change and Sustainability	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	10/18/2023

## ANNEX C: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Please indicate the page number in the Project Document where the project results and M&E frameworks can be found. Please also paste below the Project Results Framework from the Agency document.

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumption s	Responsi ble for data collection
<b>Project Objective and indicators targets:</b>							
<b>Component 1: Strengthening the enabling environment for informed and integrated land use planning to achieve land degradation neutrality and climate change adaptation</b>							
<u>Outcome</u> 1.1. Strong enabling environment that supports improved decision-making towards LDN and adaptive development	% of key stakeholders that report increased capacity to monitor LDN and climate resilience	0	20	80%	Participant registration lists, training and engagement reports	Institutions and stakeholders remain willing to engage in alliances and capacity- building initiatives. There is adequate financial and technical support for the implemen- tation of land use planning and climate resilience strategies.	PMU
	# of institutions (by type) actively participating in integrated land use planning	0 (current planning processe s are top- down)	10	40	Meetings reports with evidence of participation		
	# of female-led organizations actively participating in integrated land use planning	0	3	8	Bylaws, membership lists, updated directories and meetings reports with evidence of participation		
	GEF Core Indicator 6.6: tCO <sub>2</sub> e GHG emissions	0	0	699,845.4 3 tCO <sub>2</sub> e	land use change monitoring, GHG reduction assessments.		

	avoided in the sector of Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use (indirect)						
	GEF Core indicator 11: # of people benefiting from GEF-financed investments (# of women and men)	0	1000	4,500 beneficiaries (900 women): 2,500 GIS users + 2,000 beneficiaries of the capacity development plan)	Participant registration lists, training and engagement reports.		
	SCCF Indicator 1: # of direct beneficiaries (# of women)	0	4,900 (2,400 women)	19,732 beneficiaries of improved land use plans (9,866 women)	Land use plan implementation reports, community engagement records.		
	SCCF Indicator 2.3: ha of rural landscape managed for climate resilience (ha)	A few initiatives exist		88,491 ha	Reports and photos of agriculture and forestry initiatives implemented GIS-based tracking		
	SCCF Indicator 3.1: # of gender responsive plans developed and strengthened that will mainstream climate resilience	0	Consultations and data gathering completed	4 (2 watershed scale plans and 2 revised municipal scale instruments)	Plans Documents and reports.		
<u>Output.1.1.1. Interdisciplinary, interinstitutional, and intersectoral alliances strengthened towards sustainable</u>	# of GTI meetings/work sessions	0	5	10	Meetings minutes and attendance list	Stakeholders actively participate, commit resources, and remain engaged in GTI	PMU GTI
	# of policy/technical documents prepared by GTI	0	4	8	Copies of documents, official publication records,		

<u>management, protection of natural resources and climate adaptation.</u>	# of partners in the RD-SP	0 (the RD-SP does not exist)	the RD-SP created with at least 10 partners	> 30	institutional approvals Constitution document, official member list	meetings and RD-SP activities. No major institutional or political changes hinder the implementation of policies, partnerships, and workplans	
<u>Output.1.1.2 A National Soil Information System developed and integrated into the National Environmental Information System</u>	% of soil survey executed	0	70%	100%	Survey reports, fieldwork completion records, georeferenced data.	Stakeholders actively collaborate in data collection, analysis, and integration processes. No major technical, institutional, or financial constraints delay the implementation of the National Soil Information System (RD-SIS).	PMU and Dirección de Información Ambiental y de Recursos Naturales (DIARENA)
# of soil samples analyzed	0	800	1200	Laboratory analysis reports, quality control/assurance records, national soil database updates.			
# of national soil single-property maps included in the NEIS	0	Soil legacy data and ancillary information gathered and harmonized	10 maps (including SOC, SOCseq, pH, nutrients and physical properties)	Digital soil maps, metadata records, integration reports within the National Environmental Information System (NEIS).			
<u>Output.1.1.3. A spatially explicit decision support system (DSS) integrating land degradation, soil properties and climate change related indicators</u>	# of validated maps on LDN and climate change adaptation relevant parameters uploaded to NEIS	5	10 (including land cover, land use, land productivity and climate risk)	15 (including land degradation sub-indicators)	Digital maps, metadata records, validation reports, NEIS integration logs.	National stakeholders actively participate in co-developing the RD-DSS and impact-indicator framework. The integration of data into	PMU and DIARENA
<u>co-developed with national stakeholders.</u>	Impact-indicator framework for land and climate related	0 (the existing framework does not track the	Consultation process completed	1 impact-framework able to feed the national policy and	Consultation process reports, framework document, approval records.		

	projects/program developed	impact of land and climate adaptation interventions and is not spatially explicit)		program monitoring system		DIARENA and NEIS proceeds without technical, financial, or institutional barriers.	
	# of projects/programs monitored using the impact-indicator framework, mapped, and uploaded to NEIS	0	0	1 (this project)	Monitoring reports, project impact assessments, NEIS upload confirmation		
	# of national data products included in the RD-DSS	0	13 (10 on LDN and climate and 3 of soil formation factors)	>26 (15 on LDN and climate, 10 of soil properties, and maps of project impact)	Data product inventory, system logs showing data integration, technical documentation of RD-DSS functionality.		
<u>Output 1.1.4. Technical capacity development program, with a gender sensitive approach, on LDN and CCA designed and implemented.</u>	% of actions of the capacity development plan implemented	0	60%	100%	Training session reports, attendance records, training materials.		PMU
<u>Output. 1.1.5 Land use plans updated for the target watersheds and at least two municipalities</u>	# of watershed scale ILUP developed	0	Consultations and data gathering completed	2	Updated watershed land use plans, consultation reports, climate risk and land potential assessment documents	Stakeholders actively participate in the planning processes, and institutional support ensures the integration and application of updated land use	PMU and Vice-Ministry of Land Planning and Regional Development (VIOTDR) collect and compile all
	# of planning instruments updated with adaptation considerations	0	2	4	Municipal planning documents, stakeholder engagement records,		

	at the municipal scale				normative gap assessment reports.	plans at watershed and municipal scales.	relevant data
<b>Component 2. Improving the resilience of ecosystems and communities in 2 prioritized watersheds through sustainable and inclusive land management in productive areas and land restoration in target ecosystems</b>							
<u>Outcome 2.1. Land is sustainably managed, degradation is reduced, and productivity stabilized or increased in the two priority watersheds</u>	GEF Core Indicator 3: Total hectares restored/rehabilitated	0	Restoration plans designed and implementation started in 1,000 ha of degraded agricultural lands and 960 ha of natural grass and woodlands	1,960 ha restored (1,000 ha of degraded agricultural lands under and 960 ha of natural grass and woodlands)	Site monitoring reports, restoration plans and implementation records, georeferenced data.	Stakeholders actively engage in restoration and sustainable land management practices. Adequate financial, technical, and institutional support ensures the success of fire management, agroforestry, and silvopastoral interventions	Ministry of Environment Ministry of Agriculture PMU
	GEF Core Indicator 4.1: Ha under improved management (wildfires) to benefit biodiversity	0	0	15,477 ha	Fire management plans, wildfire prevention reports, monitoring records.		
	GEF Core Indicator 4.3: Ha of landscapes under sustainable land management in production ecosystems	0	Restoration plans designed and implementation started in 1,830 Ha of agroforestry and 400 Ha of silvopastoral systems	2,230 ha improved (1,830 Ha of agroforestry and 400 Ha of silvopastoral systems)	Site-specific plans and Implementation reports, geospatial tracking, site monitoring records.		
	GEF Core Indicator 6.5: tCO <sub>2</sub> e GHG emissions avoided in the sector of Agriculture, Forestry, and	0	0	1,727,215.30 tCO <sub>2</sub> e	Carbon accounting reports, restoration impact assessments, improved management		

