GEF-8 REQUEST FOR CEO ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

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General Project Information

Project Title Climate Adaptation and Resilience Enhancement for South Sudan (CARES)	
Region South Sudan	GEF Project ID 11322
Country(ies) South Sudan	Type of Project FSP
GEF Agency(ies): FAO	GEF Agency Project ID 746386
Project Executing Entity(s) Ministry of Environment and Forestry ACTED VSF-DE FAO	Project Executing Type Government CSO CSO GEF Agency
GEF Focal Area (s) Climate Change	Submission Date 1/8/2025
Type of Trust Fund LDCF	Project Duration (Months) 60
GEF Project Grant: (a) 8,932,420.00	GEF Project Non-Grant: (b) 0.00
Agency Fee(s) Grant: (c) 848,580.00	Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant (d) 0.00
Total GEF Financing: (a+b+c+d) 9,781,000.00	Total Co-financing 27,132,520.00
PPG Amount: (e) 200,000.00	PPG Agency Fee(s): (f) 19,000.00
Total GEF Resources: (a+b+c+d+e+f) 10,000,000.00	
Project Tags CBIT: No NGI: No SGP: No Innovation: No	
Project Sector (CCM Only) Climate Change Adaptation Sector	

Taxonomy

Stakeholders, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Income Generating Activities, Sustainable Livelihoods, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Sustainable Pasture Management, Drought Mitigation, Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach, Sustainable Agriculture, Sustainable Forest, Ecosystem Approach, Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques, Food Security, Gender Equality, Access and control over natural resources, Gender results areas, Capacity Development, Access to benefits and services, Awareness Raising, Participation and leadership, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Women groups, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender-sensitive indicators, Beneficiaries, Training, Knowledge Generation, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Focal Areas

Rio Markers

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

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)

South Sudan is heavily dependent on rain-fed smallholder agriculture, livestock farming, pastoralism and non-timber forest products for the food security and livelihoods of the majority of its population.

Development of agricultural production systems has however been challenged by the legacy of the civil wars, the persistence of ethnic conflicts, extreme poverty, growing population numbers, poor infrastructure, and a lack of integrated planning and extension services. Widespread land degradation has taken place through unsustainable agricultural and grazing practices, deforestation for fuelwood and charcoal production, illegal logging and mining. A comprehensive spatial analysis, using satellite imagery, land cover mapping, and expert knowledge, revealed a significant loss of forest land in South Sudan – an estimated 1,144,798 hectares between 2010 and 2023. Degradation of agricultural, pastoral and forested lands jeopardises ecosystem services such as food and fodder production, water retention and aquifer recharging, and hence the food security and the livelihoods of the people living off these lands. Degraded lands are moreover extremely vulnerable to any additional physical stressors, and in particular to extreme weather events. The capacity of smallholder farmers to absorb or overcome the issuing damages, or to proactively plan to reduce climate related risks is, due to the underlying factors listed above, extremely limited.

As climate change accelerates, its impacts risk exacerbating existing social, economic, and environmental drivers of insecurity at local levels (where communities struggle to cope with converging pressures). At the same time, insecurity hinders climate change adaptation efforts, and risks leaving already vulnerable communities even poorer and less resilient to interlinked climate and security crises. With climate models outputs projecting a further overall rise in average temperature, as well as an increase in the frequency, intensity and duration of droughts, extreme rainfall events and floods, it becomes hence urgent to further equip South Sudan with the human and technical capacities, regulatory frameworks and governance mechanisms, as well as the practical local and national know-how for integrated and climate resilient planning, exploitation and management of its agricultural and pastoral lands, so that smallholder agriculture, livestock farming, pastoralism and non-timber forest production can deliver food security and sustainable livelihoods in an integrated way.

The CARES project seeks to address these challenges by increasing South Sudan's resilience to climate change. The project will work to improve the enabling environment for integrated planning and support services for sustainable agriculture. This involves restoring degraded land to improve productivity and ecological function, while also promoting nature-based land use and management practices that work with natural processes. By harnessing these natural processes, the project aims to enhance agricultural productivity, support climate change adaptation, and conserve biodiversity. CARES will also focus on

strengthening agricultural value chains by developing sustainable systems of cropping, livestock, and forestry management. A key component of the project is increasing knowledge and awareness of nature-based, sustainable agriculture practices and the importance of ecosystem conservation. To foster collaboration and sustainable natural resource management, the CARES project will promote community-based solutions and conflict resolution mechanisms, encouraging coordination among stakeholders. The project places a special emphasis on empowering women as agents of change, innovation, and sustainability. The CARES project will address deforestation by implementing policy and capacity-building interventions across all degraded forest areas. The project aims to directly benefit 220,000 people, with 50% of the beneficiaries being women. It will also strengthen climate adaptation by influencing 14 policies, plans, frameworks, and institutions. To build local capacity, the project will train and raise awareness among 120,000 individuals (with equal participation from women and men) on climate-resilient agriculture management. These efforts will strengthen the capacity of government institutions, NGOs, and local communities to effectively plan and implement climate-resilient agriculture management interventions. Ultimately, the CARES project seeks to improve agricultural resilience and market access through gender-sensitive incentives, business models, and financial access, contributing to a more sustainable and secure future for South Sudan.

Project Description Overview

Project Objective

Promote climate change adaptation and resilience in the agricultural sector (forestry, crop and livestock production) through nature-based solutions, integrated land use planning and climate services to deliver food security and sustainable livelihoods for 220,000 vulnerable people in areas prone to climate change.

Objective level indicator 1 – LDCF Core Indicator 1: Number of direct beneficiaries

Target: 220,000 people, 110,000 of whom are women

Objective level indicator 2- LDCF Core Indicator 2: Area of land managed for climate resilience (ha)

Target: 1,144,798

Objective level indicator 3 - LDCF Core Indicator 3: Number of policies/plans/ frameworks/ institutions to strengthen climate adaptation

Target: 14

Objective level indicator 4 - LDCF Core Indicator 4: Number of people trained or with awareness raised

Target: 120,000 (60,000 women and 60,000 men)

Project Components

Component 1: Strengthening governance mechanisms for integrated land use planning

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	LDCF
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
679,900.00	3,380,000.00

Outcome:

Outcome 1.1: Regulatory frameworks for integrated land use planning and nature-based adaptation solutions for agriculture systems are established in a participatory way

Indicator 5: Data sharing protocol. Targets: 1

Indicator 6: Number of forestry policies and bills revised to integrate community forests in which institutional arrangements for the practical implementation of community forests are made explicit. Targets: 1

Output:

Output.1.1.1 Coordination mechanisms in the agricultural sectors established

Output.1.1.2 NRM policies are strengthened

Output 1.1.3. Regulations, standards, and enforcement mechanisms are strengthened

Component 2: Fostering climate resilient and inclusive agriculture and ecosystem management through capacity building, information systems, and stakeholder empowerment

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	LDCF
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
2,815,564.00	3,860,000.00

Outcome:

Outcome 2.1: Improved capacity of government institutions, non-governmental organizations, and local communities to effectively plan and implement climate resilient agriculture management interventions

Indicator 7: Number of extensive training of staff in vocational and research centres provided. Targets: 6 with at least 50% of participants being women
Indicator 8: An improvement of two points on a five-point scale of the conflict tracking tool is registered in 75% of the participating communities. Targets: 2 points out of 5 improvement for at least 75% communities

Outcome 2.2: Monitoring networks and information systems are established and strengthened

Indicator 9: Number of simple early warning alert protocols operational. Targets: at least 4, applied in at least two participating States

Indicator 10: Number of GIS based maps of forest, land and water resources created. Targets: at least 6 (one per participating county)

Outcome 2.3: Agricultural resilience and market access are enhanced through gender-sensitive incentives, business models, and financial access

Indicator 11: Number of private sector enterprises engaged in climate change adaptation and resilience action through agribusiness hubs. Targets: 6 (one per county level agribusiness hub) with at least 50% of them focusing on women-led businesses

Indicator 12: Number of financing mechanisms for women piloted. Targets: 6 (one per county)

Output:

Output.2.1.1 The capacity of agricultural research institutes is strengthened so they can provide training on NbS and climate adaptation in agriculture

Output.2.1.2 Extension services in NbS are strengthened at state and county level

Output 2.1.3 Integrated land use planning and conflict prevention capacities are strengthened at community level with a special focus on the role of women and youth

Output.2.2.1 The monitoring of climate risks and government capacity to deliver basic climate services and conduct vulnerability assessments is strengthened

Output 2.2.2 The existing National Environmental Information System is expanded with gender-responsive modules on forests, rangelands, livestock and water resources

Output 2.3.1 Agricultural resilience and market access are enhanced through gender-sensitive incentives, business models, and financial access

Component 3: Promoting nature-based solutions for adaptive land use management and livelihood improvement

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	LDCF
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
4,189,379.00	15,154,800.00

Outcome:

Outcome 3.1: Nature-based solutions are applied for adaptive forest management, diversification, and livelihood improvement in local communities

Indicator 13: Number of community forestry management plans developed. Targets: At least one per participating community

Indicator 14: Number of capacity building to NTFP producer groups around post-harvest processing of NTFP delivered. Targets: at least 1 per community with 50% of participants being women; At least 1 per community with 50% of participants being women

Outcome 3.2: Community-led transhumance corridors management for effective conflict management

Indicator 15: Number of corridor governance structures (e.g., councils, committees) formalized and operational. Targets: 1 per corridor, at least 50% of members being women; 1 per corridor, at least 50% of members being women

Indicator 16: Number of corridor maps at Payam, County and State level developed. Targets: 6 (one per county); 6 (one per county)

Outcome 3.3: Enhanced livestock management through nature-based adaptation solutions and inclusive value chains that support livelihoods and reduce pressure on natural resources

Indicator 17: Number of community livestock management plans developed. Targets: One per participating community; One per participating community

Indicator 18: Number of community-owned animal drug centres established. Targets: TBD

Outcome 3.4: Climate resilient and adapted crop production through innovative technologies, nature-based agronomic practices, and inclusive crop value chains that support livelihoods and reduce pressure on natural resources

Indicator 19: Number of community production plans developed. Targets: 1 per community; 1 per community

Indicator 20: Number of capacity building to farmer groups around storage, cooling, and processing provided. Targets: 1 per community, at least 50% of participants being women

Output:

Output.3.1.1 Gender-responsive community forestry management plans are developed, degraded forests are restored, and communities practice sustainable NTFP extraction and production methods

Output 3.1.2 Strengthened climate-proofed NTFP value chains and improved market access

Output.3.2.1 Inter-community/inter-county transhumance corridor plans are developed, and governance and management arrangements are in place

Output 3.2.2. Corridors are restored and maintained

Output 3.3.1. Community livestock management plans are developed, degraded lands are restored, and communities manage land sustainably

Output 3.3.2. Strengthened climate-proofed livestock value chains and improved market access

Output 3.4.1. Gender-responsive community production plans are developed, degraded lands are restored, and communities practice sustainable production methods

Output 3.4.2. Strengthened climate-proofed crop value chains and improved market access

Component 4: Knowledge Management

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	LDCF
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
549,012.00	3,381,000.00

Outcome:

Outcome 4.1: Increased knowledge and awareness of nature-based, sustainable agriculture practices and ecosystems conservation among key stakeholder groups

Indicator 21: Number of communication and knowledge products developed and shared. Targets: 10 (2 per year at least)

Outcome 4.2: Effective implementation and monitoring of Environmental and social safeguards and gender activities

Indicator 22: Number of ESS Management activities conducted. Targets: 8: 1 ESIA, 1 scoped SESA, 1 ESMP (including the LAP), 1 Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment, 1 Cultural Heritage Management Plan, 1 Process Framework, updates of GRM and CSEP

Output:

Output.4.1.1. Gender-Responsive Knowledge Management, Exchange, and Experience Sharing Established

Output 4.2.1. Environmental and Social Safeguards Management is developed and operationalized

Component 5: M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
Technical Assistance	LDCF
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
273,212.00	

Outcome:

Outcome 5.1: Monitoring and evaluation framework established and M&E activities conducted

Indicator 23: Number of M&E activities conducted. Targets: 20 periodic reports (4 per year); 1MTR; 1 TE

Output:

Output.5.1.1. Project M&E framework

Output 5.1.2.: Periodic M&E reports generated and submitted to FAO SS and Mid-term Evaluation and Terminal Evaluation executed

M&E

Component Type	Trust Fund
GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)

Outcome:

Output:

Component Balances

Project Components	GEF Project Financing ($)	Co-financing ($)
Component 1: Strengthening governance mechanisms for integrated land use planning	679,900.00	3,380,000.00

Component 2: Fostering climate resilient and inclusive agriculture and ecosystem management through capacity building, information systems, and stakeholder empowerment	2,815,564.00	3,860,000.00
Component 3: Promoting nature-based solutions for adaptive land use management and livelihood improvement	4,189,379.00	15,154,800.00
Component 4: Knowledge Management	549,012.00	3,381,000.00
Component 5: M&E	273,212.00	
M&E		
Subtotal	**8,507,067.00**	**25,775,800.00**
Project Management Cost	425,353.00	1,356,720.00
Total Project Cost ($)	**8,932,420.00**	**27,132,520.00**

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

A.1. Introduction to the problem

Located in Eastern-Central Africa and covering an area of about 640,000 km2, South Sudan is one of the most diverse countries in Africa with 64 ethnic groups and an estimated 12 million inhabitants[1][1] spread across ten states (Figure 1).

The livelihoods of 85% of the population rely on natural resources, which include rain-fed smallholder agriculture, livestock and animal husbandry, and the harvesting of forest products. Communities in the northern states of the country typically practice transhumance, where part of the family moves with their cattle herds following well known trajectories determined by pasture and water availability, while some members remain behind to engage in sedentary farming. Communities in the Greenbelt zone typically are more sedentary with substantial cropping activities. Cattle is a highly regarded asset and is used as a store of wealth across all communities of South Sudan.

South Sudan is the world's newest nation, having gained its independence in 2011. The first twelve years of its independence have however been characterized by major

conflicts and violence. A seven-year civil war between 2013 and 2020 displaced an estimated 4 million people, 1.8 million of them internally. An estimated 2.5 million people fled to neighboring countries: Kenya, Uganda, DRC and Sudan. Though progress has been made in recent years, violence continues to be among the main drivers of displacement and food insecurity, with armed conflict and intercommunal violence recorded across the country[2][2]. The fragility resulting from the conflicts has multiple dimensions and is reflected in low state capacity and authority, poverty, and low socioeconomic development as well as in the limited provision of basic services to the population.

The intersection of the security situation, and the lack of basic infrastructure, extension services and basic services have led to underperforming agro-sylvo-pastoral systems in terms of production and sustaining livelihoods and food security.

The combination of a still very dynamic and challenging security situation, high levels of poverty and a general lack of alternative food and income sources means that many households and communities resort to short-term coping strategies for immediate survival as opposed to sustainable, long-term resource management and use. These short-term coping strategies often result in a degradation or overuse of the natural resource, be it forests, grazing lands or agricultural lands. Land degradation has taken place through unsustainable agricultural and grazing practices, deforestation for pasture, fuelwood and charcoal production, wildfires, illegal logging and mining. Degradation of agricultural, pastoral and forested lands jeopardises ecosystem services such as food and fodder production, water retention and aquifer recharging, and hence further compromises the food security and the livelihoods of the people living off these lands.

Climate change is contributing to further shrinking the resource base that underpins livelihoods for both farmers and pastoralists. Degraded lands are moreover extremely vulnerable to any additional physical stressors, and in particular to extreme weather events. Land degradation and climate stressors combined also have a major impact on transhumance movements, as dry and degraded conditions may push pastoralists to seek water and pasture outside of traditional migration corridors. The capacity of smallholder farmers and pastoralists to absorb or overcome climate related damages, or to proactively plan to reduce climate related risks is, due to the underlying dire situation described above, extremely limited.

The environmental and climate-related pressures risk further compounding the longstanding economic, social and governance challenges and exacerbating grievances between resource user groups. South Sudan has experienced an unprecedented stretch of four years of flooding, affecting most of the country and persisting over several months, particularly in the northern and central states. The associated loss and forced migration of livestock along routes and into states and counties that historically were less familiar with or affected by these movements have become major drivers of intercommunal

conflict. Trends like population and cattle herd growth add even more pressure to meet resource demands, precipitating further risks of conflict.