	Other Land Use (direct)				monitoring records, soil carbon stocks data		
	GEF Core Indicator 11: # of direct beneficiaries (# women)	0		13,907 beneficiaries (5,934 women)	Document of validated fire management plans. Workshops and trainings reports		
<u>Output.2.1.1. Priority slope lands in the upper basins and best management and restoration practices identified through participatory and gender responsive approaches.</u>	# of meetings/workshops for sites selection	0	5 at the end of year 2	5	Workshop reports, attendance lists, consultation records.	Local communities and stakeholders actively participate in site selection and restoration planning. Adequate financial and technical resources are available to support nursery development and restoration implementation	PMU and local implementing partners
	# of technologies and approaches inventoried and documented	0	at least 20	at least 30	Inventory reports, technical documents, publication under Component 4.		
	# of nurseries strengthened	0	4	6	Nursery assessment reports, infrastructure records, seed/vegetative material availability reports		
<u>Output.2.1.2. Priority slope lands in the upper basins restored/rehabilitated</u>	% of site-specific implementation plans developed	0	100% of plans developed by mid year 2	100%	Approved intervention plans, technical validation documents.	Restoration activities are implemented as planned, with adequate financial and technical resources. Monitoring systems are effectively set up and used to track progress.	PMU and local implementing partners
	Ha with restoration plans implemented	0	1,960 ha by the end of year 2	1,960 ha	Implementation progress reports, georeferenced land restoration records.		
	# of site monitoring reports submitted	0	Baseline report and 1 (yearly) Visual Soil Assessment (VSA) per site	End assessment and 3 (yearly) VSA per site	Baseline and annual VSA reports, final project assessment reports, biomass and biodiversity quantification reports		

<u>Output.2.1.3. Sustainable soil and land management practices implemented in prioritized lands, including agroforestry and silvopastoral systems</u>	% of site-specific implementation plans developed	0	100% of plans developed by mid year 2	100%	Approved intervention plans, technical validation documents.	Farmers and land managers actively engage in agroforestry and silvopastoral implementation. Sufficient resources and technical support are available to ensure the adoption and long-term sustainability of sustainable land management practices.	PMU and local implementing partners
	Ha with improved Agroforestry strategies implemented	0	1830 Ha implemented by the end of year 2	1830 Ha	Implementation progress reports, georeferenced records of agroforestry interventions		
	Ha of rangelands with improved silvopastoral management strategies implemented	0	400 Ha implemented by the end of year 2	400 Ha	Implementation reports, field validation records, georeferenced monitoring data.		
	# of site monitoring reports submitted	0	Baseline report and 1 (yearly) VSA per site	End assessment and 3 (yearly) VSA per site	Baseline and annual VSA reports, final project assessment reports, ecosystem services monitoring results.		
<u>Output 2.1.4. Technical assistance and rural advisory services strengthened to support sustainable land management and climate adaptation</u>	% of women in the capacity development program for extension agents	0	20%	20%	Capacity assessment report, training session records, post-training evaluation reports	Extension staff and local farmers actively participate in training and capacity-building initiatives. Institutional support ensures that knowledge transfer mechanisms and rural advisory services remain functional	PMU and SNCSA
	# of extensionists trained under the Soil Doctors Programme	0	30	50	Training attendance lists, certification records, follow-up reports on trained extensionists.		
	# of Soil Doctors in the target watersheds	0	100	300	Certification records, monitoring reports on Soil Doctors' activities, community engagement documentation.		

						beyond the project timeline	
<u>Output.2.1.5. Community surveillance and wildfire protection systems established/strengthened.</u>	# of awareness and training sessions/workshops implemented	0	6	15	Training reports, attendance lists, workshop materials, evaluation records.	Communities and local authorities actively participate in training and implementation of wildfire protection systems. Adequate resources and institutional support ensure the sustainability of fire management strategies	PMU and local fire management authorities
	% of women who participate in the community surveillance and protection system	0	20%	20%	Training reports, attendance lists, workshop materials, evaluation records.		
	# of communities that feed fire-management related data to national fire prevention systems	0	2	6	Data files and survey reports submitted		
<u>Outcome 2.2: Farming communities are more resilient to drought and flood through sustainable land management, including soil recarbonization</u>	SCCF Indicator 2.1: Ha agricultural land managed for climate resilience	0	3,700 Ha implemented at the end of year 2	3,700	Field monitoring reports, georeferenced data, implementation records of sustainable soil management practices	Farmers and local communities actively participate in training and adopt sustainable land management and climate adaptation strategies. Adequate technical support and financial resources are available to sustain soil recarbonization efforts.	PMU
	SCCF Indicator 4: # people trained or with awareness raised	0	800 beneficiaries (375 women): - 500 (75 women) from the Soil Doctors Programme - 300 women from non-farmer female-specific activities	2,500 beneficiaries (1250 women)	Training session reports, attendance lists, participant evaluation surveys, certification records  Activities records, surveys, attendance reports.		

			on improved drought and flood preparedness				
	CI 6.5: tCO <sub>2</sub> e GHG Carbon sequestered, or emissions avoided in the sector of Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use (direct)	0	0	166,086.72 tCO <sub>2</sub> e	Carbon accounting reports, MRV system data		
<u>Output.2.2.1. Agricultural soils managed for increased green water storage through soil recarbonization</u>	% increase in SOC in 3,700 ha of croplands	0	0	5%	Georeferenced records of implementation, field monitoring reports, results of the SSM Protocol	Farmers actively participate in soil recarbonization activities and apply best practices. Adequate resources and technical support ensure the adoption and sustainability of improved soil management practices.	PMU and SNCSA, in collaboration with local agricultural extension services and research institutions,
	# of farmers trained on soil recarbonization practices (# of women)	0	750	1500 (250 women)	Training session reports, attendance lists, post-training surveys.		
<u>Output.2.2.2. Blue water governance frameworks updated and measures to increase reservoir capacity implemented.</u>	# of water governance instruments revised	0	1	2	Official documents of revised governance frameworks, stakeholder consultation reports, validation records	Stakeholders actively engage in the participatory revision of governance frameworks. Institutional and technical resources are available	PMU and water resource management authorities
	# of water flow and quality monitoring reports from	0	baseline and 2 (yearly)	baseline and 4 (yearly)	Baseline water assessment reports, periodic monitoring data,		

	selected locations		measurements	measurements	hydrological and water quality analysis reports.	for water monitoring and the implementation of rainscaping measures	
<u>Output.2.2.3. Community scale drought and flood preparedness systems strengthened</u>	# of high-resolution drought and flood risk maps	0	6	15	Completed risk maps, GIS datasets, validation reports.	Communities actively participate in preparedness planning and adopt recommended measures. Adequate resources and technical support are available for implementing water management and climate resilience strategies	PMU and local disaster risk management authorities
	# of community scale drought and flood preparedness plans implemented	0	6	15	Approved community preparedness plans, stakeholder consultation records, implementation progress reports		
	# capacity development actions implemented	0	6	15	Training session reports, attendance lists, post-training evaluations, field visit documentation.		
	# of women reached through female-specific preparedness actions	0	300	1000	Training reports/Surveys on adaptation topics		
<u>Output.2.2.4 Existing Early Warning System for drought and flood resilience strengthened</u>	# of communities covered by the EWS	0	6	15	Municipal EWS implementation reports, stakeholder coordination records, documented emergency response protocols, records of digital platform accessibility and usage	Local authorities and stakeholders actively engage in EWS implementation and coordination. Adequate technical and financial resources are available to integrate meteorological data, maintain	PMU and Emergency Operations Center

						digital platforms, and conduct training sessions	
<b>Component 3: Improving financial environment and promoting entrepreneurship and sustainable livelihood development towards LDN and climate adaptation.</b>							
<u>Outcome 3.1 Improved financial environment that enables scaling SLM and SSM towards climate adaptation</u>	Amount of funds mobilized through project mechanisms.	0	Tbd Baseline financial assessment to be conducted in Year 1, after which targets will be updated		Financial agreements, investment reports, funding disbursement records.	Financial institutions, private sector actors, and policymakers support and participate in the development and implementation of financial mechanisms for SLM and SSM. Sufficient interest exists among producers and communities to access and utilize funding opportunities.	PMU and Financial institutions involved collect and compile the information
	GEF Core Indicator 11: # of beneficiaries (pilot incentives and biodiversity credits mechanisms) (# of women)	0	100 (20 women)	500 (100 women)	Beneficiary registration records, monitoring reports on incentives/biodiversity credits, stakeholder engagement documentation.		
<u>Output 3.1.1. Mechanisms that catalyze private sector investment to scale and replicate SSM and SLM strategies developed</u>	# of stakeholders involved in participatory development of Roadmap	0	15	20	Meeting/workshop reports, attendance lists, roadmap document, stakeholder agreements.	Stakeholders actively participate in roadmap and pilot mechanism development. Institutional support and financial backing ensure the operationalization of	PMU
	Ha under pilot biodiversity credits mechanism	0	100 Ha with biodiversity baseline completed	200 Ha with biodiversity baseline and under pilot mechanism	Baseline biodiversity assessment reports, MRV system documentation, official pilot project records		

	# of communities adopting the revolving fund strategy	0	1	5	Community engagement records, fund implementation agreements, monitoring reports on fund usage.	biodiversity credits and private-sector investment schemes.	
	Ha covered by incentives mechanism	0	100	300	Implementation reports, financial investment records, private sector agreements, georeferenced tracking of covered areas.		
<u>Output 3.1.2. Market access improved including product differentiation strategies.</u>	# of livelihood alternatives assessed	0	4 Ex-Ante assessments completed by the end of year 2	8 (4 Ex-Ante and 4 Ex-Post)	Ex-Ante and Ex-Post assessment reports, feasibility study documents.	Producers are willing and able to participate in market assessments and product differentiation initiatives. There is sufficient interest and engagement from buyers, financial institutions, and policymakers to enhance market access for sustainable products.	PMU
	# of priority crops and NTFP value chains assessed	0	1 crop and 1 NTFP	2 crops and 2 NTFP	Value chain analysis reports, market assessment studies, stakeholder consultation records.		
	# of product differentiation strategies developed for priority products	0	1	3	Official product differentiation strategy documents, certification/labeling initiatives, promotional materials.		
	# of B2B events facilitated	0	2	6	Event reports, attendance lists, agreements or partnerships established.		
<u>Outcome 3.2 Strengthened capacity to create and manage sustainable and climate resilient livelihood alternatives</u>	SCCF Indicator 5.4: # of MSMEs incubated/accelerated with technical assistance, financial	0	10	30	Investment agreements, grant disbursement records, financial reports from funded enterprises	Entrepreneurs actively engage in training and capacity-building programs. Financial	PMU and relevant financial institutions involved in the outcome-

	matchmaking, and/or direct financing					and technical support remains available to sustain business operations beyond the initial funding phase	
	# of initiatives funded that remain active the first year of operation (# of female led initiatives)	0	2	5 (2 female led)	Business registration records, operational monitoring reports, financial statements from enterprises.		
	GEF Core Indicator 11: # of beneficiaries (# women)	0	50 (10 women)	100 (20 women)	Participant registration records, business support program reports, stakeholder engagement documentation.		
<u>Output 3.2.1. Technical assistance program implemented to improve local businesses operations.</u>	# of business that receive support from the mentorship program (disaggregated by gender of entrepreneur)	0	10 (2 female-led enterprises)	30 (6 female-led enterprises)	Mentorship program records, participant registration lists, gender-disaggregated reports.	Entrepreneurs actively participate in the mentorship program and apply the knowledge gained. Sufficient resources and institutional support ensure the sustainability of business development initiatives.	PMU
	# of business developing a bankable project under the mentorship program	0	2	>5 (1 female-led business)	Approved business plans, feasibility assessments, investment readiness reports		
	# of peer-learning events organized	0	2	6	Event reports, attendance lists, learning materials, post-event evaluations.		
<u>Output 3.2.2. Investments in agriculture diversification and gender-sensitive and adaptive alternative livelihoods piloted</u>	# of women and youth-led businesses in the inventory	0 (currently no inventory exists)	10	>50	Completed inventory report, database of identified businesses, verification records from cooperatives/associations.	There is sufficient interest and participation from women and youth entrepreneurs. Funds are allocated transparently and effectively	PMU
	Amount of funds delivered to women and youth-led	0	tbd	tbd	Grant/funding distribution records, financial reports,		

	agricultural projects				agreements with beneficiaries.	to ensure the viability of supported businesses	
	Amount of funds invested in agro and -eco-tourism businesses	0	tbd	tbd	Investment agreements, financial records, business development monitoring reports.		
<b>Component 4: Knowledge Management and communication</b>							
<u>Outcome 4.1. Outscaling and sustainability of project results promoted through multilevel communication and knowledge management strategies</u>	SCCF Indicator 4: # of direct beneficiaries with awareness raised (% of women, % of youth)	0	200 (100 women, 50 youth)	1000 (500 women, 250 youth)	Event and communication action reports, surveys, stakeholder engagement records.	Stakeholders remain engaged and receptive to knowledge-sharing activities. Communication and outreach efforts effectively reach target audiences and provide accessible, relevant information	<u>PMU</u>
	GEF Core Indicator 11: # of direct beneficiaries (knowledge sharing actions for farmers, exchanges) (# of women, # of young)	0	30	100 (20 women, 20 young)	Attendance lists, participant evaluation surveys, stakeholder engagement records.		
	% of stakeholders that report increased awareness and knowledge on sustainable land management and climate change adaptation	0	50%	80%	Pre- and post-training surveys, stakeholder feedback forms, knowledge assessment reports.		
	% of women targeted by project activities with increased awareness and knowledge on sustainable land management and climate	0	50%	80%	Pre- and post-activity surveys, stakeholder feedback forms, knowledge assessment reports.		

	change adaptation						
<u>Output 4.1.1. Knowledge management plan developed and implemented</u>	% of the knowledge sharing strategy implemented	0	30	100	Progress reports on knowledge management activities, monitoring of implemented strategy components.	Stakeholders actively engage in knowledge-sharing activities, and South-South cooperation mechanisms function effectively. Sufficient resources are allocated for the production and dissemination of technical documents	PMU
	# of South-South knowledge sharing activities	0	4	10	Event reports, attendance lists, documentation of exchanges, joint training initiatives.		
	# of technical documents prepared and published	0	2	7	Published reports, distribution records, documentation of dissemination efforts		
<u>Output 4.1.2. Gender and age sensitive communication strategy developed and implemented</u>	% of the communication strategy implemented	0	30	100	Progress reports on communication activities, monitoring of implemented strategy components.	Stakeholders actively engage with communication materials and platforms. The selected communication channels effectively reach diverse audiences and promote sustainable management strategies.	PMU
	# of people reached by the communication strategy (disaggregated by target audience and gender)	0	tbd	tbd	Audience engagement reports, media analytics (social media metrics, TV/radio audience data), participant records from events and campaigns.		
	# of different media used within communication strategy with consideration	0	5	8	Documentation of media materials produced (radio, TV, press releases, social media posts,		

	to gender and age aspects				flyers, webinars), publication and dissemination records.		
Monitoring and Evaluation							
<u>M&amp;E 1.1. Data for project indicators collected (at least) on an annual basis</u>	% of project indicators updated annually	0	100	100	Annual monitoring reports, indicator tracking sheets, compiled datasets	All project indicators are measurable, and data can be collected without major constraints. Institutional capacity and resources remain available for timely M&E implementation.	PMU and M&E Specialist
<u>M&amp;E 1.2. Gender-sensitive and responsive Annual Project Implementation Reports (PIR), Project Mid-Term and Final Evaluations submitted to GEFSEC in a timely manner</u>	# of Annual PIRs, Mid-Term Review (MTR), and Final Evaluation reports submitted to GEFSEC on time	0	2 PIR, 1 MTR	4 PIR, 1 MTR, 1 FE	Submitted PIRs, Mid-Term Review (MTR), Final Evaluation reports, GEFSEC acknowledgment of receipt		
<u>M&amp;E 1.3. Gender Action Plan implemented and tracked</u>	% of Gender Action Plan activities implemented as per GAP schedule and indicators tracked	0	100	100	Gender Action Plan progress reports, documentation of gender-responsive activities, stakeholder engagement records.	Gender indicators are measurable, and data can be collected without major constraints. Institutional capacity and resources remain available for timely implementation.	