In summary, communities in South Sudan are faced with a multifaceted and intertwined set of challenges that cause and aggravate widespread food insecurity. Climate change is both a cause and a multiplier of these existing challenges. Both extreme weather patterns and historically low agricultural production due to longstanding conflict and underdevelopment underscore the importance of scaling up climate actions that build community resilience. 'Climate resilience' of agro-pastoral-systems is more likely to be obtained and sustained by addressing the entire set of challenges in an integrated and holistic way.

Project intervention areas

The project aims to intervene in selected areas in Lakes, Western Equatoria and Central Equatoria (see Annex E).

Lakes State is characterized by numerous lakes and wetlands. The region is predominantly covered by grasslands and savanna, dotted with scattered trees and shrubs. It is well-known for its large herds of cattle, which rely heavily on the grasslands. *Rumbek East County* has an estimated population of 174,891[3][3]. Its topography includes a Western floodplain with zones suitable for sorghum and cattle livelihoods. Agriculture is central to the county's economy, with crops such as simsim (sesame), groundnut, and millet being cultivated. Livestock rearing is prevalent (livestock numbers estimated at 10,000 – 20,000 heads of cattle), and fishing supports food security. Annual flooding during the rainy season presents significant challenges. Inter-communal conflict has escalated despite reconciliation efforts. *Wulu County* borders Rumbek East County (and others), Warrap State, and Western Equatoria State. Its population is estimated at 89,226[4][4]. Situated within the ironstone plateau agro-pastoral livelihood zone, Wulu County features vast open savannah woodlands and forests. The sandy-clay soil supports the cultivation of crops like sorghum, millet, cowpeas, green gram, groundnut, and sweet potatoes. Beekeeping is an important activity, providing honey and beeswax. Tensions with pastoralists seeking pasture and water often lead to clashes with local communities, and cattle camp raids remain a security concern.

Western Equatoria features a mix of mountains, hills, and valleys forming a plateau, with the terrain flattening into plains at altitudes of 800 to 1200 meters above sea level. The soil here varies from fertile loamy clay to sandy soils, supporting diverse agricultural activities. The vegetation ranges from dense equatorial rainforests in the southern parts to sparse bushes in the north. Major forests provide essential resources like timber, hunting grounds, and wild foods. The region's rivers, including the Maridi, Ibba, Sue, and Yei, contribute to its agricultural and ecological wealth. Additionally, Western Equatoria is rich in mineral resources such as gold in Nzara and diamonds in

Ezo, though these remain largely untapped. Despite favourable conditions for agriculture, most of the state experiences food insecurity. Both counties also experience high rates of land use change around urban centres[5]. These areas also suffer the most from deforestation (for timber, charcoal production, agricultural and urban land use). *Maridi County* has a population of approximately 110,513[6]. Predominantly an agricultural region, 70% of households engage in farming, with cereal yields around 1.65 tonnes per hectare[7]. The county also relies on cattle herding, fishing, beekeeping, and forest product exploitation. Clashes between armed groups and the presence of IDPs continue to strain the local population and economy. *Ibba County* has a population of 66,547[8]. Situated within the equatorial maize and cassava livelihoods zone, 70% of households engage in diverse agricultural activities, including rain-fed mixed farming and livestock rearing[9]. The county also relies on forest resources and wild food collection. Economic activities extend to construction, handicrafts, and cross-border trade with the DRC and Uganda. Ibba's recent history is marked by intermittent insecurity, violence, and displacement, impacting its agricultural productivity and overall stability [10].

Central Equatoria is characterized by a varied landscape of mountains, hills, and valleys forming a plateau along the southern border. This topography gradually transitions into plains further inland, with elevations ranging from 800 to 1200 meters above sea level. The soils in Central Equatoria are predominantly fertile loamy clay, ideal for agriculture. The region's vegetation includes dense deciduous equatorial rainforests in the south, which provide crucial resources such as timber, hunting grounds, and wild foods like yams, shea butter, tamarind, wild lemon, and wild vegetables (Luge and Lugutalang). Rivers such as the Yei, Nile, and Kaya flow through Central Equatoria, offering fish and water lilies. *Yei County* is known for its hilly terrain and dense forests, it hosts the River Yei and other rivers, supporting a population of 302,763[11]. Falling within an equatorial maize and cassava zone, 43% of households engage in farming[12]. Conflict since 2016 has significantly reduced agricultural output and disrupted trade, fishing, and small businesses. Clashes between rivalry groups persist, along with communal tensions, exemplified by the February 2023 livestock theft clash between Kakwa and Mundari communities and the September 2023 killing of a Kakwa

leader[13]. *Lainya County*, population 113,928[14], is known for agriculture. 43% of households farm[15], but insecurity and displacement have reduced crop areas and gross cereal yields. Conflict has also impacted forest-based livelihoods and logging, which are significant due to the region's teak forests. Lainya's strategic location on the Juba-Yei Road has made it a focal point for military operations and economic activities during and after the second Sudanese civil war, with ongoing disputes over land and borders exacerbating tensions. Fighting, displacement, and intermittent clashes continue[16].

Table 1. Overview of the main characteristics of and challenges in the target counties

County (from North to South) 2021 population	Livelihoods	Socio economic dynamics	Climate and environmental challenges	Agricultural value chains and challenges as identified during PPG stakeholder consultations
Rumbek East 7 payams[1] Population: 174,891	- Family man-power (men & women) on small size farms of less than 0.5 hectare using mainly hand tools for subsistence - Cattle herding/pastoralism - Crops: Sorghum, simsim (sesame), groundnut, millet - Cash crop: sesame - vegetable crops like okra, tomatoes, and onions - Fishing - NTFP: Natural honey; Shea butter tree seeds; Balanitis (Lalob); leaves and roots; and to a lesser extent gum Arabic -	- Inter-communal conflict - Traditions play a vital role in shaping the social fabric and identity of the local communities. Traditional gender roles are deeply ingrained in the socio-cultural dynamics. - Men are often responsible for activities like cattle herding, hunting, and political leadership, while women typically handle domestic chores, childcare, and agricultural work. - Women play a crucial role in agro-pastoral and fishing activities, actively participating in tasks like crop cultivation, livestock rearing, and fish processing. - Women possess invaluable traditional knowledge about sustainable farming practices, animal husbandry, and fishing techniques that have been passed down through generations.	- Annual flooding during the rainy season - Grasslands vulnerable to overgrazing and desertification - Lake pollution and overfishing - persistent overlogging of mahogany, Isoberlina, Olea tree species - charcoal production - illegal mining - poaching - Three (3) Teak plantations existed at Panawach; Rourchol Akol and Chom-chok locations that are currently seriously degraded and perhaps written off or partially encroached upon by the town's development and road constructions, whereas, on general terms, deforestation and forest degradation are caused by frequent flooding; and increasing human and livestock population	Lulu (Vitellaria nilotica) oil; natural honey; balanitis seeds oil; simsim (sesame) and groundnut oils and gum arabic present great value chain development potential. Women often lead the marketing and sale of agricultural and fishing products, contributing significantly to household income and economic independence. Challenges: • Access to reliable water sources for livestock is a significant challenge • Weak farmer and herder cooperatives" with high dependency mindset" • Poor quality crop seed and untimely distribution schedules • Postharvest losses/FSQ issues • Underdeveloped road and communication infrastructure within state and counties-connecting road with other states • Mistrust between smallholder producers/cooperatives and market off-takers • Lack of a robust market information system • Limited knowledge and skills in doing business • Limited/ or no access to financial services and facilities to expand business operations Note: previously existing in Lakes: - Nursery Development - Sawmill - Lulu (Vitellaria nilotica) oil and natural honey production - Gum arabic production - Private Sector services: Tractor hiring; Agro Dealers (Supply agricultural seeds) and financial support Institutions
Wulu 4 payams[2] Population: 89,226	- Family manpower (men & women) on small size farms of less than 0.5 hectare using mainly hand tools for subsistence - Cattle herding/pastoralism	-Tensions between pastoralists and farmers -Cattle raids -Women and youth, see above	- Grasslands vulnerable to overgrazing and desertification -Lake pollution and overfishing	

	- Crops: Sorghum, millet, cowpeas, green gram, groundnut, sweet potatoes. - Cash crop: sesame - vegetable crops like okra, tomatoes, and onions - NTFP: Beekeeping, lulu (Vitellaria nilotica) oil, wild fruits and seed, seism seed		-Excessive illegal logging for sawn timber; -Unregulated and unsustainable charcoal production; -occasional bushfires -illegal mining -poaching	
Ibba 5 payams[3] Population: 66,547	- the average land size cultivated per household is approximately 3.5 hectares - Maize, Cassava, sorghum - Coffee, sesame, tea, cotton - wide variety of fruits and vegetables, including mangoes, pineapples, tomatoes, and leafy greens - Livestock: goats, sheep, pigs, poultry and cattle - Forest products: timber, charcoal, firewood - Wild foods and bush products: yams, palms, shea butter, mushrooms, tamarind, termites, wild honey. - Fishing	- Displacement - Border disputes - Tensions between residents and pastoralists Women and youth: -Women play a crucial role in agricultural production and household management but face significant gender-based inequalities and barriers to accessing resources, land ownership, and decision-making power within their households and communities. The two counties have a large youth population, but limited economic opportunities and access to education and skills development have led to high rates of unemployment and underemployment.	- Dry spell - Delayed rainfalls - Floods - Pest and diseases - Destruction of wetlands for settlement - Conversion of forest land for agricultural and settlement purposes	In the case of agricultural crops, farmers harvest, clean and store their produce before selling. The surplus produce is sold at the local markets as raw materials to consumers and traders who transport them to other places where they are either sold for consumption or for processing. People involved in such activities are the farmers and traders. It is mostly the women who sell farm produce to consumers and traders The value chain in the project target area is predominantly informal and underdeveloped. Farming is largely subsistence-based, with limited market linkages and infrastructure. Post-harvest losses are high due to lack of storage and preservation facilities. Subsistence methods and rudimentary equipment limit the quantity and quality of products. Processing and packaging capabilities are inadequate, constraining the ability to access higher-value urban and export markets. Animals and animal products are normally consumed locally as raw materials without any processing, but trade does happen between communities and individuals from other neighbouring areas. People involved in these activities are the herders, butchers and traders. Herders bring their animals for sell in the local markets where butchers who want to slaughter for sell as meat buy the animals and slaughter to sell it as meat. Traders buy from the herders and transport them to other markets to sell to either butchers or other traders. Limited access to well-maintained roads, storage facilities, and markets hinders the efficient movement of livestock and livestock products. Lack of veterinary services and access to vaccines/medicines leaves livestock vulnerable to diseases, reducing productivity and profitability.
Maridi 5 payams[4] Population: 110,513	- The average land size cultivated per household is approximately 3.5 hectares - Cattle herding - Coffee, tea, cotton - wide variety of fruits and vegetables, including mangoes, pineapples, tomatoes, and leafy greens - NTFP: Beekeeping - Fishing - Forest products: timber, charcoal, firewood - Wild foods and bush products: yams, palms, shea butter, mushrooms, tamarind, termites, wild honey.	-Internally displaced persons -Clashes between armed groups Women and youth: see above	- Dry spell - Delayed rainfalls - Floods - Pest and diseases - Destruction of wetlands for settlement - Conversion of forest land for agricultural and settlement purposes	
Yei 5 payams[5]	- the average household cultivates approximately 3.5 hectares of land.	-Tensions between pastoralists and farmers -Cattle raids	- Deforestation (charcoal making) - Streams and water dams are drying	Farmers are engaged in the following value chains; agricultural value chain, livestock value chains, beekeeping value chains.

Population: 302,763	- Maize, cassava, millet sorhum sweet potatoes, groundnuts - Fishing - Coffee, sesame, tobacco - Horticulture: tomatoes, onions, leafy greens, - Fruit trees: mango, papaya, citrus fruits - Livestock: goats, sheep, and cattle (pigs, poultry to a lesser extent) - Forest products: timber, charcoal, firewood - Wild foods and bush products: yams, palms, shea butter, mushrooms, tamarind, termites, wild honey.	-Drug abuse due to unemployment	- Destruction of wetlands for settlements - Bush fires - Floods and droughts affecting livestock - Pollution of waterways	Value chain challenges include limited access to quality inputs, lack of storage facilities, high transportation costs and insufficient working capital.
Lainya 5 payams[6] Population: 113,928	- the average household cultivates approximately 3.5 hectares of land. - Maize Cassava, Millet, Sorghum sweet potatoes, groundnuts - Coffee, sesame, tabacco - Horticulture: tomatoes, onions, leafy greens, - Fruit trees: mango, papaya, citrus fruits - Livestock: goats, sheep, pigs, poultry and cattle - Forest products: timber, charcoal, firewood - Wild foods and bush products: yams, palms, shea butter, mushrooms, tamarind, termites, wild honey.	-Displacements -Clashes between armed groups -Tensions between pastoralists and farmers -Drug abuse due to unemployment		

[1] https://www.csrf-southsudan.org/county_profile/rumbek-east/
[2] https://www.csrf-southsudan.org/county_profile/Wulu/
[3] https://www.csrf-southsudan.org/county_profile/ibba/
[4] https://www.csrf-southsudan.org/county_profile/maridi/
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[6] https://docs.southsudanngoforum.org/sites/default/files/2019-12/Lainya%20Multisectoral%20assessment.docx

Note on land distribution, ownership and access issues and practices in the intervention areas:

In Lakes, stakeholders consulted during PPG stated that No Clear Lands Policy and Laws existed at State level, that rural lands and revered locations are owned by the traditional leaders (chiefs) as it is governed by Customary law and regulated by the State Government whereas urban lands (land development and residential Quarters) fall under the jurisdiction of the State Ministry of Lands, Housing, and Physical Infrastructure.

In Western Equatoria, stakeholders consulted during the PPG pointed out that the vast land resources could be sufficient for all the people if distributed equally but that major stretches are in the hands of a few clans or families. Smallholders' land is typically located on steep terrain or marginal soil or has become fragmented under inheritance. Land is mainly owned based on long time settlement in the area and heritance and stakeholders pointed out that there are only few cases of ownership by purchase from another landlord. As in other areas of South Sudan, returnees find they have lost their land during the war as it was not registered and got occupied by other people who now have obtained legal rights. According to stakeholders, incoming migrants who have no land of their own are sometimes given land to cultivate by relatives, neighbors or friends. Refugees sometimes also are given land for a certain duration of time, after which it is returned back to the community that owns that land. The land owning groups in the customary land ownership system in Maridi and Ibba are, according to stakeholders consulted during the PPG : i) Chieftainship, ii) Clans, iii) families and iv) individuals. The custodian of a piece of land (a chief or head of family) manages the land with the principal elders of the community as well as in consultation with those using the land. Larger land transactions are done at the State, County and Payam levels, the transaction is normally known, recorded and written in the land Administration registry. On the other hand, when the transaction is done locally among community members, this is mostly done verbally involving witnesses of the landlord and the buyer and representatives from the community members and the Boma Chief. The majority of people do not have their land registered, especially not in rural areas. Challenges identified by participants included: There are conflicting claims to potions of land ownership, Land Grabbing and encroachment, boundaries are not generally surveyed and in some cases undefined, It becomes difficult to practice general sustainable agriculture, forestry and biodiversity conservation, Conflicts between the person who resides on the land and that who has registered rights to the same land, Forgery in processing of documents through unlawful means.

In Central Equatoria State, the average household cultivates approximately 3.5 hectares of land. This represents a 15% decrease in average land size over the past decade due to population growth and land fragmentation.

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<u>Possible futures without intervention</u>

Without intervention, South Sudan will continue to experience inter-community conflicts and violence, both driven by and exacerbating the depletion and degradation of natural resources on which various communities depend[17][17]. Climate change acts as both a direct stressor and a threat multiplier, intensifying existing tensions over diminishing water resources, pastureland, and arable land[18][18]. The increasing frequency and intensity of droughts and floods, driven by climate change, are directly fueling resource competition, triggering displacement, and fueling conflict, particularly in Western Equatoria, Lakes, and Central Equatoria[19][19]. South Sudan has one of the highest numbers of internally displaced persons (IDPs) globally, with 1.6 million people forcibly displaced, a significant proportion of whom reside in Lakes and Central Equatoria[20][20]. Climate-induced displacement exacerbates socio-economic pressures in these states, increasing competition for land, water, and essential resources[21][21]. Long-standing disputes between agropastoralists migrating from Jonglei to Central and Western Equatoria have intensified since 2020, largely due to repeated extreme floods in Jonglei forcing herders southward into Equatoria[22][22]. The combined impacts of land degradation, shifting rainfall patterns, and rising temperatures are forcing greater seasonal migration of herders, increasing competition for scarce grazing land and driving conflicts between pastoralists and settled farmers. Climate change further undermines traditional coping mechanisms, limiting communities' ability to adapt to shifting environmental conditions without resorting to migration, conflict, or reliance on humanitarian aid[23][23].

South Sudan is experiencing one of the fastest temperature increases globally, with a 1.2°C rise over the past 30 years and projected warming of 1–1.5°C by mid-century[24][24]. This warming trend is accelerating evaporation rates, reducing soil moisture availability, and increasing drought frequency and severity. Under all emissions scenarios, South Sudan is projected to experience more frequent, longer, and more intense drought events by the end of the century, following the 'dry gets drier and wet gets wetter' paradigm. In a high-emissions scenario, droughts are expected to become 60–100% more frequent by the end of the century, lasting more than 30 months in extreme cases[25][25]. Soil moisture

content is projected to diminish significantly by 2050 under a 2020 climate targets scenario, increasing desertification and the expansion of arid land. By 2050, the number of extreme fire weather days is projected to rise, increasing wildfire risks and further reducing vegetative cover needed to sustain livestock and prevent soil erosion[26]. Prolonged droughts in Western Equatoria, Lakes, and Central Equatoria are severely impacting agriculture, livestock, and food security. The increasing length and intensity of dry spells have reduced crop yields, leading to more frequent crop failures and diminishing pasture availability for livestock. In Central and Western Equatoria, maize, sorghum, and cassava crops have been affected, particularly in Morobo, Kajo-Keji, Yei (CES), and Maridi and Ibba (WES)[27]. Deforestation, driven by land clearance for agriculture, logging, and charcoal production local small farmers is further accelerating land degradation and reducing water retention capacity[28]. As a result, agricultural resilience is weakening, forcing more communities into dependence on humanitarian aid. Over the past 15 years, three major droughts (2009, 2016, and 2021) have affected nearly 16 million people, which is three times the number impacted by floods. The 2016–17 drought triggered famine, while the 2009–10 and 2021–22 droughts led to widespread food shortages. These crises highlight the increasing inability of rural populations to sustain themselves without intervention.

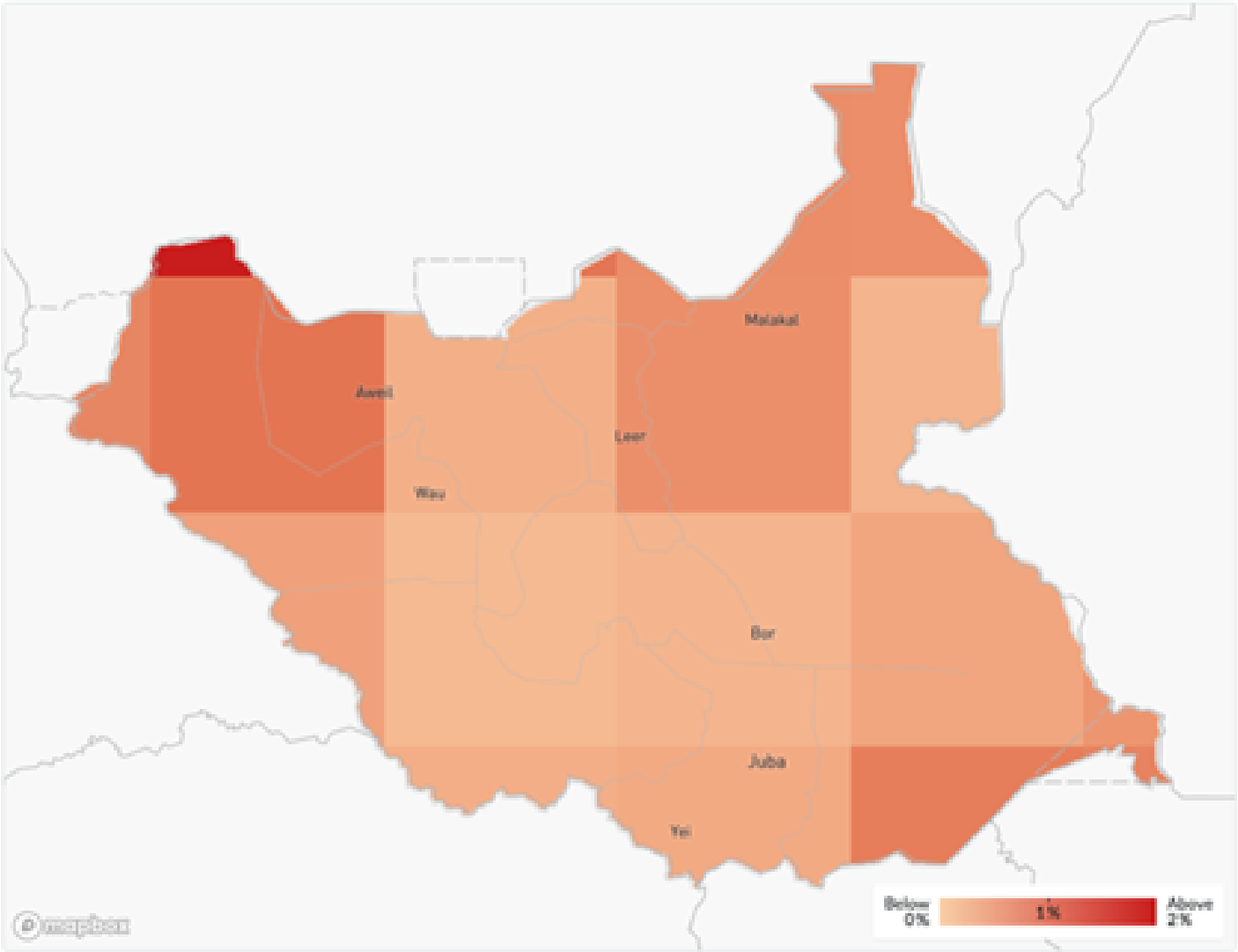

Figure 2. Change in Soil moisture content (expressed in %) in S. Sudan in 2050 compared to the reference period 2011-2020, according to the scenario 2020 climate targets.

At the same time, flooding events have intensified over the past two decades, with direct and cascading effects on Western Equatoria, Lakes, and Central Equatoria. The Indian Ocean Dipole, a climate phenomenon that influences rainfall patterns in East Africa, is projected to increase the frequency of extreme floods—from one event every 17.3 years to one every 6.3 years under high-emissions scenarios[29][29]. Climate model projections

indicate that extreme floods, such as those recorded in 2019, will become more frequent as global temperatures rise[30][30].

Lakes State, particularly Yirol West and Rumbek East, has been severely affected by seasonal floods, which have displaced communities and reduced agricultural productivity. In Rumbek East, the September 2024 floods submerged villages, particularly in Paloc, Thonaduel, and Atiaba payams (local administrative divisions). Additionally, floodwaters have led to significant water pollution and runoff, degrading fisheries and reducing access to fresh fish stocks in local markets[31][31][32][32][33][33][34][34].

These localized impacts reflect a broader pattern of flooding across South Sudan, primarily driven by rising water levels in key river systems—the Sobat, Baro, and White Nile— and affecting Jonglei and Upper Nile in the east, as well as Western Equatoria, Lakes, and Central Equatoria in the south[35][35]. For example, the 2022 floods affected two-thirds of South Sudan, displacing 900,000 people and devastating homes, farmland, and livestock. These floods severely disrupt food production and trade, exacerbating fragile economic conditions and directly contributing to food insecurity. Over the past 15 years, nine major flood events have impacted five million people, resulting in 173 fatalities. The 2021 floods, following four years of excessive rainfall, left 700,000 people in crisis[36][36]. These repeated floods have severely damaged transportation networks, isolating communities and restricting access to markets, aid, and essential services. This disruption of transportation routes has a direct and devastating effect on food security, trade, and economic stability. The reliance on vulnerable, unpaved roads in flood-prone regions exacerbates these disruptions, as seasonal rains make them impassable for months. This isolation intensifies food shortages, drives price increases, and makes it extremely difficult to deliver humanitarian aid, particularly in regions already facing economic hardship [37][37]. The situation is further compounded by widespread internal displacement, as large numbers of people from flood-affected areas—such as Jonglei and Upper Nile—migrate to Lakes State, where host communities already face resource scarcity and fragile local economies. The frequent influx of displaced people intensifies competition for food, water, and land, placing additional strain on already overstretched social and economic systems. Under a high-emissions climate scenario (RCP 8.5),

flooding-related infrastructure damage will worsen, further restricting trade, reducing economic opportunities, and driving up food prices. Without investment in climate-resilient infrastructure, these flood-induced challenges will intensify, deepening humanitarian needs and economic instability[38].

Environmental degradation further weakens resilience to climate shocks in Western Equatoria, Lakes, and Central Equatoria. Deforestation, driven by uncontrolled logging, urban expansion, and charcoal production, is accelerating, weakening the land's ability to retain moisture and increasing exposure to soil erosion, floods, and wildfires. Satellite data indicates that since 2000, wildfires have significantly impacted forested areas in these states, compounding land degradation, biodiversity loss, and reliance on external food and energy sources (Thulstrup and Henry, 2015a,b). The increasing loss of tree cover is reducing the natural capacity of the land to absorb and mitigate the effects of extreme weather events, making the region more vulnerable to flash floods, soil erosion, and declining agricultural productivity.

South Sudan's vulnerability to climate-related disasters is among the highest globally, ranking second in the 2025 INFORM Climate Change Risk Index[39]. Projections under RCP 8.5 and SSP2[40] scenarios[41] suggest that by 2050, South Sudan will face a very high climate risk score (8.6/10) [42] (Figure 3). Droughts, floods, and epidemics constitute the primary hazard risks, with an exposure score of 7.5/10. The country's vulnerability score of 8.8/10 reflects the high dependency of its population on climate-sensitive livelihoods, while a lack of coping capacity (scoring 9.3/10) significantly increases risk levels.

Figure 3. INFORM Climate Change Risk index for South Sudan in 2025 under SSP 2 and RCP 8.5

This evidence demonstrates how projected climate impacts—reducing crop yields, depleting pasture, accelerating land degradation, displacing communities, disrupting markets, and intensifying competition over dwindling natural resources—are on the trajectory to further threaten the rain-fed subsistence livelihoods of the majority of the population in Western Equatoria, Lakes, and Central Equatoria. Without intervention, these climate pressures will further destabilize fragile economies, intensify resource-based conflicts, and deepen the ongoing food crisis. Addressing these interconnected challenges is critical to stabilizing livelihoods and preventing further conflict and displacement.

County and community level stakeholders consulted during the PPG phase identified that if the current drivers of land and forest degradation are not addressed, the projected climate impacts on crops, livestock, land resources, forests and ecosystems would be the following: "The target counties will increasingly face: the occurrence of floods in some areas and droughts in others, dry spells, farmer-herder conflict over pasture and water, deforestation , food and nutrition insecurity as well as malnutrition in children, increase in school dropouts, increase in GBV, extinction of wetlands and ecosystems, increase in crimes, increase in human diseases (CES stakeholder workshop). "

A.2. Preferred solution and associated baseline

A variety of actions have been identified to cope with the set and the intersection of challenges described under section A.1. These solutions have emerged at community, county, state and national levels and range from policies and plans — themselves embracing specific detailed approaches and solutions — to specific strategies and practices developed by communities. An important source in identifying actions and solutions were the extensive consultations that took place during the PPG phase, with national, state, county, and community level stakeholders as well as with international development partners operating in South Sudan. The stakeholder engagement at this stage is part of the overall participatory design approach to the CARES project. The solutions and specific baseline actions that support their implementation, are presented below.

<u>Preferred solution</u>

In an ideal scenario, this project would promote climate change adaptation across the agricultural sector—encompassing forestry, crop, and livestock production—using nature-based solutions, integrated land use planning, and advanced climate services to ensure food security and sustainable livelihoods for 220,000 vulnerable people in climate-affected regions.
With no barriers, the project could holistically address both the underperformance of agro-sylvo-pastoral systems and the root causes of land degradation, local conflict dynamics, and economic insecurity. Interventions would seamlessly blend "soft" governance activities—such as inclusive dialogue and mediation—with robust climate adaptation initiatives, including widespread distribution of resilient seeds and infrastructure tailored to withstand climate variability. Ideally, climate and environmental challenges would be reframed as catalysts for collaboration rather than as sources of grievance or conflict. By creating dedicated spaces for dialogue around natural resource management (NRM) and climate impacts, the project could achieve two key goals:

1. **Establishing an inclusive, fair framework where all community members, particularly women and youth, participate and benefit.**
2. **Using this approach to ease competition over resources—especially access to land, pasture, and water—by fostering mutual understanding and shared goals.**

Drawing on experiences from similar projects, the ideal approach would actively involve youth and women in peace-building processes, which has proven to significantly enhance dialogue, strengthen mediation, and promote social cohesion.
Climate resilience would be further reinforced by empowering local governance structures to operate effectively and independently. Without logistical or security barriers, all county and lower-level government entities would be connected and fully

equipped to understand and manage climate risks, deliver extension services on adaptive techniques, support value chain development, and implement local conflict management mechanisms.

Each project intervention would begin with a comprehensive contextual analysis, allowing activities to be fully tailored to local conditions. Without limitations, this analysis would provide deep insights into the context-specific drivers of conflict, external pressures, and opportunities for livelihoods, recognizing that agricultural and other income-generating options vary widely. For example, pastoralists rely on wild foods like fish, game meat (antelopes), fruits, and roots during times of conflict and stress. Additionally, localized climate trends, such as rainfall variations, would be monitored and addressed precisely in each area.

An ideal approach would also include seamless collaboration with national and state governments, strengthening their capacity to deliver services and enacting broader structural changes that promote sustainable, systemic climate adaptation. This dual approach would avoid any erosion of central governance structures while positioning local interventions as part of a comprehensive strategy for long-term, sustainable natural resource management and agricultural resilience.

PPG consultations with State, County and community level stakeholders in the six counties yielded practical recommendations for the project, which can be found in Annex E.

Baseline

Agricultural policies and commitment to sustainable natural resource management

South Sudan's agricultural policies focus on enhancing productivity, livestock management, and sustainable land use. Key policies include the National Agriculture and Livestock Extension Policy (NALEP) (2011) which provides guidance for managing and organizing a pluralistic extension system that involves both public and private extension service providers. The policy aims to enhance extension services, promote commercialization of agriculture, and involve stakeholders in service provision[43][43]. The Comprehensive Agricultural Development Master Plan (2015) aims to guide agricultural development in the country by establishing the responsibilities of different stakeholders, establish the current trends and threats to this sector, and chart a sustainable path forward[44][44]. In addition, South Sudan formulated a Policy on Food Security (2012).

Various national policies and plans, such as the Transitional Constitution, the 2021 National Adaptation Plan, and the South Sudan National Development Strategy, emphasize the importance of natural resource management, environmental sustainability, and the right to a clean and healthy environment. In terms of sustainable natural resource management, the following policies and strategies can be identified:

- **The National Environment Policy (2015-2025) strategic goal is to ensure the protection, conservation and sustainable use of the natural resources of South Sudan without compromising the tenets of inter-generational equity[45]. The policy will pursue and archive to develop laws, regulations and guidelines to ensure sustainable management of the environment as well as the prudent utilisation of natural resources.**

- **The Forest Policy (2015) which recognises that forest and woodland resources are more than just trees. This policy is the main policy document for the forest sector, it aims to address food security, poverty, and sustainable management of these resources[46].**

- **A Forest Bill (2023) is under preparation. When adopted, it will provide for the establishment of a South Sudan Forest Authority (SSFA) with authority to manage the government's forest reserves including the forest plantations[47].**

- **The Environmental Bill (2023) is under preparation in parallel to the draft Forest Bill. This Bill when adopted will provide for the establishment of an Environment Management Authority (EMA) [48]. The EMA is given the authority to manage forest resources and hence implies a potential overlap in the authority between the SSFA and the EMA.**

- **The East African Community Forestry Policy and Strategies (2019) aims to improve forest governance and sustainable management in the EAC Region[49]. This policy aims to improve forest governance and sustainable management in the EAC region. It addresses challenges such as deforestation, illegal logging, and unsustainable use of forest resources. The strategy emphasizes collaboration among countries and engagement with regional economic commissions.**

- **The IGAD Regional Forest Policy and Strategy (2020) was endorsed by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development in Djibouti[50]. It complements existing**

national policies and aims to enhance sustainable management of both national and trans-boundary forest resources within the IGAD region.