#### ANNEX D: STATUS OF UTILIZATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

Project Preparation Activities Implemented	GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)
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	Budgeted Amount	Amount Spent To date	Amount Committed
Activity 1. Technical consultancies and contracts to develop project proposal: Financial management and reporting on use of PPG funds, Leading preparation of overall PPG work plan, Develop list of most appropriate Sustainable Land Management options for target landscapes in pursuit of Land Degradation Neutrality Summarize opportunities to improve the overall system resilience of current land use systems; Develop and provide guidance on environmental and social criteria	110,392.00	27,322.00	83,070.00
Activity 2. Technical and validation workshops, trainings, local consultations and stakeholder engagements	9,000.00	2,560.00	6,440.00
Activity 3. Development of background papers to facilitate discussion during stakeholder consultation about GEF purposes and procedures	4,608.00	840.00	3,768.00
Activity 4. Travel costs for project preparation experts	18,000.00	3,042.00	14,958.00
Activity 5. Executing Partner capacity assessment	8,000.00		8,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>150,000.00</b>	<b>33,764.00</b>	<b>116,236.00</b>

## ANNEX E: PROJECT MAP AND COORDINATES

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Azua, Estebania, El Limon	18.5620373	-70.67967591	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Forest fire prevention and control

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Azua, Estebania, Rancho del Pino	18.60170727	-70.67853804	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Forest fire prevention and control

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
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Azua, Las Charcas, Duvergé	18.31017270	-70.52811315	
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Location Description:

Activity Description:

**Silvopastoral systems**

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Peravia, Baní, El Palmarito	18.27104260	-70.54757366	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

**Silvopastoral systems**

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Peravia, Baní, El Roblegar	18.33365954	-70.25133131	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

**Silvopastoral systems**

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Peravia, Baní, Honduras	18.43833898	-70.42656132	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

**Silvopastoral systems**

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Peravia, Baní, La Iguana	18.37626581	-70.29357909	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

**Silvopastoral systems**

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Peravia, Baní, Las Carreras	18.34644959	-70.46568925	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

**Silvopastoral systems**

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Peravia, Baní, Los Ranchitos	18.42794957	-70.45941580	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

**Silvopastoral systems**

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Peravia, Baní, Monte Llano	18.46019343	-70.30466169	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

**Silvopastoral systems**

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Peravia, Baní, Valdesia	18.42355570	-70.28383561	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

**Silvopastoral systems**

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Peravia, Nizao, Don Gregorio	18.24529499	-70.19503637	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Crop management and water management (including irrigation)

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Peravia, Nizao, Lucas Díaz	18.27443159	-70.20105559	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Crop management and water management (including irrigation)

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Peravia, Nizao, Santana	18.2787644	-70.20957603	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Crop management and water management (including irrigation)

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
San Cristóbal, Los Cacaos, Calderon	18.59215922	-70.30322218	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agroforestry

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
San Cristobal, Los Cacaos, El Guineo	18.53022841	-70.32778246	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Agroforestry

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
San Cristobal, Los Cacao, Los Naranjos	18.63096964	-70.34212511	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

**Agroforestry**

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
San Cristobal, Palenque, Sabana Palenque	18.24115416	-70.17601807	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

**Crop management and water management (including irrigation)**

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
San Jose de Ocoa, El Cercado	18.6262494	-70.65069563	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

**Forest restoration; fire control and prevention**

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
San Jose de Ocoa, El Higuito	18.65095399	-70.49469071	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

**Crop management, water management (including irrigation)**

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
San Jose de Ocoa, El Naranjal	18.54108297	-70.47269753	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

**Crop management, water management (including irrigation)**

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
San Jose de Ocoa, La Ciénaga	18.57471487	-70.4373715	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

**Crop management, water management (including irrigation)**

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
San Jose de Ocoa , Las Auyamas Arriba	18.61706653	-70.41667854	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

**Crop management, water management (including irrigation)**

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
San Jose de Ocoa , Las Cumbres	18.62700138	-70.45624504	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

**Crop management, water management (including irrigation)**

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
San Jose de Ocoa , Los Corozos	18.56497256	-70.57971617	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

**Forest restoration; fire control and prevention**

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
San Jose de Ocoa , Los Ranchitos	18.48608795	-70.48093412	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Crop management, water management (including irrigation)

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
San José de Ocoa , Los Tramojos	18.59653879	-70.62596204	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Forest restoration; fire control and prevention

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
San Jose de Ocoa , Rancho Arriba, Arroyo Caña	18.72475748	-70.42917637	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Forest restoration; fire control and prevention; crop management, water management (including irrigation)

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
San Jose de Ocoa , Rancho Arriba, Mahoma	18.68676027	-70.39581999	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Forest restoration; fire control and prevention; crop management, water management (including irrigation)

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
San Jose de Ocoa , Rancho Arriba, Quita Sueño	18.72864899	-70.50057497	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Forest restoration; fire control and prevention; crop management, water management (including irrigation)

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
San Jose de Ocoa , Sabana Larga	18.58697208	-70.5093613	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Crop management, water management (including irrigation)

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
San Jose de Ocoa , Sabana Larga, La Horma	18.65529778	-70.55183909	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Forest restoration; fire control and prevention

**Please provide any further geo-referenced information and map where project interventions are taking place as appropriate.**

The project will be implemented in the Nizao and Ocoa basins, located in the south-central zone of the Dominican Republic. Both basins total an area of approximately 172 thousand hectares, within the Valdesia region, and are part of the provinces of Azua (municipalities: Azua, Las Charcas, Peralta, Guayabal and Estebanía ), La Vega (municipality: Constanza), Monseñor Nouel (municipalities: Bonao and Piedra Blanca), Peravia (municipalities: Baní and Nazao), San Cristóbal (municipalities: San Cristóbal, Sabana Grande de Palenque, Cambita Garabitos, Villa Altagracia, Yaguata and Los Cacaos) and San José de Ocoa (municipalities: San José de Ocoa , Sabana Larga and Rancho Arriba).