- **The National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) to Climate Change (2016)[51] advocate for reforestation programmes, the creation of forest reserves, encouragement of the use of alternative fuel sources, fire management plans, increased public awareness as well as establishment of seed banks.**

- **The Republic of South Sudan National Adaptation Plan (NAP) specifies three priority pillars: a) Building climate-resilient communities; b) Building a climate-resilient economy and development trajectory; c) Building a climate-resilient environment and ecosystems.**

- **A Draft policy on wildlife Conservation and Protected Areas was developed in 2012 but is yet to be approved.**

- **The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP, 2018-2027)[52] aims to serve as the principle instrument for undertaking biodiversity management and conservation in the country, and as a framework for optimally integrating the management of the country's vast biodiversity resources into national economic prosperity and social welfare targets of the Vision 2040.**

- **The Draft National Land Policy (2023) aims to strengthen land governance through the enactment of new laws including a Community Land Act[53]. When approved and endorsed, the land policy will provide a framework for developing and implementing structured approaches to addressing the challenges to land governance and management.**

- **South Sudan also has a National Disaster Risk Management Policy (2020), and a National Women's Strategy (2016-2017)**

Climate change adaptation and Multilateral Environmental Agreements

South Sudan has ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). The country's ratification of the Paris Agreement and its submission of a Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC, 2021) underscores its commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions[54] and promoting

climate resilience. A National Adaptation Plan (NAP, 2021) was developed as well as a National Action Program under the UNCCD.

Conflict resolution

In early 2023, South Sudan's Transitional Government recommitted to implementing the 2018 Peace Agreement — known officially as the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan. However, several hurdles remain to be cleared to complete the final phase of implementation in 2024, such as the need to draft a new constitution and fast-track preparations for the nation's first-ever elections. In May 2024, opposition groups that were not part of the 2018 peace agreement were incorporated into the process through a series of talks in Kenya, aimed at bringing them on board ahead of the December elections[55].

The United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) was established in 2011 and recently saw its mandate extended until 30 April 2025[56]. Though primarily focusing on protection of civilians; creating conditions conducive to the delivery of humanitarian assistance; supporting the Implementation of the Revitalised Agreement and the peace process; and, monitoring, investigating, and reporting on violations of humanitarian and human rights law, UNMISS' work and presence on the ground provides entry points for incorporation and support of NRM[57], climate change adaptation interventions, and skills training for alternative livelihoods[58].

A.3. Barriers to the implementation of the preferred solution

Barrier 1: Key policies on forests, land and agriculture are still in the drafting process and the devolved levels of government are insufficiently aware of existing regulations

The 2015 Forest Policy Forest policy is the main policy instrument for the forest sector, it is silent on biodiversity and climate change. The policy is also in need of updating. The legal framework for forestry is under preparation in the shape of the preparation of the Forest Bill. The MoEF is at the same time the legislator, the institution responsible for overall oversight of forest management and the owner of forests in South Sudan. Due to insufficient capacities, MoEF has however not been able to manage its forest reserves, and communities in South Sudan are increasingly claiming government forest reserves as belonging to them. However, arrangements for community forest management are not sufficient or operational at the moment. The draft Forest Bill of 2023, however, provides

for three forms of community forest management (Community based forest management, Participatory Forest management, collaborative forest management). At the moment the Forest Bill needs further funding to be completed and adopted. At the same time, the 2009 Land Act is the core legal instrument for the management of community land. A National Land Policy has been in drafting since 2023 and includes a proposal on the enactment of new laws to give effect to its provisions on strengthening the land administration system including the development of a Community Land Act and the alignment of environment, and forest sector laws with this policy.

Consultations conducted at PPG stage revealed that devolved levels of government are not fully aware and up to date with existing policies and regulatory frameworks.

In terms of enforcement, in most areas of South Sudan, a dual governance and judiciary system is in place. Under the customary system, a village or payam chief can settle conflicts and fine/punish smaller infractions, such as the theft of an animal. Bigger crimes are settled by traditional leaders (e.g. the King with the Zandé people) or the paramount chief, depending on the location and ethnic group. When it comes to herder/farmer conflicts County commissioners (and hence the government or formal system) typically settle these by entering into dialogue with each other (i.e. the commissioner from the originating county negotiates and agreement with the commissioner from the receiving county).

The legacy of war and conflict has however eroded the capacities and mechanisms for enforcement of environmental regulations. Climate change has increased further pressure on these mechanisms and processes (e.g. consultations at PPG stage revealed that pastoralists breach traditional agreements with hosting farmer communities).

Barrier 2: Insufficient research and technical expertise around climate impacts, nature-based solutions and sustainable land management

South Sudan has several agricultural research centers and vocational training centers, as well as competent departments at the University of Juba. The human and technological capacity and the equipment available at these centers is however limited as a result of limited or discontinued funding and limited maintenance during and in the aftermath and context of the conflicts. The research and vocational training centers are in need of capacity building and development of specific programs and curricula focused on climate change adaptation, nature-based solutions and sustainable land management.

Barrier 3: Insufficient or absent data collection, monitoring and information systems

Data collection on natural resources has been limited or shows gaps[59][59], due to the recent history of the country. Similarly, monitoring of natural resource use is

challenging due to the prevailing security situation. A National Environmental Information System was created, and staff from relevant ministries received training, but the System has only limited operationality as data sharing protocols are still to be negotiated between the different ministries. It seems furthermore from consultations at PPG stage, that the national statistical office has a good GIS unit, but that the sharing and production of geospatial data and maps is limited due to a lack of funding.

In terms of climate data, South Sudan only has five active stations that cover the entire country. A recent project funded by China installed a new hydrological data facility at the airport in Juba and has been training staff in hydrological modeling. However, consultations at PPG stage revealed that overall modeling capacity (e.g climate) is very limited and South Sudan relies on products provided by ICPAC. This lack of data, and the resulting lack of understanding of how climate change affects local populations and livelihoods, is a key driver of maladaptation and requires improved availability and sharing of data on natural resources, climate risks, and vulnerabilities.

Barrier 4: Complex and fragile local socio-political contexts, conflict and insecurity dynamics challenge integrated land use planning and natural resource management at community level

Traditional and customary mechanisms used to resolve land conflicts through dialogue and consensus have become less effective due to social changes from migration and population growth, land pressures, a reduced asset base and a magnifying effect of these issues due to climate change impacts. More generally, conflict and large-scale displacement typically undermine social bonds and state-society relations. Institutions are eroded and formal and informal mechanisms for resolving conflicts, including those related to natural resources, weaken. Large-scale displacement, whether caused by conflict or resource needs, results in the loss of community ties, and sometimes a loss of confidence in government. Against this backdrop, integrated land use planning processes, investment in agricultural activities and value chains, and negotiating local natural resource management agreements will need to inherently be accompanied and facilitated by conflict mediation and prevention activities.

Barrier 5: Insufficient knowledge and know-how in rural communities in terms of sustainable and climate resilient land, livestock and forest management and insufficient extension support

The challenging recent history has led to a deterioration of agricultural extension services in South Sudan. State and county level forestry, livestock and agricultural officers often also do not have the means to travel to communities to provide services or are challenged to do so by the local security situation. Moreover, many officers are in need of extensive training with respect to climate resilience and adaptation and nature-based solutions. County and community level stakeholders consulted at PPG phase assessed advisory extension services inadequate at the moment. For example, consulted

stakeholders in Western Equatoria State pointed out that a lack of veterinary services and access to vaccines/medicines leaves livestock vulnerable to diseases, reducing productivity and profitability. Limited government mobility and resource capacities to play their oversight, enabling functions and extension, lead furthermore to demotivation and high rates of staff turnover.

Barrier 6: Insufficient access to markets and financial products, and general low levels of development and lack of income generating options in remote rural areas

Many communities are disconnected from major towns. There are no existing insurance or loan systems in South Sudan, and there is no banking system operational in most rural areas. Apart from a handful of bigger companies, private sector engagement in agriculture and livestock is very weak, due to the poor quality and connectivity of the road network and the prevalent security challenge.

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[5] Respondents in Maridi and Ibba revealed that rural land far away from towns or village centers is not affected and its natural resources are intact and undamaged but urban land in towns, especially, peri-urban areas are the most affected or converted to other land uses. Cultivation, pasture and forest and wet lands are mostly affected by conversion, they are encroached and converted into settlement, markets or shopping centers due to urbanization and development of other infrastructures like roads, schools, hospitals etc.
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[38] UNHCR, 2021: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2021). *South Sudan Situation: Regional Refugee Response Plan*. Retrieved from https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/southsudan
[39] https://drmkc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/inform-index/ INFORM Climate Change Risk Index is based on the INFORM Risk Index. It incorporates climate and socioeconomic projections to analyse how risk will evolve as a result of climate change under different emission and socio-economic scenarios. INFORM Risk model is a composite of three dimensions: the hazard and exposure (events that could occur and exposure to them), vulnerability (the susceptibility of communities to those hazards) and lack of coping capacity ((lack of resources available that can alleviate the impact) conceptualized based on pressure and release model (PAR model) and Cardona's holistic perspective of vulnerability and risk (De Groeve et al., 2014).
[40] SSPs include societal factors such as demographics, human development, economic growth, inequality, governance, technological change and policy orientations (O'Neill et al., 2017; Riahi et al., 2017; van Vuuren et al., 2017). Socioeconomic projections with consistent 21st Century narratives are available for the SSPs for population (KC and Lutz, 2017), urbanization (Jiang and O'Neill, 2017), gross domestic product (Dellink et al., 2017), educational attainment and age structure dynamics (Crespo Cuaresma, 2017).

Five SSPs are developed to span a range of potential outcomes for the challenges associated with both climate change mitigation and adaptation. The SSPs do not include neither mitigation and adaptation responses, nor the impacts of climate change. This allows the SSPs to be used as a reference case for assessing a variety of policies and projected risks. SSP2 (middle of the road): considers moderate challenges to mitigation and adaptation, population growth stabilized toward the end of the century.

[41] The two set of scenarios, RCPs and SSPs, complement each other. The RCPs set pathways for greenhouse concentration and, so, the amount of warming that could occur by the end of century regardless of any specific societal pathways (Figure B1). Whereas the SSPs set the alternative future societal pathways in which no climate change impacts occur, nor climate policy responses implemented (O'Neill et al., 2020; Riahi et al., 2017).

[42] RCPs include time series of emissions and concentrations of the full suite of greenhouse gases and aerosols and chemically active gases, as well as land use/land cover that would lead to the specific radiative forcing characteristics (IPCC, 2014). RCPs are used as an input for climate model simulations carried out under the framework of the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase (CMIP5 and CMIP6) of the World Climate Research Programme. RCPs usually refer to the concentration pathway and corresponding emission scenarios up to 2100 produced by Integrated Assessment Models. IPCC 5th Assessment Report considers four RCPs (2.6, 4.5, 6 and 8.5) produced from Integrated Assessment Model as a basis for the climate predictions and projections (Mach et al., 2014). RCP8.5 = surface temperature by the end of the 21st century (2081–2100) relative to 1986–2005 is likely to be 2.6°C to 4.8°C.

[43] https://land.igad.int/index.php/documents-1/countries/south-sudan/legislation-and-policies-5/policies-5/1047-national-agriculture-and-livestock-extension-policy-nalep-the-implementation-framework-plan-and-budget/file

[44] https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl1411/files/documents/deforestation-report-in-s.-sudan-2021.pdf

[45] https://climate-laws.org/document/national-environment-policy-2015-2025_b36c

[46] The World Bank. 2024. South Sudan Forest Sector Thematic Review.

[47] The World Bank. 2024. South Sudan Forest Sector Thematic Review.

[48] The World Bank. 2024. South Sudan Forest Sector Thematic Review.

[49] https://www.afforum.org/oldaff/sites/default/files/English/English_90.pdf

[50] https://igad.int/igad-ministers-in-charge-of-forestry-endorse-a-regional-forestry-policy-and-strategy/

[51] https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl1411/files/documents/deforestation-report-in-s.-sudan-2021.pdf

[52] https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl1411/files/documents/deforestation-report-in-s.-sudan-2021.pdf

[53] The World Bank. 2024. South Sudan Forest Sector Thematic Review.

[54] About 155 million tCO2-eq of reduced GHG emissions and enhanced carbon stock by 2030

[55] **https://apnews.com/article/south-sudan-peace-talks-f244554a36a2aa112a9fb5604d4fa48b**
[56] **https://unmiss.unmissions.org/mandate**
[57] **E.g. https://unmiss.unmissions.org/world%E2%80%99s-largest-land-mammal-migration-revealed-south-sudan**
[58] **E.g. https://unmiss.unmissions.org/western-equatoria-communities-empowered-build-businesses-and-sustain-their-families-during-unmiss**
[59] **As illustrated by this finding from Lakes stake consultations during PPG: no quantified data exists on those forest resources and plantations found where relics of teak species abounded for a long time. No forest inventory and survey data nor forest products records available such as volumes of timber logs harvested and non-timber products (gum Arabic, lulu (Vitellaria nilotica) oils, natural honey etc.) from the natural forests.**

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

The proposed project offers **a multidimensional solution to reduce climate impacts, address environmental degradation, promote sustainable land management, and foster socio-economic development**.

The project's **Theory of Change** can be summarized as: '*If the intersection of conflict, degraded ecosystems and climate change impacts are addressed in a holistic way, facilitating collaboration and dialogues around natural resources use that involve all stakeholders and aim at repairing social trust, and if they are underpinned by facilitating policies, laws and regulations as well as capable research, extension and information systems, climate resilience of agro-sylvo-pastoral-systems can be obtained and the lives and livelihoods of the people that depend on these systems improved*'

The project's **main objective** is to '*promote climate change adaptation in the agricultural sector (forestry, crop and livestock production) through nature-based solutions, integrated land use planning and climate services to deliver food security and sustainable livelihoods for 220,000 vulnerable people in areas prone to climate related impacts*.

To help lower the barriers outlined above and achieve the main objective, the project will implement a mix of interventions that will target i) the institutional, organizational and technical capacities necessary at different levels of governance to effectively plan, implement and monitor sustainable and climate resilient agricultural production and natural resource management activities, ii) the improvement of livelihoods and income generating opportunities of the different peoples present in the target communities and landscapes. The project will support the improvement of livelihoods of local communities, while maintaining the ecosystem base they depend on.

It will bring transformational and behavioural change by integrating climate change adaptation, conflict prevention and peacebuilding approaches for strengthening social, environment and economically sustainable

climate resilience at local levels. By adopting a "peace positive" approach to planning and implementing climate action, the project aims for long term sustainability of project interventions and behavioural change.

The project combines climate change adaptation activities – such as the introduction of climate-smart agricultural techniques and water conservation/sharing methods and livelihood diversification with inclusive approaches to dialogue, conflict resolution, and natural resource governance in order to: (i) strengthen social cohesion and trust, (ii) build capacity for peaceful mediation and dialogue, and (iii) promote sustainable and climate-resilient livelihood options.

The proposed project has a strong gender, women and youth focused approach to ensure their inclusion and to foster their key roles in conflict mediation and prevention.

The project objective (**Sphere of Control**) will be achieved through **ten (10) interlinked outcomes** defined below:

- **OUTCOME 1.1.:** Regulatory frameworks for integrated land use planning and nature-based adaptation solutions for agriculture systems are established in a participatory way
- **OUTCOME 2.1.:** Improved capacity of government institutions, non-governmental organizations, and local communities to effectively plan and implement climate resilient agriculture management interventions
- **OUTCOME 2.2.:** Monitoring networks and information systems are established and strengthened
- **OUTCOME 2.3.:** Agricultural resilience and market access are enhanced through gender-sensitive incentives, business models, and financial access
- **OUTCOME 3.1.:** Nature-based solutions are applied for adaptive forest management, diversification, and livelihood improvement in local communities
- **OUTCOME 3.2.:** Community-led transhumance corridors management for effective conflict management
- **OUTCOME 3.3.:** Enhanced livestock management through nature-based adaptation solutions and inclusive value chains that support livelihoods and reduce pressure on natural resources
- **OUTCOME 3.4.:** Climate resilient and adapted crop production through innovative technologies, nature-based agronomic practices, and inclusive crop value chains that support livelihoods and reduce pressure on natural resources
- **OUTCOME 4.1.:** Increased knowledge and awareness of nature-based, sustainable agriculture practices and ecosystems conservation among key stakeholder groups
- **OUTCOME 4.2.:** Effective implementation and monitoring of Environmental and Social Safeguards and gender activities

Subsequently, through both the project and other initiatives, **Medium-Term Outcomes** could be achieved (**Sphere of Influence of the project**). These Medium-Term Outcomes are defined as:

- **MTO 1:** Harmonized environmental policies and regulatory frameworks are implemented, respected and monitored at state, county and village level and help South Sudan deliver on it's MEA commitments
- **MTO 2:** Inclusive, peace positive integrated land use planning is standard praxis in South Sudan
- **MTO 3:** Strong monitoring and information networks inform natural resource planning processes and deliver targeted information services for agriculture (e.g. climate services)
- **MTO 4**: Nature-based sustainable and inclusive management of forests, agricultural crops and village level livestock keeping reduces food insecurity, generates income and reduces poverty
- **MTO 5**: Women and youth lead medium sized inclusive peace-positive and environmentally sustainable agricultural businesses

The ToC can be expressed through **six (6) Transformative Pathways**, summarized as follow:

Pathway 1: By **promoting climate-resilient farming and livestock rearing practices** the project **enhances agricultural productivity**. Farmers can produce more food per unit of land, leading to increased yields. This improved productivity directly improves the local food security situation. By developing and climate proofing the crop value chain through trainings in post-harvest processing and the provision of storage, cooling and processing facilities, farmers can sell surplus produce both in local markets, but also further afield. They can moreover keep produce longer, and sell at later points in time, contributing to a steadier income stream throughout the year and a reduction of post-harvest (income) loss. The improved incomes reduce poverty and allow the farmer to potentially invest and grow their business. Better market linkages result in improved prices for farmers, further enhancing household earnings. Ultimately, increased income contributes directly to poverty reduction.

Pathway 2: By **promoting non-timber forest products and improving NTFP value chains** and market access, **economically viable alternatives to tree logging and charcoal production** are developed. By diversifying livelihoods and accompanying producer groups with skills training, loan schemes and post-harvest processing techniques, storage and cooling facilities, additional income opportunities are created. Ultimately, diversified income sources contribute to lifting households out of poverty and improving their food security situation.

Pathway 3: By **supporting essential services (water, fodder, veterinary) along migratory routes for pastoralists**, herd health is improved. This directly improves food security for herders, but also offers opportunities for livestock sales and hence additional income generation for pastoralists, ultimately helping vulnerable communities escape poverty.

Pathway 4: Interlinking interventions focused on climate change adaptation, improving income opportunities, and conflict mediation and prevention allows decreasing mutually enforcing destructive factors. Improved productivity will lead to improved livelihoods. This will lower competition for natural resources, in turn taking away or reducing one source of conflict. In the absence of conflict, further investments in productivity enhancement, value chains, markets and infrastructure is possible.

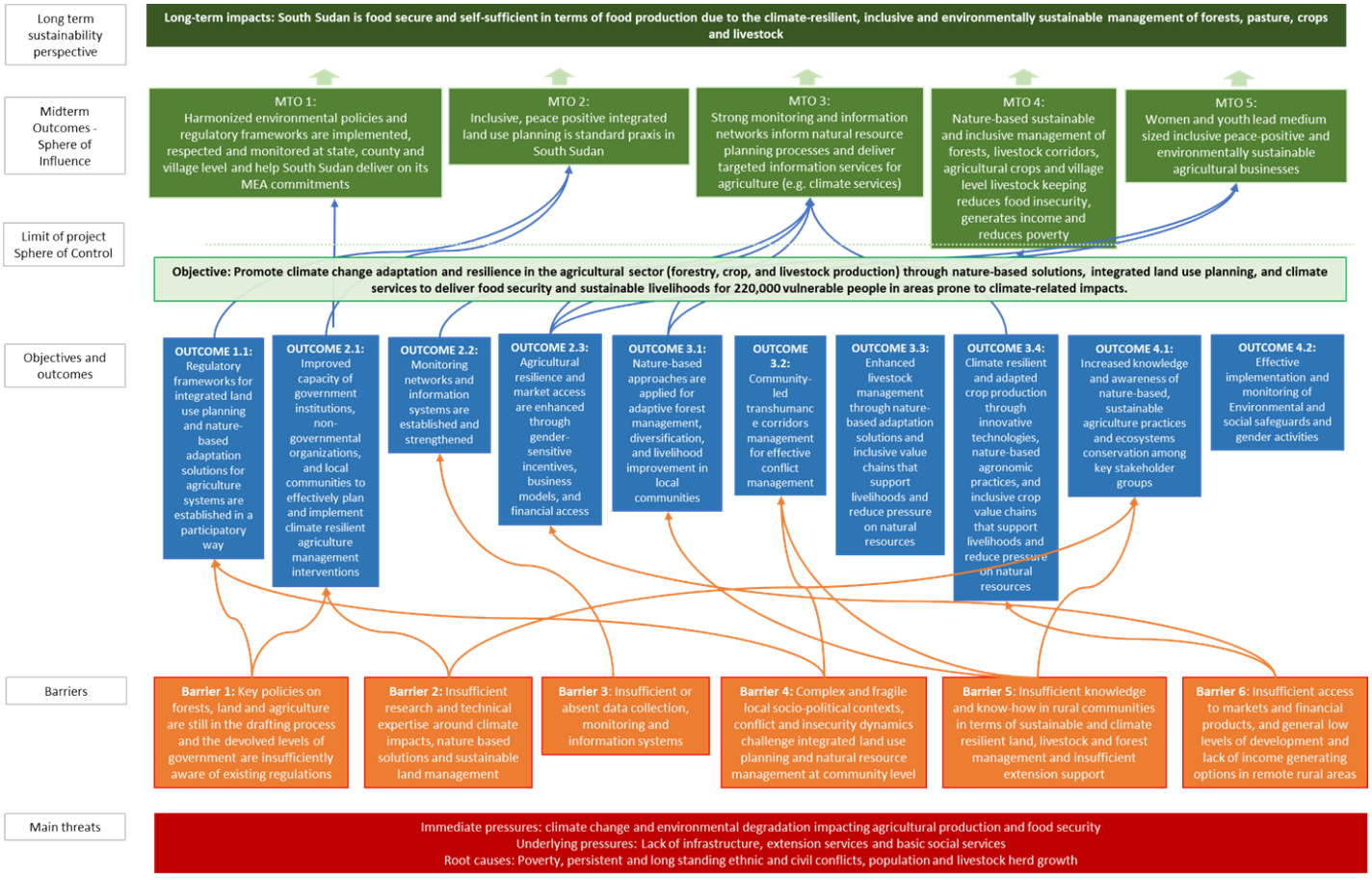
Pathway 5 : Climate-resilient livelihood activities targeting women, displaced populations, or ethnic minority groups, serve not only to enhance food and economic security for entire communities, but also enhance their social status and overcome pervasive inequalities that limit access to sustainable and inclusive economic recovery. Supporting female farmers and producer groups and improving their processing and business skills results in an improvement of their economic status. This not only enhances food security in their families and communities but enhances their social status and hence their political decision power. **Supporting and fostering women and youth in developing and applying their conflict mediation skills**, is **a livelihood diversification strategy in itself**. By being able to successfully mediate conflicts, social status of the mediators improves and with it often their economic status as the mediation skills can be renumerated. For pastoralist youth, conflict mediation skills would enable them to negotiate between rivalry tribes, which then could reduce cattle raids. As precisely young men are responsible for herding the cattle, a raid (and theft of cattle and entire herds) means a loss of any prospect of a decent future, often pushing the young men into violence instead, by a lack of alternative income opportunities.

Pathway 6: Capacity building government and extension officers at devolved governance levels and including them in project delivery at community level, helps to rebuild trust where government legitimacy has been undermined by conflict, and contributes to the sustainability of project results. Improved contacts and relationships help government officials to obtain better information from the ground and to increase their own knowledge, which in turn will lead to better support for communities in adaptation and livelihood improvement efforts.

ToC assumptions:

A.1. *The GoSS maintains its interest and commitment to implementing the 2018 peace agreement and peaceful elections by the end of 2026 .*
A.2. *The GoSS maintains its interest in advancing regulatory frameworks and practical approaches that enable communities in managing natural resources in participatory and inclusive ways*
A.3*. Communities (both farmers and pastoralist) are interested in peace positive, participatory land use planning processes and in managing the natural resources they depend on*
A.4*. Women and youth within pastoralist and farming communities are interested in advancing and applying their conflict mediation skills*
A.5. *A growing group of (private sector) actors is interested in developing nature-based value chains*

A.6. *National and international NGOs and development partners complement the project's activities and build on the lessons learned from the project to continue, upscale and replicate these in other parts of South Sudan*



The first component focuses on improving the **enabling environment for climate resilient planning** for agro-sylvo-pastorals systems and landscapes. It focuses on enhancing coordination, communication, as well as policies within the agricultural, land, forest and biodiversity sectors to improve decision-making, reduce conflicts and promote sustainable land use planning. By establishing expert panels, knowledge-sharing systems, and feedback mechanisms, this outcome promotes resilience and inclusivity. Additionally, activities under the component strengthen the harmonization of natural resource management policies (upcoming National Land Policy and Forestry bill, with NBSAP and NAP) and facilitate the establishment of community forests from a regulatory perspective. It explores how regulations can support alternative and sustainable income strategies such as NTFT, bio-energy and charcoal production. It also looks at how awareness and enforcement of existing regulations can be increased at devolved governance levels.

Results are delivered through three outputs under one outcome:

Outcome 1.1: Regulatory frameworks for integrated land use planning and nature-based adaptation solutions for agriculture systems are established in a participatory way

Output 1.1.1. Coordination mechanisms in the agricultural sectors established

Indicative activities include:

Coordination during the project:

- Establish three technical committees for the project, one for each target state. The technical committees are composed of representatives from different governmental departments at state and county level, as well as researchers from academia, and NGOs that have activities in the target counties. The technical committees provide technical guidance to the project. They meet twice per year. The county Natural Resource Management Committees formed under output 2.1.3. are members of these technical committees.
- Each State technical committee to identify target communities for project activities using a set of well-defined criteria

Communities of practice:

- Establish multi-disciplinary panels/groups on sustainable and climate resilient practices in forestry, crop production and livestock keeping at national level. The panels should be composed of experts from vocational and research centers (see output 2.1.1), the university of Juba, University of Rumbek, the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food security, the Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism, and technical staff from relevant NGOs
- Establish communities of practice at county level, composed of delegated members of the communities that participate or are direct beneficiaries of the project's activities, as well as county level forestry, and agricultural (extension) officers.

Data sharing protocol for environmental data:

- Establishment of a comprehensive data sharing protocol between all ministries participating in and using the National Environmental Information System, at national and devolved government and governance levels

Output 1.1.2. NRM policies are strengthened

As outlined in section A.2. key policy instruments for natural resource management are in place but they need further alignment, harmonization and first and foremost completion of the drafting process and adoption. The output addresses these issues. For example: The 2015 Forest Policy is the main policy instrument for community forestry. The draft Forest Bill of 2023 provides for three forms of community forest management (Community based forest management, Participatory Forest Management, Collaborative Forest Management). The Land Act 2009 is the core legal instrument for the management of community land. The draft National Land Policy of 2023 includes a proposal on the enactment of new laws to give effect to its provisions on strengthening the land administration system including the development of a Community Land Act and alignment of environment, and forest sector laws with this policy.

Indicative activities include:

- Review national policies and guidelines related to agriculture, forestry, and land planning, and provide concrete recommendations for advancing an integrated peace positive climate resilient agriculture and NRM regulatory framework (policies, action plans, and regulations).
- Based on the recommendations, support the amendment and finalization of key draft legislative pieces for agriculture, forestry, livestock, pastoralism, natural resource management and mainstream integrated land use planning and climate change adaptation in all.
  For example:
  - Facilitate the enabling environment for community forests (complementary to activities under outcome 3.1.):
    - draw relevant learning and potential parallels with the draft Wildlife Bill by engaging the MWCT as it contains community conservancy and conservation components which may have some similarities with the Forestry Bill.
    - address gaps in the Forest Policy and Forest Bill related to the definition of terms and the clarity of roles and responsibilities among stakeholders.
    - Provide guidance on institutional arrangements
    - Conduct a broad awareness campaign at national, state, county and community level (targeted capacity building is to be delivered under component 3)
  - Amend policies to facilitate tree farming by communities and individuals by easing means of obtaining permits, reduced taxes, and royalties
  - Establish legal arrangements for benefit sharing of revenue obtained from the sale of forest products between the Forest Authorities and the community members involved in caring for tree in natural forests
- Strengthen integrated land use planning knowledge and capacities at national, State and county levels through awareness raising and trainings

Output 1.1.3. Regulations, standards, and enforcement mechanisms are strengthened

Consultations at PPG stage revealed that there is limited knowledge of environmental laws at devolved government levels and community levels, hampering enforcement and leading to the prevalence of harmful practices. The consultations also revealed that parents, community leaders, church leaders, NGOs and government can be powerful actors in stopping unsustainable practices. Awareness creation, employment opportunities, skills training and meetings can be good incentives for perpetrators to stop harmful practices.

Indicative activities include:

Regulations and standards

- Strengthen rules and regulations regarding the conversion or transformation of agricultural and forests lands including wetlands. Consider establishing a compensation scheme for land owners to deter them from selling land of ecological importance.
- Develop stringent regulations on bioenergy and on charcoal production
- Develop standards on NTFP, to support the economic opportunities connected with sustainable NTFP value chains (see outcome 3.1.)

Strengthening environmental enforcement

- Assess awareness and knowledge of environmental laws and regulations such as the above ones at devolved levels and formulate recommendations for improved enforcement
- Support the forestry services in the MoEF in strengthening enforcement (awareness raising campaign, training of community NRM committees, community patrols monitoring and reporting of issues?)

- Formulate recommendations for the integration of customary and official/government systems at community, boma, payam and county level (e.g. establish protocols to structurally involve paramount chiefs and pastoralist leaders in the NRM (transhumance) negotiation process typically led by county commissioners; establish collaboration between the two systems at payam level). Facilitate and foster the integration of women in both customary and state decision making structures.

Component 2: **Fostering climate resilient and inclusive agriculture and ecosystem management through capacity building, information systems, and stakeholder empowerment** focuses on the more t**echnical aspects of the enabling environment for NRM and climate adaptation planning**. Activities under this component aim to build broad capacity in terms of integrated land use planning and conflict prevention at community level, and to substantially strengthen agricultural extensions services. The capacity of research institutes and technical colleges around nature-based and climate resilient solutions in agriculture will be strengthened so they can conduct research and provide training on NbS and climate adaptation in agriculture. The effective management of natural resources and the application of ILUP requires the collection and use of the best information available about the status, trends and health of forests, grasslands, and agricultural land. The component therefore also aims to strengthen monitoring and data collections networks as well as related information systems. This comprises information on forests, rangeland, arable land, and water resources as well as information and data on climate risks and vulnerability. Finally, component 2 also looks into enhancing access to affordable finance for smallholders through tailored gender-sensitive incentives, financial products and business models.