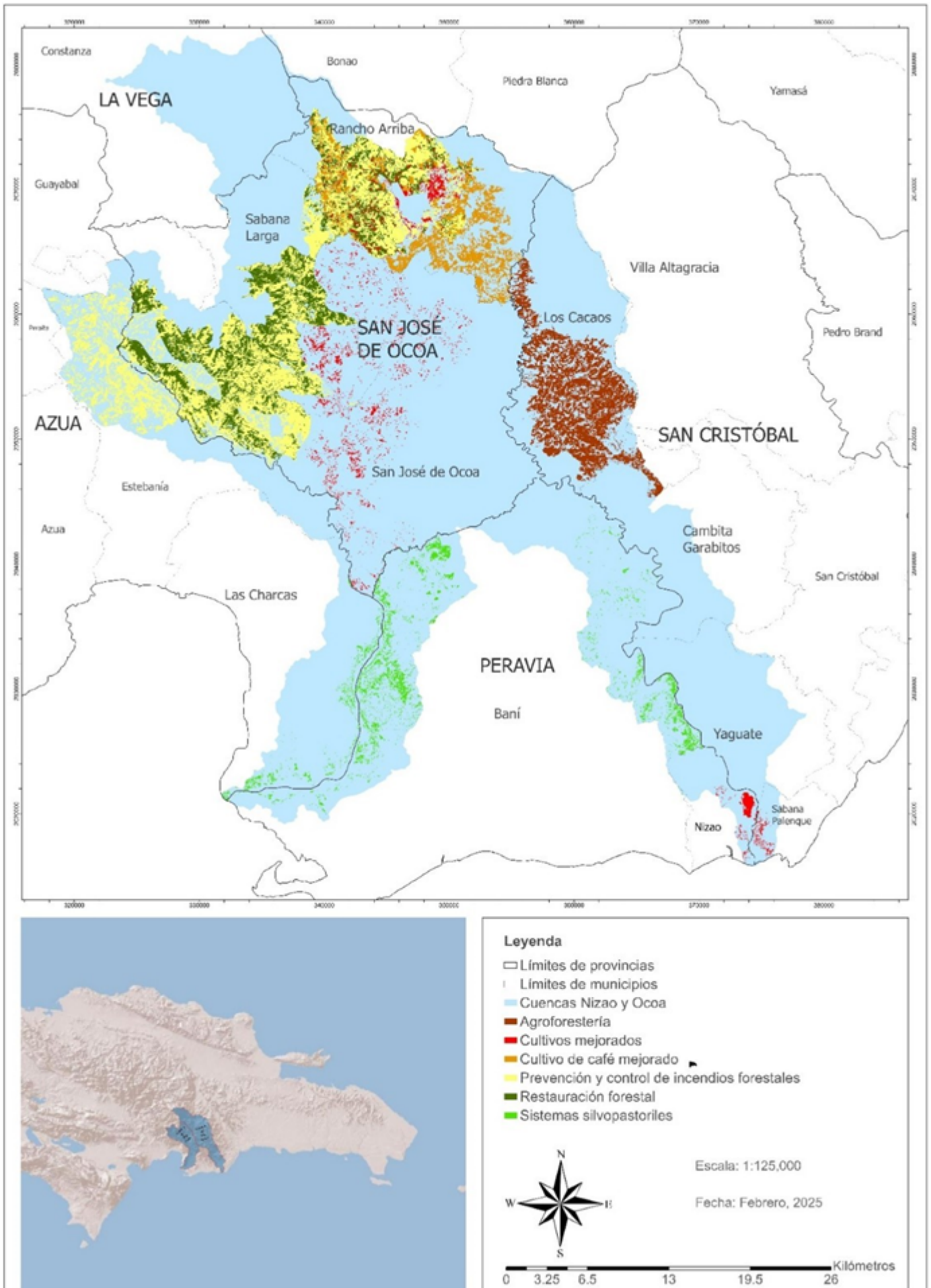
After data geoprocessing and consultations with key actors, four provinces have been prioritized for the project: Azua, Peravia, San Cristóbal and San José de Ocoa. The areas for the different activities have been prioritized on the basis of the criteria detailed in Annex O and are consistent with an integrated watershed management view. The areas indicated are larger than the targets set for the different activities of this project. This is because specific locations will be selected within them during implementation through participatory processes, considering availability of land and other activities carried out in the intervention area by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.

Based on the above, in Azua three sections of the upper part of the Ocoa basin of the municipality of Estebanía and the lower part of Las Charcas have been defined, while, for Peravia, eight sections of Baní have been defined. In the case of San Cristóbal, four sections of the Los Cacaos municipality have been preliminarily selected, as the municipality with the largest coffee growing area within the basins, as well as croplands of Palenque, in the lower part of Nizao. On the other hand, for the province of San José de Ocoa, three municipalities have been identified: (1) the San José de Ocoa municipality, with nine sections; (2) Rancho Arriba, with three sections and Sabana Larga, with two sections.

The below map is an illustration of the summary of actions by prioritized section. Detailed description of project areas for the different project activities is provided in Annex O - Detailed description of Project Area (uploaded in Roadmap, Documents section)







## ANNEX F: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SCREEN AND RATING

Attach agency safeguard datasheet/assessment report(s), including ratings of risk types and overall project/program risk classification as well as any management plans or measures to address identified risks and impacts (as applicable).

Title

Climate risk screening

Annex F. Environmental and Social Safeguards

## ANNEX G: BUDGET TABLE

Please upload the budget table here.

FAO Cost Categories	Component 1		Component 2			Component 3			Component 4		M&E	PMC	Total GEF	Exec uting Entity
	1,1	Total	2,1	2,2	Total	3,1	3,2	Total	4,1	Total				
<b>5013 Consultants</b>														
<i>Biodiversity Credit Mechanism Specialist</i>	-	-	-	-	-	12.000	12.000	<b>24.000</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>24.000</b>	MIMA RENA
Sub-total international Consultants	-	-	-	-	-	12.000	12.000	24.000	-	-	-	-	24.000	
<i>Chief Technical Advisor</i>	53.800	<b>53.800</b>	31.900	31.900	<b>63.800</b>	27.405	31.900	<b>59.305</b>	3.800	<b>3.800</b>	-	59.295	<b>240.000</b>	MIMA RENA
<i>Operations and Finance Specialist</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100.800	<b>100.800</b>	MIMA RENA
<i>Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38.000	<b>38.000</b>	113.200	-	<b>151.200</b>	MIMA RENA
<i>Land Degradation and Soil Specialist (Comp. 1)</i>	144.000	<b>144.000</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>144.000</b>	MIMA RENA
<i>Climate Resilience and Risk Management Specialist (Comp. 2)</i>	-	-	54.000	54.000	<b>108.000</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>108.000</b>	MIMA RENA
<i>Climate Finance Mechanisms and PES Specialist (Comp. 3)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	36.000	36.000	<b>72.000</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>72.000</b>	MIMA RENA
<i>Communication and knowledge Management (Comp. 4)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	108.000	<b>108.000</b>	-	-	<b>108.000</b>	MIMA RENA
<i>GIS Specialist</i>	22.500	<b>22.500</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>22.500</b>	MIMA RENA
Specialist in Agribusiness and Sustainable Tourism (market and business plans)	-	-	-	-	-	45.000	-	<b>45.000</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>45.000</b>	MIMA RENA
Stakeholder Engagement Specialist	20.250	<b>20.250</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>20.250</b>	MIMA RENA