Delivery is through six outputs, grouped under three outcomes:

Outcome 2.1: Improved capacity of government institutions, non-governmental organizations, and local communities to effectively plan and implement climate resilient agriculture management interventions

Output 2.1.1. The capacity of agricultural research institutes and vocational training centers is strengthened so they can conduct research and provide training on NbS and climate adaptation in agriculture

The following agricultural research centers and vocational training centers are located in the target states and counties: Yambio Institute of Agriculture (Yambio county, WES), Yei Crop Training Center (CES), Kagelu Forestry Training Center in Yei (CES), and Nyankot livestock center for ranch improvement in Rumbek (Lakes). The human and technological capacity and the equipment available at these centers is, however, limited as a result of the civil wars. The project intends to rebuild capacities and facilities, and to invest in appropriate equipment for these centers so they can again play a key role in providing agriculture research and vocational training in South Sudan. The project will moreover build up specific capacities around sustainable and climate resilient agriculture, natural resource management and nature-based solutions (e.g. biological pest control).

Indicative activities include:

- Facilitate the multidisciplinary panels from outcome 1.1. in determining the focus of each research and vocational training center.
- Draft an atlas (or technical guide) of nature-based solutions that can be applied in the target counties. Include agro-forestry practices and Toungya systems.
- Conduct a technology, equipment and capacity needs assessment at each research and vocational training centre, for them to be able to deliver on their tasks (e.g. soil and land management, bioenergy production, biological crop pest management)
- For the research centres:
    - Procure the necessary equipment (software and hardware)
    - Develop and deliver a capacity building programme for staff
- For the vocational centres:

- Procure the necessary equipment (software and hardware)
- Provide extensive training of staff (training of trainers):
  - on natural resource management, climate change adaptation and resilience in forestry, crop or livestock production, and nature-based solutions
  - on data base management and monitoring
  - on facilitating and using community dialogues around NRM and climate change adaptation (link with activities under output 2.1.3.)
- Review and strengthen a specific curriculum for each vocational training center. The curriculum incorporates specific courses and training modules around natural resource management, climate change adaptation and resilience in forestry, crop or livestock production, and nature-based solutions.

- Organize networking and information exchange and collaboration between the vocational centres and the research centres and link them up with national and international institutes and initiatives that can provide further research support, training and funding (e.g. ILRI, IFPRI, CGIAR (ICRISAT, IITA; CYMMYT), but also Veterinarians without Borders[1][60])

Output 2.1.2. Extension services in NbS are strengthened at state and county level

The output will seek to address these issues described under Barrier 5, by strengthening the capacity of extension officers and by providing the necessary means for them to reach and work with the communities. The approach is based on a learning-by-doing principle centered around the re-establishment of relationships and trust between extension officers and communities. Communities will receive regular visits and training sessions from government representatives, including members of the technical committee with expertise in animal health and agricultural techniques to support project interventions, such as capacity building of animal veterinary workers or the distribution of drought-tolerant vegetable seeds.

Indicative activities include:

- Conduct an extensive capacity, equipment and technology needs assessment of livestock, agricultural and forestry officers at the State and County level in the participating States and Counties
- Develop and deliver a comprehensive training programme for extension workers, that includes modules on climate impacts and vulnerability, climate resilient production techniques (e.g. agro-forestry and Toungya System), and nature-based solutions, Include a training of trainers module.

- Facilitate regular visits of the livestock, agricultural and forestry officers to farmer groups in the target communities to provide training on climate resilience and NbS. For example, work with extension officers from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security at State and County level to distribute drought resistant seeds and conduct training in agricultural techniques. In pastoralist communities, support livestock officers to conduct training of selected community members in para veterinary services. Prioritize training women and youth. Provide the government officers with the means to be able to sustain regular visits to the communities throughout the project duration (e.g. bicycles, motorbikes, fuel and motorbike maintenance costs, smartphones). Identify focal points in the communities that can channel direct follow-up and information exchange between local communities and extension officers.
  - Establish information exchange mechanisms between communities and county level extension officers
    - Establish extension focal points in communities

- Provide means for information exchange between community focal points and county extension officers

- Establish field schools (agro-forestry, farmer, agro-pastoral, pastoral) in each county and provide competitive grants for producer groups to visit these

Output 2.1.3. Integrated land use planning and conflict prevention capacities are strengthened at community level with a special focus on the role of women and youth

Against the background of persistent conflict, integrated land use planning processes will need to inherently include conflict mediation and prevention activities. Any investment in the productivity of a land-based activity will also need a thorough understanding of both formal and customary, more flexible tenure arrangements in the particular context of the target county and community. This includes understanding the coping strategies of vulnerable resource users who access degraded lands as a social safety net. Integrated land use planning exercises conducted in the communities, will need to ensure that all user groups are included, including displaced persons, returnees, (migrant) pastoralists, women, and youth. Similar to the approach for strengthening agricultural extension services under output 2.1.2, emphasis should be placed on involving State and County level officers in the planning process and hence building capacity along the entire 'planning' chain[2][61]. The project needs to invest ample time and resources in facilitating dialogues around natural resources use, access and use rights. Clear, enforceable land-use agreements need to be in place prior to agricultural productivity enhancement and land restoration activities, to protect the land-use rights of the different groups.

Considerable evidence exists on the strong and crucial role women play in mediating and preventing conflicts. The project will therefore foster women in the participating counties and communities to take up this role. Similarly, the project will explore whether and how youth can be engaged and how their capacity can be built to take up mediating roles. Finally, the project will explore social events as opportunities to bring communities and groups together to strengthen social ties, lower grievances and increase mutual trust and understanding.

Indicative activities include:

Enabling activities:

- Conduct a contextual analysis in each target community to identify current land use, conflict histories and dynamics, decisions making powers, groups excluded from decision making, the role of women and youth, and people with special needs. This will include documenting traditional resource management practices, including the identification and mapping of traditional governance structures, resource use patterns, and conflict resolution mechanisms.

Develop a tailored approach to facilitate community dialogue around natural resource use and climate change impacts in each community. Explore the role of drama and plays for establishing community dialogues around natural resource use and climate impacts. An example of how drama can facilitate dialogue can be found in the TerriStories methodology[3][62]. Make use of the data/information collected through activities under output 2.2.2 (inventories/state of forests, land, and water resources). Set up integrated land use planning governance structures and mechanisms:

- The project will empower each target community to form a Natural Resource Management Committee (NRMC). These committees will serve as the foundation for integrated and climate-resilient land use planning. To ensure equitable and effective planning, the NRMCs will include representatives from all segments of the community: farming and pastoralist groups, women, men, youth, all ethnicities, and displaced people. By incorporating trained mediators, the project promotes a peace-positive approach to natural resource management. Women and youth will play a vital role in monitoring activities, with safeguards in place to prevent increased vulnerability. Their feedback will be central to all project phases. Furthermore, the project will empower women and youth by raising awareness of their land tenure rights, as detailed in the Gender Action Plan. Local authorities will be key partners in these awareness-raising efforts.
- Establish a NRMC at county level (consisting of delegates from community level).
- Establish communication and documentation processes for vertical information and (formal) decision sharing processes (e.g. decisions on land use/access) between the community and the county NRMP and officers/administration.

Conflict prevention:

- Develop and deliver an extensive conflict mediation and prevention capacity building programme for men, women and youth in the project target counties and communities.
- Strengthen existing mediation skills and processes. E.g. Support and train community-based institutions in mediation and conflict resolution methods by the project.
- Organize and facilitate joint social activities across communities and ethnic groups. Consultations conducted during the PPG phase revealed that pastoralist communities are highly appreciative of wrestling events. These events often are characterized by dancing and praising of animals. Communities in the Greenbelt area more enjoy drama/theatre activities as well as friendly football games.

- Develop and implement a conflict incident tracking tool used to identify and monitor disputes related to natural resources over the course of the project implementation.

Outcome 2.2. Monitoring networks and information systems are established and strengthened

Output 2.2.1. The monitoring of climate risks and government capacity to deliver basic climate services and conduct vulnerability assessments is strengthened

National and devolved assessments of climate risks and vulnerability climate-related security risks are to provide guidance on how to understand, prevent or respond to security risks linked to climate or environmental change. Together with a series of training initiatives on understanding and planning for the security implications of climate change delivered to national stakeholders in both countries, the activities under the output can build both the evidence base and capacity to address climate-related security risks through national policymaking and planning processes. The approach under the output will be a proof-of-principle. If successful it can be replicated in other communities and counties in South Sudan, and upscaled.

Indicative activities include:

- Develop and deliver comprehensive climate risk and vulnerability assessment (CRVA) training (including a manual) at National, State and County level.
- Support the South Sudan Meteorological Services and the MHADM in traveling to the participating communities to:
    - Raise awareness about climate impacts and climate risks
    - Conduct an assessment in the participating counties and communities to understand their specific climate information needs (e.g. in terms of Agrometeorology, extreme events/disaster

risks (e.g. floods, droughts), but also time-period (seasonal forecasts most likely)). The assessment should be gender sensitive and engage a plethora of groups and governance structures at different levels (State, County, Payam) e.g. chiefs and paramount chiefs, representatives of farmer groups, women's groups, youth groups, displaced people, (migrant) pastoralists, but also emergency and disaster response officers.
    - Conduct participatory climate risk and vulnerability assessments in each target community. The assessment will include mapping traditional early warning systems through interviews with indigenous leaders and community members.
- Support the SSMS to develop appropriate indicators that capture the needs expressed at the communities and counties. Explore, together with ICPAC, the newly available products by the European Centre for Medium-term Weather Forecasts (ECMWF)[4][63]. Explore collaborations with EU-funded research projects such as CONFER[5][64].
- Develop and tests simple early warning alert protocols between the SSMS, the MHADM and the participating counties and communities. Document experiences.
- To facilitate the development of the indicators by the SSMS, and to foster engagement at community level with climate and climate risks, install rain gauges and potentially also synoptic[6][65] and hydromet stations in the participating communities and train selected community members to take care of them, read them, and send data to the State level Meteorological service. Upon project closure, transfer the ownership of the rain gauges to the state.

- Strengthen SSMS broadcasted weather and climate information on the radio with additional weather information and forecasts for the participating communities, as well as information on which crops to plant and when. Facilitate direct interaction/participation by the participating communities in the daily radio programme (e.g. mobile phones and call credit). Community members could for example call the meteorology department to ask specific questions or receive additional information and advice[7][66].

Output 2.2.2. The existing National Environmental Information System is expanded with gender-responsive modules on forests, rangelands, livestock and water resources

Indicative activities include:

- Facilitate the inventory of forest and land resources in the participating counties
    - Procure appropriate Remote Sensing products and software, and support the University of Juba in creating a gender-disaggregated georeferenced baseline dataset of existing land uses, and of land use dynamics in the target counties over the last 20 years
    - Support the RS based inventory of migratory routes integrating gender-specific data on mobility and access to grazing and water resources for women pastoralists
    - Support the RS based assessment of land, pasture and forest degradation incorporating gender-specific insights into how land degradation disproportionately affects women's livelihoods, particularly in agriculture and forestry-dependent communities.
- Strengthen the monitoring systems and implementation capacities for water accounting and water auditing, using FAO's methods and tools

  - Assess the status and trends of water resources in the target counties, ensuring gender-specific impacts are captured (e.g., water accessibility for women-led agricultural activities and household needs)
  - Evaluate water demand trends (with focus on gender-differentiated agricultural water use), and access to water
  - Assess the functionality of water related policies and institutions at different administrative levels incorporating a gender analysis to evaluate women's participation in water governance
  - Provide decision makers with a comprehensive set of policy options that integrate gender-responsive water management strategies to increase the capacity to cope with increasing pressure on water resources
- Implement a Training of Trainers (ToT) programme to equip state and county level officers as well as community members in data collection and monitoring
  - Procure the equipment (hardware and software) and develop and deliver a training programme for State and County level officers to monitor forests, land and water resources ensuring that at least 40% of trainees are women
  - Support the state and county level officers to train selected community members in local monitoring and data collection (ensuring women's participation in ground truthing of RS and satellite data)
  - Develop gender-sensitive training materials that address women's roles in environmental monitoring and ensure their access to technology and decision-making processes
- Ground truth the baseline maps and create GIS based maps of forest, land and water resources based on the data collected through the previous activities
  - Ensure that GIS-based maps visualize gender-specific access to land, forests, and water resources, highlighting disparities in ownership and usage.
  - Utilize participatory mapping approaches that include women in the validation of spatial data, ensuring their insights and resource access patterns are incorporated.
- Further develop and expand corresponding modules in the South Sudan National Environmental Information System
  - Integrate gender-disaggregated environmental data into the system to track and analyze differences in access, usage, and the impacts of climate change on women and men.
  - Establish a gender-responsive environmental reporting mechanism to regularly assess and communicate gender-related trends in land, forest, and water resource management.

Outcome 2.3: Agricultural resilience and market access are enhanced through gender-sensitive incentives, business models, and financial access.

Ouput 2.3.1. Agricultural resilience and market access are enhanced through gender-sensitive incentives, business models, and financial access.

Indicative activities include:

Facilitate access to finance for smallholders and women entrepreneurs:

- Conduct a feasibility study for agro-business climate insurance and micro finance mechanisms for smallholder entrepreneurs. This could include soft loans and facilitating credit saving cooperatives.
- Support the South Sudan Women's Researchers Network in conducting an assessment of what specific financial incentives and products would work for women
- Pilot the finance mechanisms for women in at least two counties

- Learn lessons from the pilot, assess its impact, and use these insights to identify additional counties with high potential for scaling up the demonstration of finance mechanisms for women, ensuring a broader regional impact and greater resilience among vulnerable groups
- Develop financial literacy and business management training for women entrepreneurs to ensure the effective utilization of finance mechanisms.
- Create mentorship and peer-support programs to enhance the sustainability of women-led agribusiness ventures.

Establish agribusiness hubs in each county:

- Conduct private sector mapping
- Create a network to bring private sector actors (e.g. aggregators) to local crop/farmer or NTFP groups created under component 3, to see what farmer needs are, and support private sector actors in developing simple fair and equitable business models for developing market access or value chain development. As part of this, also explore and develop a simple business model for delivering extension services.
- Provide competitive kick-starter grants to private sector actors to provide services (e.g. inputs to farmers) to smallholders
- Conduct a feasibility study for public-private partnership models for further rural agri-business development through the hubs

Activities under **Component 3** build on and are **a practical application of the results of activities conducted under Component 2**. Four outcomes cover the spectrum of ago-sylvo-pastoral production activities in the landscapes of the target counties, each of them focusing on a specific agricultural or natural resource sub-sector: forestry, crops, smallholder livestock keeping and pastoralist herding. Activities in and with communities start from a peace positive, participatory land use planning exercise, during which land for specific use as well as degraded areas are identified. This is followed by restoration and demarcation activities, activities focusing subsequently on building capacity around sustainable production and extraction methods, climate proofing the value chain, introducing and supporting post-harvest techniques and infrastructure, fostering access to finance and linking producer groups to markets or actors along the value chain. Emphasis throughout is on participatory planning approaches, and solutions that work at community level. The aim is to start with local, small and simple, activities and to then gradually build up investment in infrastructure and arrangements along the value chain as the project and the producer groups acquire in-depth knowledge and experience. Special attention goes to supporting youth and women-led livelihood and business opportunities.

Outcome 3.1: Nature-based solutions are applied for adaptive forest management, diversification, and livelihood improvement in local communities

South Sudan's diverse forests fulfill numerous livelihood and food security functions. Forage wild foods such as fish, game meat (antelopes), fruits and roots are for example essential parts of pastoralists' diet in South Sudan particularly in times of conflict and stress[8][67]. In other areas forests provide a plethora of economically viable income opportunities off NTFP such as gum Arabic, honey and bee products, shea butter, and plants or parts of plants (e.g. bark) for medicinal use. Investments in sustainable management and exploitation of forest resources through a community forestry approach could reduce degradation of forests and woodlands (by providing viable income generating alternatives to logging or conversion to rangeland for example). Enhancing community engagement in forest management holds the potential to reduce rural poverty, promote forest resource conservation and increase local resilience to climate change (by reducing poverty and

providing alternative income sources, and by conserving forest ecosystem services critical to mitigate adverse climate impacts, such as water retention, local cooling, and physical shelter). Institutional capacity to implement community forestry at the national government, states and decentralized units is however weak and capacity needs to be built. The outcome focuses on building this capacity, in a very practical sense in the project's target State, Counties and communities, following a learning-by-doing approach that will provide valuable lessons for upscaling and replication in other counties and states of South Sudan. It also focuses on promoting sustainable NTFP cultivation and value chain development to provide new income opportunities.