Social Safeguards and Gender Specialist	5.625	<b>5.625</b>	2.813	2.813	<b>5.626</b>	2.812	2.812	<b>5.624</b>	5.625	<b>5.625</b>	-	-	<b>22.500</b>	MIMA RENA
Specialist in Sustainable Livestock	-	-	20.250	-	<b>20.250</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>20.250</b>	MIMA RENA
Extension and rural development specialist	-	-	33.600	33.600	<b>67.200</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>67.200</b>	MIMA RENA
Driver	11.250	<b>11.250</b>	5.625	5.625	<b>11.250</b>	5.625	5.625	<b>11.250</b>	11.250	<b>11.250</b>	-	-	<b>45.000</b>	MIMA RENA
Sub-total National Consultants	257.425	257.425	148.188	127.938	276.126	116.842	76.337	193.179	166.675	166.675	113.200	160.095	1.166.700	
<b>5013 Sub-total consultants</b>	257.425	<b>257.425</b>	148.188	127.938	<b>276.126</b>	128.842	88.337	<b>217.179</b>	166.675	<b>166.675</b>	<b>113.200</b>	<b>160.095</b>	<b>1.190.700</b>	
<b>5650 Contracts</b>														
Contract for implementation of SLM/SSM in the prioritized watersheds	-	-	250.000	-	<b>250.000</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>250.000</b>	MIMA RENA
Fund for the establishment of PES and biodiversity credits mechanism pilots	-	-	-	-	-	226.762,00	-	<b>226.762,00</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>226.762,00</b>	MIMA RENA
Fund or seed capital to support participation of agro-entrepreneurs and SSM and SLM-based initiatives in value chains and markets. (Business plans)	-	-	-	-	-	-	80.000	<b>80.000</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>80.000</b>	MIMA RENA
Contract to implement Soil Doctors Programme	-	-	120.000	-	<b>120.000</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>120.000</b>	MIMA RENA
Contract to design land use plans (watershed and municipal)	87.500	<b>87.500</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>87.500</b>	MIMA RENA
Contract for Entrepreneur Capacity Development Programme	20.000	<b>20.000</b>	10.000	10.000	<b>20.000</b>	10.000	10.000	<b>20.000</b>	20.000	<b>20.000</b>	-	-	<b>80.000</b>	MIMA RENA
Contract for the design and implementation of a drought and flood Early Warning System in the prioritized watersheds	-	-	50.000	-	<b>50.000</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>50.000</b>	MIMA RENA
Contract for the Design and implementation of plan for Prevention and management of forest fires in the prioritized watersheds	-	-	50.000	-	<b>50.000</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>50.000</b>	MIMA RENA
Contract for value chain assessment and development	-	-	-	-	-	25.000	25.000	<b>50.000</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>50.000</b>	MIMA RENA
Mid-term Review	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35.000	-	<b>35.000</b>	FAO
Terminal Evaluation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50.000	-	<b>50.000</b>	FAO
Terminal Report	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6.650	-	<b>6.650</b>	FAO
OPIM Audit	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35.000	<b>35.000</b>	FAO
OPIM spot check	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38.000	-	<b>38.000</b>	FAO
<b>5650 Sub-total Contracts</b>	107.500	<b>107.500</b>	480.000	10.000	<b>490.000</b>	261.762	<b>115.000</b>	<b>376.762</b>	20.000	<b>20.000</b>	<b>129.650</b>	<b>35.000</b>	<b>1.158.912</b>	

<b>5021 Travel</b>														
<i>International travel</i>	6.000	<b>6.000</b>	6.000	6.000	<b>12.000</b>	3.000	3.000	<b>6.000</b>	6.000	<b>6.000</b>	-	-	<b>30.000</b>	MIMA RENA
<i>National travel and recurrent mobility expenditures</i>	45.000	<b>45.000</b>	32.500	32.500	<b>65.000</b>	22.500	22.500	<b>45.000</b>	45.000	<b>45.000</b>	-	-	<b>200.000</b>	MIMA RENA
<b>5021 Sub-total travel</b>	<b>51.000</b>	<b>51.000</b>	<b>38.500</b>	<b>38.500</b>	<b>77.000</b>	<b>25.500</b>	<b>25.500</b>	<b>51.000</b>	<b>51.000</b>	<b>51.000</b>	-	-	<b>230.000</b>	
<b>5023 Training</b>														
<i>DR-NSP (inception, yearly workshops, follow up meetings and attendance to ASLAC and GSP-PA, South-South, Knowledge management, Knowledge sharing)</i>	10.000	<b>10.000</b>	5.000	5.000	<b>10.000</b>	5.000	5.000	<b>10.000</b>	10.000	<b>10.000</b>	-	-	<b>40.000</b>	MIMA RENA
<i>Participatory workshops (land use planning) / (site and practices selection)</i>	60.000	<b>60.000</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>60.000</b>	MIMA RENA
<i>Training Program: Organization of workshops (survey design, fieldwork methodologies, analytical SOPs, databases, mapping, LDN, DSS)</i>	100.800	<b>100.800</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>100.800</b>	MIMA RENA
<i>Hands-on training: Integrated Land Use Planning</i>	12.000	<b>12.000</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>12.000</b>	MIMA RENA
<i>Training Program (Climate risk assessment, mapping and scenarios)</i>	-	-	-	14.000	<b>14.000</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>14.000</b>	MIMA RENA
<i>Training Program (implementation of the Agricultural Stress Index System (ASIS) for remote sensing of vegetation cover, water stress and land surface temperature).</i>	-	-	-	15.000	<b>15.000</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>15.000</b>	MIMA RENA
<i>Training Program (forest fire management for community members and identifying critical and vulnerable areas).</i>	-	-	-	35.000	<b>35.000</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>35.000</b>	MIMA RENA
<i>Training Program (Gender Action Plan)</i>	10.000	<b>10.000</b>	5.000	5.000	<b>10.000</b>	5.000	5.000	<b>10.000</b>	10.000	<b>10.000</b>	-	-	<b>40.000</b>	MIMA RENA
<i>Inception Workshop</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7.000	-	<b>7.000</b>	MIMA RENA
<i>Terminal workshop</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7.000	-	<b>7.000</b>	MIMA RENA
<b>5023 Sub-total training</b>	<b>192.800</b>	<b>192.800</b>	<b>10.000</b>	<b>74.000</b>	<b>84.000</b>	<b>10.000</b>	<b>10.000</b>	<b>20.000</b>	<b>20.000</b>	<b>20.000</b>	<b>14.000</b>	-	<b>330.800</b>	
<b>5024 Expendable procurement</b>														
<i>Workshop materials</i>	10.000	<b>10.000</b>	5.000	5.000	<b>10.000</b>	5.000	5.000	<b>10.000</b>	10.000	<b>10.000</b>	-	-	<b>40.000</b>	MIMA RENA
<i>Publications (Dissemination of findings and communication materials)</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25.000	<b>25.000</b>	-	-	<b>25.000</b>	MIMA RENA
<i>Training programme materials and operation of the fire brigades</i>	50.000	<b>50.000</b>	-	50.000	<b>50.000</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>100.000</b>	MIMA RENA