Output 3.1.1. Community forestry management plans are developed, degraded forests are restored, and communities manage forest resources sustainably

Community forestry arrangement on community land involves the delineation and demarcation of community land, the direct engagement of local communities in forest management and formal arrangements with the Payam Land Council and County Land Authority. As traditional authorities have critical roles and responsibilities on community land, they need to be structurally involved in all aspects.

Indicative activities include:

Enabling environment at devolved level:

- Document traditional forest management practices, highlighting gender-differentiated roles, access, and knowledge systems, including women's traditional contributions to forest conservation and NTFP collection.
- Deliver gender-responsive capacity building to state and county officials on facilitating inclusive community forestry processes for the participatory identification of community land and establishment of community forests, ensuring that training materials and methodologies are tailored to address gender disparities.
- Following up on initial dialogues around natural resource use conducted under Output 2.1.3., facilitate the participatory and gender-inclusive delineation of community land, involving the Payam Land Council and County Land Authority, traditional leaders (of both farmers and pastoralist communities), representatives of women's groups, youth groups, displaced persons and returnees, local NGOs and CSOs.
- Facilitate community-government dialogues around forest management arrangements that are gender-inclusive, ensuring women's equal representation in leadership discussions on forest management arrangements and the identification of responsibilities and roles at different levels
    - Facilitate the registration of gender-inclusive community forest associations (CFAs), ensuring that at least 40% of members are women.
    - Facilitate the development of co-management agreements between the government and CFAs for managing defined forest reserve areas with provisions that explicitly recognize and protect women's land use and tenure rights.
- Document the process and formalize the delineation, as well as the use and management arrangements with the Payam Land Council and County Land Authority.
- Ensure the operationalization of gender-responsive community forestry management plans by defining clear implementation timelines, assigning responsibilities to both men and women in local communities, conducting periodic gender-sensitive training and capacity-building sessions, and establishing a structured follow-up mechanism that includes gender-disaggregated data collection, regular evaluations, community feedback sessions, and adaptive management strategies to ensure continuous improvement and sustainability.

Demarcate and restore:

- Identify community forest plots that need to be restored ensuring that women and marginalized groups have a say in prioritizing restoration areas based on their needs.

- Facilitate the creation of a gender-inclusive community forest registry (map) at Payam and County level, potentially GIS based at county level, ensuring GIS-based mapping reflects women's access and usage rights.
- Demarcate community land including areas that are to be community forests ensuring that designated community forests include provisions for women's forest-based enterprises and access to sustainable livelihoods
- Establish and maintain community-led tree seedling nurseries to support restoration efforts, ensuring that at least 40% of nursery managers are women or youth, by ensuring a steady supply of suitable tree species for reforestation activities.
- Restore degraded forest plots through assisted natural regeneration, active planting and agro-forestry techniques, actively involving women and youth in the restoration activities through cash for work schemes such as the Toungya system.

Sustainable production:

- Facilitate the formation of women-inclusive NTFP producer groups
- Provide continuous gender-responsive capacity building and training to the producer groups around the sustainable cultivation and extraction of NTFP (e.g. use smoke instead of fire when harvesting honey) ensuring that: women receive equal access to training and leadership roles; training incorporates gender-specific constraints, such as women's access to technology and finance for sustainable forestry enterprises.
- Conduct a broad gender-sensitive awareness raising campaign about unsustainable forest practices and the wider implications for ecosystem services.

- Ensure the implementation and long-term sustainability of developed plans through periodic monitoring with gender-disaggregated data, the establishment of gender-responsive adaptive management strategies, and strengthening women's participation in community-driven governance structures.

Output 3.1.2. Strengthened climate-proofed NTFP value chains and improved market access

This output focuses on sustainable and climate-proof NTFP production and marketing. For example, in areas where beekeeping is an option, fully equipped honey collection hubs could be set up in strategic locations in counties, trained in beekeeping (focusing on women and youth) can be provided, including how to build hives. A small study can be conducted into what the most affordable or effective beehive option would be in a given setting.

Indicative activities include:

Climate proofing the value chain:

- Provide capacity building to the NTFP producer groups around the post-harvest processing of NTFP
- Support producer groups to become cooperatives
- Build storage, cooling, processing and packaging facilities for successful cooperatives, and provide equipment such as solar-powered grinding mills for natural honey, gum arabic, lulu (Vitellaria nilotica) oil, mushrooms, seeds and fruits.

Market access:

- Conduct a short study on viable and marketable NTFP in the area such as bamboo
- Explore and support product collection hubs (e.g. at county level) and transportation options for NTFP to bigger urban centers
- Foster group saving schemes and connect producer groups and cooperatives to the financing options developed under component 1

- Deliver business development skill training to the producer groups and cooperatives (administrative, financial, marketing)

Outcome 3.2: Community-led transhumance corridors management for effective conflict management

Consultations at PPG stage revealed that transhumance movements are often not formally planned.

Output 3.2.1. Inter-community/inter-county transhumance corridor plans are developed, and governance and management arrangements are in place

Indicative activities include:

- Document traditional transhumance corridor management practices.
- Following up on initial dialogues around natural resource use conducted under output 2.1.3., facilitate the participatory delineation of transhumance corridors, involving the Payam Land Council and County Land Authority, officers from MWCT, MoEF and MoAF, traditional leaders (of both farmers and pastoralist communities), representatives of women's groups, youth groups, displaced persons and returnees, local NGOs and CSOs.
- Facilitate community dialogues around corridor management arrangements and the identification of responsibilities and roles at different levels through the NRMC.
- Identify corridor areas that need to be restored, identify where water and fodder points can be located, based on the results of the water accounting under output 2.2.2.
- Document the process and formalize the delineation, as well as the use and management arrangements with the Payam Land Council and County Land Authority.
- Facilitate the creation of a corridor map at Payam, County and State level, potentially GIS based at county and state level.

Output 3.2.2. Corridors are restored and maintained

Indicative activities include:

- Demarcate corridors
    - Buy equipment
    - Cash for work
- Restore degraded areas
    - Buy inputs for corridor restoration
    - Construction of flood protection earthen walls in Rumbek East
- Establish water holes
    - Buy material
    - Cash-for work scheme
- Establish fodder points

- Explore setting up risk funds to finance pasture management activities, similar to the Livestock Risk Management Fund currently piloted under the Green Pasture Pilot[9][68] and other similar past projects. A risk fund is a community fund set up by the community/local leaders with contributions from communities, local government, and other sources of funding, where community members can apply for small-scale funding for pasture management activities, sustainable haymaking, protection/rehabilitation of water sources, etc. The risk

funds help ensure that communities have funding to implement the pasture management plans, and allows consideration for specific needs of pastoralists, such as the seasonality of incomes.

Outcome 3.3: Enhanced livestock management through nature-based adaptation solutions and inclusive value chains that support livelihoods and reduce pressure on natural resources

Output 3.3.1. Community livestock management plans are developed, degraded lands are restored, and communities manage land sustainably

Indicative activities include:

Identification and restoration:

- Following up on initial dialogues around natural resource use conducted under output 2.1.3., facilitate the participatory identification of community areas where livestock can roam or be kept (ranches or paddocks of free grazing), involving the Payam Land Council and County Land Authority, traditional leaders (of both farmers and pastoralist communities), representatives of women's groups, youth groups, displaced persons and returnees, local NGOs and CSOs.
- Identify community rangelands that are degraded and in need of restoration.
- Document traditional livestock management practices.
- Restore degraded rangeland. Involve community members in the restoration activities through cash for work schemes.

Sustainable production:

- Facilitate the formation of livestock producer groups.
- Provide capacity building and training around the sustainable management of grazing areas.
- Provide materials for fencing and establishment of paddocks.
- Conduct a broad awareness-raising campaign about unsustainable grazing practices (e.g. fire setting) and the wider implications for ecosystem services.

Output 3.3.2. Strengthened climate-proofed livestock value chains and improved market access

Indicative activities include:

Climate proofing the value chain:

- Support producer groups to become cooperatives
- Provide capacity building to the livestock producer cooperatives around storage, cooling and processing
- Build storage, cooling, and processing facilities
- Build climate proof animal shelters
- Establish artificial dug-out dams (haffirs) to harvest rainwater that can be used as a source of drinking water for livestock in the dry season

Para-veterinary services:

- In connection with activities under output 2.1.2., select community members to be skill trained by the county level officers on livestock diseases and veterinary services.
- Establish community-owned animal drug centres to be run by the para-veterinary workers

Market access:

- Conduct a marketing study
- Explore and support transportation options for livestock products to bigger urban centres

- Foster group saving schemes and connect producer groups and cooperatives to the financing options developed under component 1

- Deliver business development skill training to the producer groups

Outcome 3.4: Climate resilient and adapted crop production through innovative technologies, nature-based agronomic practices, and inclusive crop value chains that support livelihoods and reduce pressure on natural resources

Output 3.4.1. Gender-responsive community production plans are developed, degraded lands are restored, and communities practice sustainable production methods

Indicative activities include:

Identification and restoration:

- Ensure women's equal participation in the participatory identification of community areas for crop production. At least 50% of community representatives engaged in the planning process should be women, youth, or marginalized groups.
- Following up on initial dialogues around natural resource use conducted under output 2.1.3., facilitate the participatory identification of community areas where crops can be grown, involving the Payam Land Council and County Land Authority, traditional leaders (of both farmers and pastoralist communities), representatives of women's groups, youth groups, displaced persons and returnees, local NGOs and CSOs. Pay special attention to resolving and making explicit a practical and if possible formal arrangement for access to land for women.
- Ensure women's land tenure and formal access to land are explicitly recognized and documented in production plans.
- Identify cropland that is degraded and in need of restoration, identify irrigation potential

- Restore degraded cropland, a.o. through agro-forestry. Involve community members, ensuring women's inclusion, in the restoration activities through cash for work schemes or systems like the Toungya system.

Sustainable production:

- Facilitate the formation of gender-inclusive farmer groups (20-30 farmers per group) (or farmer cooperatives) ensuring at least 50% of members are women
- Document traditional crop production practices ensuring that women's indigenous knowledge of seed selection, soil management, and climate adaptation techniques is recognized and incorporated.
- Identify improved seeds for the different target communities, in collaboration with the Yambio Institute of Agriculture (Yambio county, WES), Yei Crop Training Center (CES)
- Provide improved seeds, sustainable mechanical equipment (e.g. Delfino plough), biological pest control and capacity building and training around the sustainable management of cropland, also under climate change to farmers groups
- Install irrigation schemes (including solar powered pumps) with a focus on ensuring that women farmers have equal access to irrigation resources. Provide accompanying capacity building to farmers groups tailored to women farmers, addressing their specific challenges in irrigation management and decision-making roles in water governance.
- Conduct a broad gender-inclusive awareness raising campaign about: sustainable cropping practices and ecosystem restoration, incorporating women's traditional agricultural knowledge; climate change adaptation strategies for women farmers, ensuring that they receive targeted training on sustainable soil and water management; the economic and environmental benefits of integrating women into value chains, including processing, storage, and marketing of crops.

Output 3.4.2. Strengthened climate-proofed crop value chains and improved market access

Indicative activities include:

Climate proofing the value chain:

- Support producer groups to become cooperatives
- Provide capacity building to the farmer cooperatives around storage, cooling and processing
- Build storage, cooling, and processing facilities to be used by the cooperatives

Market access:

- Conduct a marketing study
- Explore and support transportation options for crops to bigger urban centres
- Foster group saving schemes and connect farmer groups and cooperatives to the financing options developed under component 1
- Deliver business development skill training to the farmer cooperatives

Under **Component 4**, the project will create a knowledge management and sharing system that focuses on both horizontal and vertical communication of the project's results to a wide variety of target groups and stakeholders. It aims to create a broad support for nature-based, sustainable agricultural practices and ecosystems conservation. A specific **monitoring and information management system** will be created **to ensure implementation of gender and safeguard frameworks implementation** and updating as well as overall **adaptive management and documentation of the project achievements**, evidence-based decision making and upscaling.

Results are delivered through two outputs under two outcomes, respectively:

Outcome 4.1: Increased knowledge and awareness of nature-based, sustainable agriculture practices and ecosystems conservation among key stakeholder groups

Output 4.1.1. Gender-Responsive Knowledge Management, Exchange, and Experience Sharing Established

This output focuses on both horizontal and vertical communication of the project's results to a wide variety of target groups and stakeholders ensuring that gender-related learnings are captured, documented, and widely shared. It aims to create a broad support for nature-based, sustainable agricultural practices and ecosystems conservation explicitly integrating gender-sensitive knowledge-sharing mechanisms to promote women's leadership, participation, and contributions to sustainable agricultural practices and ecosystem conservation.

Indicative activities include:

- Establish a project website that includes a dedicated section on gender-responsive climate resilience showcasing women's contributions, success stories, and lessons learned.
- Develop a comprehensive communication and knowledge sharing plan, that includes an awareness raising strategy for sustainable and climate resilient natural resource management for agriculture, livestock, forestry and pastoralism that includes: a gender-inclusive awareness-raising strategy on sustainable and climate-resilient natural resource management; content that highlights women's leadership in agriculture, livestock, forestry, and pastoralism; gender-sensitive communication

materials, ensuring that knowledge products are accessible and relevant to women, including those with lower literacy levels.

- Create and facilitate a platform for knowledge exchange between the participating counties that includes: a gender-inclusive awareness-raising strategy on sustainable and climate-resilient natural resource management; content that highlights women's leadership in agriculture, livestock, forestry, and pastoralism; gender-sensitive communication materials, ensuring that knowledge products are accessible and relevant to women, including those with lower literacy levels.
- Capture and document processes and approaches developed and tested under the project and identify lessons learned and identify lessons learned from a gender perspective.
- Disseminate project results and develop a roadmap for scaling of successful gender-responsive solutions
- Facilitate the involvement of the South Sudan's women research network and training
- Organise exchange visits and field schools between the communities within one county or state with a strong gender component: ensure that at least 50% of exchange visit participants are women; develop women-focused field schools to train female farmers, pastoralists, and entrepreneurs in climate-smart agriculture, sustainable forestry, and digital tools.
- Organise a national learning event that highlights gender-transformative practices in climate adaptation and sustainable agriculture
- Share knowledge with regional and global platforms ensuring that: gender-related learnings from the project are featured in international climate and agricultural forums; best practices from South Sudan on gender-inclusive climate adaptation are documented and shared; women leaders from the project participate in regional dialogues and policymaking discussions.

- Capture lessons learned from the trainings and implementation of Remote Sensing, GIS, surveys and other digital tools deployed for data collection and information management of natural resources ensuring to address gender gaps in access to digital tools and training through tailored capacity-building programs.

Outcome 4.2. Effective implementation and monitoring of Environmental and social safeguards and gender activities

The project will create a monitoring and information management system to ensure implementation of gender and safeguard frameworks implementation and updating as well as overall adaptive management and documentation of the project achievements, evidence-based decision making and upscaling.

Output 4.2.1. Environmental and Social Safeguards Management is developed and operationalized

This output will serve to address Environmental and Social Safeguards for the project and streamline processes across all project components. Several plans, assessments, mechanisms, and procedures will be developed or updated, including Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP), gender action plan, Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan, and Grievance Redress Mechanism.

An ESIA will be completed during project implementation, within a year from when the activities will be defined, and specific management plans will be developed, based on the ESMF developed during the project design phase. The ESIA will integrate specific procedures into the ESMP.

At a minimum, the procedures will include requirements for partners to:

- Adhere to FAO social and environmental standards (SES)
- Subject all on-the-ground activities to screening, using the SESP (Social and Environmental Screening Procedure)

- Clear all proposed activities with the Project Safeguards expert
- Ensure M&E of the activities that proactively promote women's empowerment and human rights

- Ensure an approach to governance that integrates and includes all the relevant stakeholders, including vulnerable groups or groups at risk of marginalization

Capacity for implementing environmental and social safeguards and/or integrating them into national policies and plans is expected to be limited. The Project will organize training and workshops to build the capacity of key project implementation actors and equip them with necessary knowledge and tools needed to achieve the objectives of the Project effectively and efficiently. This is key to ensure continued success over the course of the project implementation, and beyond. Such capacity building activities will start before the implementation of the activities and will include a combination of the following topics:

- FAO Social and Environmental Standards (SES) – with focus on the Standards triggered by the project activities (see SESP)
- Stakeholder Engagement Process – with focus on different way of engagement adapted to the different ethnic groups present in the project area.
- FAO Accountability Mechanism (Grievance Redress Mechanism)
- Understanding FAO Project Cycle
- Monitoring and Evaluation of FAO Projects
- Gender Equality and women empowerment

- Human Rights – with a focus on vulnerable and marginalized groups and individuals.