Soil and water sample collection and analysis	240.00 0	<b>240.00</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>240.00</b> 0	MIMA RENA
Materials and equipment for SSM implementation in croplands (seeds, seedlings fertilizers, agricultural supplies and materials, etc).	-	-	135.00 0	135.00	<b>270.00</b> 0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>270.00</b> 0	MIMA RENA
Equipment and materials to support the National Reforestation Plan (Seedlings, equipment for nurseries, etc).	-	-	175.00 0	175.00	<b>350.00</b> 0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>350.00</b> 0	MIMA RENA
Materials and equipment to implement Agroforestry and Silvopastoral models	-	-	177.50 0	177.50	<b>355.00</b> 0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>355.00</b> 0	MIMA RENA
<b>5024 Sub-total expendable procurement</b>	<b>300.00</b> 0	<b>300.00</b>	<b>492.50</b> 0	<b>542.50</b>	<b>1.035.000</b>	<b>5.000</b>	<b>5.000</b>	<b>10.000</b>	<b>35.00</b> 0	<b>35.00</b> 0	-	-	1.380.0 00		
<b>5025 Non-expendable procurement</b>															
Drones+ software and GPS	36.400	<b>36.40</b> 0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>36.400</b>	MIMA RENA
Computers, Laptops and Peripherals	3.400	<b>3.400</b>	1.700	1.700	<b>3.400</b>	1.700	1.700	<b>3.400</b>	3.400	<b>3.400</b>	-	-	<b>13.600</b>	MIMA RENA	
<b>5025 Sub-total Non-expendable procurement</b>	<b>39.800</b>	<b>39.80</b> 0	<b>1.700</b>	<b>1.700</b>	<b>3.400</b>	<b>1.700</b>	<b>1.700</b>	<b>3.400</b>	<b>3.400</b>	<b>3.400</b>	-	-	50.000		
<b>5028 GOE budget</b>															
Telecommunication costs	3.750	<b>3.750</b>	1.875	1.875	<b>3.750</b>	1.875	1.875	<b>3.750</b>	3.750	<b>3.750</b>	-	-	<b>15.000</b>	MIMA RENA	
Office running costs (Printing, publications, Office Equipments)	11.400	<b>11.40</b> 0	5.700	5.700	<b>11.400</b>	5.700	5.700	<b>11.400</b>	11.40 0	<b>11.40</b> 0	-	15.20 0	<b>60.800,000</b>	MIMA RENA	
<b>5028 Sub-total GOE budget</b>	<b>15.150</b>	<b>15.15</b> 0	<b>7.575</b>	<b>7.575</b>	<b>15.150</b>	<b>7.575</b>	<b>7.575</b>	<b>15.150</b>	<b>15.15</b> 0	<b>15.15</b> 0	-	15.20 0	<b>75.800</b>		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>963.67</b> 5	<b>963.675</b>	<b>1.178.463</b>	<b>802.213</b>	<b>1.980.676</b>	<b>440.379</b>	<b>253.112</b>	<b>693.491</b>	<b>311.225</b>	<b>311.225</b>	<b>256.850</b>	<b>210.295</b>	<b>4.416.212</b>		

Please explain any aspects of the budget as needed here

## ANNEX I: 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.

### Responses to Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) comments

This annex responds to the observations and recommendations of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) based on elements that seek to reduce the risks of the design of GEF projects and programs. This advice increases the probability of obtaining lasting results that contribute to achieving transformative change, such as that sought with Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN).

#### **Comments or recommendation number 1:**

“Recommendation de STAP “also appreciates the climate information provided, including downscaled information for the target sites. Drawing from this information will be necessary to inform sustainable land management and LDN interventions. A broader consideration of other key drivers of change besides climate that affect the socioecological systems, presently and in the future, will also be necessary. A simple qualitative analysis, or narrative, of the key drivers, and how they may affect the outcomes, will help envision whether, and how, these drivers can create opportunities, or challenges, to resilience”.

This information has been incorporated into the description of the sites and their problems and is also clearly described in the section where the identified barriers are described:

In addition to the identified barriers, several key drivers influence the socio-ecological systems within the project area, presenting both challenges and opportunities for resilience. Among them, markets have a prominent role as driver of change. For example, the increasing profitability of crops different than coffee (particularly avocado) has encouraged farmers to shift away from coffee. While this shift may enhance short-term economic returns, it poses risks to biodiversity and ecosystem services, as coffee agroforestry systems traditionally support greater biodiversity and contribute to soil and water conservation than other crops. Further, cultivating crops such as avocado on steep slopes can exacerbate soil erosion and water use. The project will consider the socio-economic context and the market opportunities to promote good practices and to increase revenue of the most environmentally favourable crops, including mixed cropping systems to mitigate erosion risks and enhance economic resilience.

Other drivers of degradation include land tenure insecurity, which exacerbates land-related conflicts, and socio-economic inequalities that limit vulnerable groups’ access to resources and decision-making processes and pushes them to the cultivation of marginal lowly productive lands, thus increasing erosion and biodiversity loss. Promoting the participation of those groups in decision-making and ensuring that project benefits are shared is fundamental for changing attitudes towards sustainable practices. Additionally, slow adoption of innovative technologies and unsustainable livestock grazing practices contribute to ongoing degradation. These drivers underscore the importance of targeted capacity building, participatory planning, and public-private partnerships to achieve long-term project objectives.

#### **Comments or recommendation number 2:**

“While the LDN logic is robust, STAP would encourage the project team to consider the following issues to strengthen the project: As a preparatory activity, or as part of the enabling environment component, suggest **conducting a land potential assessment**. This assessment informs integrated land use planning and the LDN hierarchy of avoiding, reducing, or reversing land degradation via rehabilitation or restoration measures. Guidance on carrying out a land potential assessment can be found in these two resources: <https://stapgef.org/index.php/resources/advisory-documents/guidelines-land-degradation-neutrality> <https://www.unccd.int/resources/reports/contribution-integrated-land-use-planning-and-integrated-landscape-management> o The central feature of LDN is counterbalancing anticipated net losses

with planned gains. In this regard, STAP recommends assessing and managing for trade-offs between land uses (e.g., trade-offs between agriculture, agroforestry, silvopastoral) and ecosystems. Close monitoring should be paid to climate change impact on land degradation and ecosystem services. Climate change could lead to net losses even though the project is working to reduce, or reverse land degradation. As the PIF states, the project will contribute to equitable development in the country by addressing land tenure insecurity through several ways, such as promoting PES and encouraging community participating in land management. In addition to these efforts, STAP highly encourages the project team to adopt the nine pathways in the **“Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure for Land, Fisheries and Forest (VGGT)”** into the implementation of the UNCCD and LDN”, which it cites in the PIF. For example, the first pathway aligns with component 1 as it encourages coherence between policies, and regulatory frameworks, to support land tenure across governance scales”.

This information has been incorporated into “Land use plans updated for the target watersheds and at least two municipalities”. The upgraded watershed scale plans will update and build on existing watershed land planning instruments such as the Priority Basin Plan and the rapid action projects under it. For that, watershed scale climate risk and land potential assessments will be produced. The assessments will inform not only the ILUP process but also the activities under outcomes 2.1 and 2.2. Ecosystem services and ecological connectivity will be essential criteria for the land use zonation, which will also consider the updated soil information produced under outputs 1.1.2 and 1.1.3 and an Integrated Water Management (IWM) approach (actions in that regard implemented under Outcome 2.2). Current and potential climate-change-related impacts and trade-offs will be specifically looked at to ensure advances towards LDN under different climate scenarios.

Moreover, the project will carry out a normative gap assessment regarding municipal scale planning instruments, employ participatory processes to identify and navigate current land use conflicts, updating the existing land use conflict maps and assessing tradeoffs. It will also invest in data gathering, engaging and liaising with stakeholders, and contribute specialized technical input, in e.g. gender sensitive climate risk assessments, towards the improvement of existing land related instruments and the development strategic framework for land planning.

Regarding the adoption of the **“Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (DVGT)”**<sup>1</sup> for the implementation of the UNCCD and LDN” (in both basins), as can be seen in the description Component 1 of the project, results and associated activities promotes coherence between policies and regulatory frameworks to support land tenure at all scales of governance. It also includes environmental and social safeguards, and includes associated claims and complaints mechanisms, including references to expropriations and compensation, as well as the regulated management of territories.

In its component 2: Improves the resilience of ecosystems and communities, through sustainable land management in productive areas and land restoration, aligning with the DVGT since this component supports agri-food systems and contributes to food security, the eradication of hunger (SDG2) and the reduction of poverty (SDG 1) in these vulnerable areas. The description of component 3 of the project Improving the financial environment and promoting entrepreneurship and livelihood development is also consistent with the guidelines since it provides for mechanisms that catalyze investment, improve market access and agricultural diversification, among others.

**Comments or recommendation number 3: STAP. Regarding the assessment of climate risk**

The project will address climate risks. In its Outcome 2.1: Sustainably managed lands, reduced degradation and increased productivity in the two priority basins, will be achieved through the five outputs and related activities. “Climate risk at a local scale will be considered during participatory field discussions. to select lands and site-specific management/restoration approaches, which will form the basis of site intervention plans (based on outcomes 2.1.2 and 2.1.3).”

This participatory evaluation will be key to the identification of priority lands in both basins. Likewise, the selection of the best management and restoration practices, beneficiaries and investment priorities will be carried out, through participatory approaches and with a gender perspective.

#### **Comments or recommendation number 4:**

STAP suggests **consulting the document “Land, drought and risk management nexus”**. A summary of the review of the reference document is provided below:

The GEF-8 approach is consistent with the principles outlined in the document “*The Nexus between Land, Drought, and Risk Management*” developed by the *Science-Policy Interface (SPI) of the UNCCD*. This document addresses the crucial link between land degradation, drought, and associated risks. It focuses on supporting the achievement of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and provides evidence-based information to integrate sustainable land management and drought adaptation strategies.

The project also establishes the connection between land degradation and drought, recognizing that the former increases the vulnerability of ecosystems and communities to this phenomenon. It reflects in multiple sections that poor soil management, deforestation, and unsustainable resource use contribute to exacerbating the effects of drought.

The project addresses risk management, including an Early Warning System (EWS). It envisions promoting sustainable strategies to enhance resilience against drought, implementing practices such as reforestation, sustainable agriculture, and the restoration of degraded lands.

Additionally, it will promote policies and integrated approaches, emphasizing the need to incorporate drought risk management into sustainable development strategies. From Component 1 and throughout all four components, the document outlines coordinated actions among public and private sectors, along with non-governmental and grassroots organizations. This includes the agricultural, water, and forestry sectors to mitigate impacts and implement adaptation measures.

The project considers vulnerable communities and social inequalities in its proposed mitigation and adaptation strategies. Overall, the document promotes an inclusive approach and gender perspective to ensure that populations most affected by drought benefit from the interventions. The project includes accessible monitoring systems and data to evaluate drought risk and land degradation. It will feature indicators to measure progress toward land degradation neutrality.

*In Component 3*, it suggests fostering technological innovation and mobilizing financial resources for restoration and risk prevention projects. Through its components and indicators, it proposes that both government and private actors invest in sustainable solutions to meet climate commitments, such as LDN.

The project includes this approach as it: Aims to establish integrated frameworks to address land degradation and drought simultaneously, provided the proposed EWS harmonizes both issues, proposes strengthening local capacities to implement adaptive solutions, establishes connections with regional initiatives and promotes regional cooperation on land, particularly soil and resources in both basins, from

*Component 1 activities.* GEF-8 aligns with the report as it not only seeks to achieve LDN but also aims to reduce disaster risk and strengthen global climate resilience, as stated in its objective.

**Comments or recommendation number 5:**

STAP suggests including climate information on changes in local rainfall patterns for Ocoa y Nizao. A summary of the information contained in the National Drought Plan and considered in the description of climate risks is included.

At a local level and regarding seasonal changes that may be affecting the land, the basins of the Ocoa and Nizao rivers have rainfall patterns influenced by topography and trade winds, characterized by a tropical island climate. These areas experience two main rainy seasons: the first from May to June and the second from September to November. Between these periods, a relative decrease in rainfall is observed, with a drier season prevailing from December to April. This seasonal pattern is fundamental for agriculture and water resource management in the region.

In the past five years, significant variations in rainfall patterns have been recorded in these basins. According to the National Drought Plan of the Dominican Republic, the country has faced severe droughts in recent years, particularly affecting the southwestern and south-central regions, where the Ocoa and Nizao basins are located. These droughts have altered the distribution and quantity of rainfall, reducing water availability and affecting the regulatory functions of infiltration and rainwater retention in the basins. These changes have increased the vulnerability of local communities, underscoring the need for adaptive water resource management strategies to mitigate the impacts of climate change in these areas.

At the national level, desertification processes are present in the Enriquillo Region, Northwest Region, El Valle Region, and Valdesia Region, where GEF-8 will be implemented. These processes are driven by deforestation, forest land invasion for agricultural purposes, the construction of irrigation canals in low-lying semi-arid areas, and the incorporation of large areas for irrigated agriculture. One of the causes of degradation due to erosive processes stems from intensive soil use without proper conservation practices to address these seasonal changes.

Regarding changes in seasonal rainfall patterns, in addition to the reference made in the project, the Stakeholder Engagement Plan states: 'Climate projections for the DR include changes in rainfall patterns in the country, reductions in annual precipitation accumulations and severe droughts, especially in areas located downwind of the main mountain ranges, typically characterized by drier climates. Temperature increases are expected, with a pronounced impact in the country and its southern part, coinciding with the project area. These climatic changes will significantly affect several sectors, including crop areas, reduced water resources, municipal management challenges, increased damage to infrastructure and growing economic pressures.'

In this scenario, the participation of the different interested parties is of utmost importance to help overcome the barriers represented by the limited enabling environment, the limitations of information to support decision-making processes on LDN, addressing climate risks and the lack of informations.

**Comments or recommendation number 6:**

TAP requests "to inform how stakeholders would benefit from the project to ensure that the overall environmental benefits and/or adaptation benefits are lasting".

Stakeholder contributions strengthen institutional capacity and governance frameworks for sustainable land management (SLM) and biodiversity conservation. Additional benefits include better coordination between national and local authorities, improved decision-making through tools such as the National Soil Information System and Decision Support Systems, and scalable policy reforms informed by academic expertise.

In terms of *capacity development*, the project aligns with STAP's focus on strengthening human, institutional and technical capacities as prerequisites for long-term transformation. Training programs target farmers, women and youth, equipping them with the skills necessary for sustainable land management and climate-resilient practices. Gender-responsive leadership initiatives empower these groups to actively participate in decision-making, fostering inclusion and equity. Institutional capacity is strengthened through technical assistance and workshops provided to the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and local governments, enabling effective integration of SLM practices into planning processes. Advanced tools such as the SINI and DSS enhance technical capacity, enabling stakeholders to effectively implement and monitor land use interventions. By addressing capacity gaps at all levels, the project ensures that its results are scalable, sustainable and resilient.

Additional benefits include increased resilience to climate impacts, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, improved soil health and water retention. Training programmes empower women and youth, fostering inclusion and long-term community stability. By focusing on achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and reducing climate vulnerability through the implementation of adaptation measures, the project can generate significant global environmental benefits, aligned with the IPCC and UNCCD targets, respectively. Community and private sector engagement in sustainable land management restores degraded ecosystems and improves productivity. Additional benefits include increased resilience to climate impacts, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, improved soil health and water retention. Training programmes empower women and youth, fostering inclusion and long-term community stability. By focusing on achieving Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and reducing climate vulnerability through the implementation of adaptation measures, the project can generate significant global environmental benefits, aligned with the objectives of the IPCC and UNCCD, respectively. These benefits include the restoration of degraded ecosystems, an increase in carbon sequestration in soils and vegetation, and an improvement in biodiversity, promoting resilience to extreme climate events. These outcomes directly contribute to climate change mitigation and the sustainability of natural resources.

For the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, this type of project offers an opportunity to comply with international commitments such as the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). In addition, it strengthens national capacities in sustainable land management, ecosystem monitoring and climate adaptation, improving environmental governance and positioning the country as a leader in nature-based solutions.

On the other hand, the Ministry of Agriculture can benefit through co-benefits such as an increase in sustainable agricultural productivity, restoration of soil fertility and reduction of the vulnerability of agricultural systems to droughts and floods. These improvements not only improve food security, but also reduce costs associated with productivity loss and climate impacts.

Co-benefits are also addressed in Annex J (Stakeholder Engagement Plan, uploaded in the Roadmap, Documents section) to interested parties. Additional benefits of improvements in the value chain include greater access to markets, the adoption of green technologies to reduce the environmental footprint and the financial inclusion of companies run by women and youth, ensuring economic sustainability and environmental.