Overall, the project will have a focus on enhancing capacity of relevant national, regional and local actors, as well as targeted groups, to ensure that they have the required knowledge and skills to actively participate in project interventions, incorporate lessons learned, and uptake good practices.

Indicative activities include:

- An ESMF (Environmental and Social Management Framework) will be developed following the timeline of project implementation, including the Livelihood Action Plan. The ESMF will be developed considering the risk matrix developed during PPG. The ESMF will include a Cultural Heritage Management Framework, to ensure the related impacts and risks are avoided or mitigated.
- The Grievance Redress Mechanism will be updated within the first 3 months of the project. This mechanism will ensure stakeholders (including any ethnic minorities) can have access to a feedback mechanism ensuring their meaningful participation to project activities.
- The Comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan – developed during PPG - will be updated within the first 3 months of the project, based on stakeholder consultation and analysis. The CSEP will include an additional analysis of stakeholders, particularly ethnic groups in the project area, as well as a culturally sensitive and gender-responsive strategy for engaging with these groups.
- The Gender component is strongly integrated into the project activities and will be strengthened by the Gender Action Plan developed during the PPG phase.

Innovation & transformative change

The project will bring transformational and behavioural change by integrating climate change adaptation, conflict prevention and peacebuilding approaches for strengthening social, environment and economically sustainable climate resilience at local levels. By adopting a "peace positive" approach to planning and implementing climate action, the project aims for long term sustainability of project interventions and

behavioural change. All activities on the ground in the counties and communities start from a comprehensive contextual analysis to identify current land use, conflict histories and dynamics, decisions making powers, groups excluded from decision making, the role of women and youth. A tailored approach is then developed to facilitate community dialogue around natural resource use and climate change impacts in each community. The role of drama and plays will be explored for establishing community dialogues around natural resource use and climate impacts. The project will foster women in the participating counties and communities to take up conflict mediating and resolving roles. Similarly, the project will explore whether and how youth can be engaged and how their capacity can be built to take up mediating roles. Finally, the project will explore social events as opportunities to bring communities and groups together to strengthen social ties, lower grievances and increase mutual trust and understanding. **Interlinking interventions focused on climate change adaptation, improving income opportunities, and conflict mediation and prevention** allows decreasing mutually enforcing destructive factors. Improved productivity will lead to improved livelihoods. This will lower competition for natural resources, in turn taking away or reducing one source of conflict. In the absence of conflict, further investments in productivity enhancement, value chains, markets and infrastructure is possible. If successful, the approach can easily be replicated and scaled up to other counties and states in South Sudan.

Knowledge management

A specific outcome is dedicated to knowledge management and communication. Component 4 aims to increase awareness of nature-based, sustainable agriculture practices and ecosystems conservation among key stakeholder groups. A comprehensive communications and knowledge sharing plan (Output 4.1.1) will be developed and implemented to ensure effective information dissemination, knowledge capitalization, and broad stakeholder engagement. A comprehensive explanation of the KM is to be found under section E.1. of this document.

Policy coherence

The CARES project will improve national policies and strategies in the area of NRM. Key policy instruments for NRM are in place but they need further alignment, harmonization and first and foremost completion of the drafting process and adoption. Output 1.1.2. addresses these issues by reviewing all national policies and guidelines related to agriculture, forestry, and land planning, and provide concrete recommendations for advancing an integrated peace positive climate resilient agriculture and NRM regulatory framework (policies, action plans, and regulations) and, based on the recommendations, support the amendment and finalization of key draft legislative pieces for agriculture, forestry, livestock, pastoralism, natural resource management and mainstream integrated land use planning and climate change adaptation in all.

Capacity development

CARES' success depends on enhancing human, institutional and technical capacities at different levels of government and governance. A detailed account of how the project tackles this can be found in Annex H, part B2.

Lessons learned from past projects

Name Project	Implementing Agency	Period	Recommendations and Lessons Learnt relevant to CARES project
Food, Agriculture and	USAID	2010-2015	• **Value chain development**: Enabling environment for commercial banking remains weak, advances

Rural Markets (FARM)			should be made in areas such as farming-as-a-business and financial literacy training for farmers, linking farmer groups to commercial banks and micro-finance institutions, and building business relationships with them through opening deposit accounts and participating in activities of mutual interest. • **Fostering business opportunities/development/skills**: create role models and momentum in local areas, support services and counselling for small businesses, and training programs focused on business skills and financial literacy. • **Stakeholder engagement/communication**: New programs may consider using radio, text message services, and other technologies to deliver farming messages to beneficiaries that cannot be directly reached. • **Tailoring agriculture interventions**: Agriculture programming should be tailored to the characteristics of each location and consider agro-ecological features, security, political climate, culture and market accessibility. The timing of implementation should be dependent on the political and security situation of each area. • **Empowering Women and Youth**: Provide targeted supports in the form of grants and technical assistance to deliver vocational training, entrepreneurial assistance, and promotional programs to women and youth.
Sustainable Agriculture for Economic Resilience (SAFER) project in South Sudan	USAID/FAO	2017-2020	• **Stakeholder engagement:** The approach must be based on widespread consultation at local level. • **Project's design:** Inception phase of two to six months to ensure that the project is adapted to local context based on in-depth consultations to avoid an overly crop-oriented focus. • **Resilience:** Paying more attention to the social dimension of resilience within and between communities, pay attention to incentives for adaptation and innovation • **M&E:** moving away from a prescriptive logframe and M&E framework dominated by counting outputs, to one that looks for evidence of a responsive adaptive and learning culture (within the project and within participating agencies) • **Market development:** Efforts to increase production (from crops, to livestock to fisheries) from the perspective of the market system and potential.

			• **Agriculture/ Agro-ecology:** Greater attention is needed to support diversification of both crops – notably vegetables, and varieties, paying particular attention to the need to match varieties to local agro-ecologies • **Market development/value chain development:** Emergence of market-based seed systems should not only address seed access (e.g. through the use of vouchers and seed fairs where seed is locally available) but also seed supply (through identifying seed providers where seed is locally available, and through procuring seed form local seed companies for areas where there might be low availability of seed of particular crops) • **Basic services and infrastructures:** Beyond agricultural production and marketing, and must therefore be done in collaboration with other agencies, addressing issues such as basic service provision and improved infrastructure. • **Partnerships:** FAO should rethink and customise its approach to partnership with its IPs, to benefit from the respective experience of the different agencies, to maximise comparative advantage, and to design training and capacity development according to the capacity and skills of each respective agency.
Peace and community cohesion project	UNDP	2017-2022	• **Capacity building:** Many community members benefited from ToT in various thematic areas such as SGBV and psychosocial trainings. But there was no mechanisms put in place to cascade this knowledge and experience to other beneficiaries => important to plan and facilitate of such cascading mechanisms. • **Conflict resolution:** successful model of reversing conflicts using dialogues and interdependency initiatives as a tool to social cohesion and peace. • **Conflict management over resources:** Providing more support through facilitation in setting up of local mechanisms for management and interdependency projects handed over to the local community to avoid future conflicts over the management of these resources. • **Gender and Youth:** Need to conduct more targeted and in-depth gender awareness raising and sensitizing on the positive role of women and the youth in peacebuilding, dialogue and conflict resolution. More capacity building in peace and dialogues should be delivered to women, as well

			as more focus on strengthening women's inclusion in decision-making processes. • **Capacity building – peace building:** Build the capacities of local partners in order to be able to effectively implement similar initiatives and also play their crucial role in peace-building and conflict management. • **Capacity building – project staff:** Strengthening the capacity of project staff especially field staff through peer to peer learning forums. Need for staff capacity building especially on security, resilience and project implementation in a fluid political and security context. Besides, each conflict cluster needs at least an additional field staff for effective monitoring of project activities and the work of Ips, and have time to engage more with the community members.
The Food Security through Agribusiness in South Sudan	Kingdom of the Netherlands, Cordaid, Agriterra, Spark	2018-2023	• **Value chain development:** Need to further enhance strategies that connect the various value chain players at the different production nodes to facilitate efficient information flows and business activities. • **Market development/capacity building:** Additional support is required to train farmers on how to create and manage market linkages especially through the farmer associations. • **Conflict resolution/Stakeholder engagement:** Need for a more collective approach which should involve close cooperation and participation of local authorities to the challenge of hazards especially such as flooding, land disputes and cattle raiding. • **Rural finance:** Need to give more time to interventions designed to promote the development of the rural finance sector as the learning curve for rural finance development require a bit more time. • **Rural finance:** Rural finance interventions should consider lease financing and matching grants products for the acquisition of farm equipment and machinery. **Lessons learned:** • **Stakeholder engagement:** to get buy-in from the local communities and have them adapt new approaches an technologies => introduce these gradually and with the use of demonstrations and lead farmers. • **Farmers Capacity building/Stakeholder engagement:** Practical learning experiences

			through demonstration plots, farmers field schools, agricultural shows, exchange visits, study tours, and field days among others, are better means of learning for farmers than those that focus on theoretical impartation of knowledge. • **Knowledge exchange among farmers:** The farmer-to-farmer extension approach through use of lead farmers and group extension approaches offer an alternative viable farmer extension method for increasing extension coverage
Emergency Livelihood Response Program	FAO	2021 - 2024	•
Adaptation of agricultural cultivation methods to climate change and stabilisation of livelihoods in Western Bar el Ghazal in South Sudan	GIZ	2013 - 2018	• Smallholder households in the project region are better able to withstand external shocks through optimised and diversified agricultural production practices that are adapted to climate change. • If the majority of the beneficiaries are women (as in this project), most of the facilitators and trainers should also be female in order to facilitate the participation of women in project activities. • Wherever possible and required, food security measures should be supplemented by nutrition education in order to reduce malnutrition, as proved successful in the cooperation with the PRANA project
Strengthening government and community capacity to adapt to climate change	UNEP	2022 – December 2024	

[1] E.g. https://www.vsfg.org/south-sudan/
[2] The four levels of land use planning are A.State Level: State Land Administration (representative and a lawyer is involved), B. County Level: County land Authority (Executive Director, and the Paramount Chiefs), C.Payam Level: Payam land Council (Payam Administration and the Payam Chiefs), D.Boma Level: Boma land Management Committee (Boma Chief and the Boma community). Stakeholders at the WES consultations during PPG pointed out that any decision related to land whether in urban or rural area the land administration involves consultations with the communities concerned.
[3] The TerriStories methodology was tested in Burkina Faso under several WB projects. It involves participatory land and social diagnostics, organized in each participating municipality/community in the form of stakeholders' workshops based on simulation and role-play. The objective is to bring together different groups of land users (often with competing interests) to identify the issues that affect them individually and collectively and propose consensus-based solutions for a better management of natural resources, with support from local and customary authorities. The innovative role-play approach introduces environmental, economic, and social uncertainties, prompting participants to shape operational management rules according to their own

collective and individual needs, considering the risk of conflicts. The application of the TerriStories methodology is led by a specialized firm, with local facilitators trained in managing tensions related to land use. The outcomes include: (i) land use zoning plans; (ii) rules for accessing and using natural resources in common land; and (iii) identification of communal investments to be financed by the project. In addition, the process by which those decisions are taken is an important outcome as the process helps to promote dialogue and understanding between the land users and to negotiate sensitive issues. See: World Bank, 2022. Defueling Conflict. Environment and Natural Resource Management as a Pathway to Peace. The World Bank Group 1818 H Street NW, Washington, DC 20433, USA. Page 88.

[4] https://www.ecmwf.int/en/forecasts/accessing-forecasts

[5] https://confer-h2020.eu/

[6] South Sudan at the moment possesses only 5 active station that capture a limited amount of indicators.

[7] This approach is inspired by the approach in North Darfur under the UNEP-EU Climate Change and Security Partnership Project, which was implemented in North Darfur and the Karnali River Basin in Nepal, between 2017 and 2022. UNEP & EU, 2022. See: Climate Change and Security Partnership Project Final Report March 2017 - February 2022. 56 Pages.

[8] https://www.csrf-southsudan.org/blog/conflict-and-conservation-in-south-sudan/

[9] The fund finances herders' proposals for pastureland and livestock risk management and the operation of livestock quality examination and certification point to assist herders in increasing animal sales and fetch better prices through adequate quality examination and certification. Further information in: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, 2021. The "Green Pasture" Soft Loan Project in Chandmana soum of Hovd aimag, Final report April 2019 – April 2021. 39 pages. Accessible from: https://cdn.greensoft.mn/uploads/users/1925/files/Green%20Pasture%20Project%20final%20report%20March%202021.pdf
https://cdn.greensoft.mn/uploads/users/1925/files/Green%20Pasture%20Project%20final%20report%20March%202021.pdf

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)

The **Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF)** will act as the **lead executing agency** and will be responsible for the day-to-day coordination of progress towards project results in full compliance with all terms and conditions of the Operational Partnership Agreement (OPA) signed with FAO[1][69]. **ACTED, VSF-Germany, and additional partners contracted through Letters of Agreement will deliver the identified activities.** Potential NGOs include: in Central Equatoria State (Lainya and Yei Counties), Rural Women for Development (active in both Yei and Lainya) and ACROSS (engaged in multisectoral, disability-inclusive resilience building for IDPs, refugees, returnees, and host communities); in Western Equatoria State (Maridi and Ibba Counties), Star Trust Organization (STO) (a South Sudanese-founded organization based in Yambio, operating through community-based initiatives); and in Lakes State (Wulu and Rumbek East Counties), Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) (operating in South Sudan since 1986, focusing on humanitarian assistance, food security, civil society support, and the promotion of democratic, just, and safe societies) and ACROSS (also active in this region with a focus on inclusive resilience building as previously mentioned). **The final**

selection of NGOs will occur before the project inception, in consultation with MoEF.
The institutional arrangement can be further detailed as follows:

- **Coordination:**
  As the lead Operational Partner (OP) of the project, MoEF is responsible for the overall coordination of the timely implementation of the agreed project results by all Operational Partners.

- **Accountability:**
  While MoEF oversees overall coordination, each Operational Partner (all OPs including MoEF itself) is responsible and accountable to FAO for the timely implementation of the of the specific project results assigned to them. All Operational Partners are hence financially directly accountable to FAO for the timely implementation of their activities while reporting to MoEF for operational coordination. Each OP is responsible for effective use of GEF resources for the intended purposes and in line with FAO and GEF policy requirements.

- **Scope:**

- ACTED is responsible for the majority of activities implemented in Western Equatoria State and Central Equatoria State.

- VSF-DE is responsible for implementation of the majority of activities in Lakes State.

- All activities related to the forestry sector fall under the responsibility and coordination of MoEF. MoEF will be assisted by FAOSS for procurement under their responsibility.

- To ensure sectoral expertise, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries will oversee agriculture- and livestock-related activities, respectively, ensuring technical alignment with national policies and frameworks.
  A cross-ministerial coordination committee will be established to facilitate regular communication and oversight across MoEF, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries. This will enable efficient decision-making and ensure the integration of forestry, livestock, and agricultural components.
  Joint capacity-building initiatives will be implemented, ensuring that all three ministries collaborate in strengthening sectoral expertise, resource management, and adaptive practices.

- To further strengthen implementation effectiveness, the project will collaborate with additional partners to conduct the following activities.

  - capacity assessment and formulation of a comprehensive capacity building programme (outcome 1.1)

  - design and execute environmental regulations awareness raising campaign (outcome 1.1)

  - design and execute community forest and integrated land use planning awareness raising campaign (outcome 1.1)

  - strengthening environmental enforcement, patrolling etc. including equipment jointly with MOEF (outcome 1.1)

  - assess integration of customary and government structures and systems and to formulate recommendations for better integration of women (outcome 1.1)

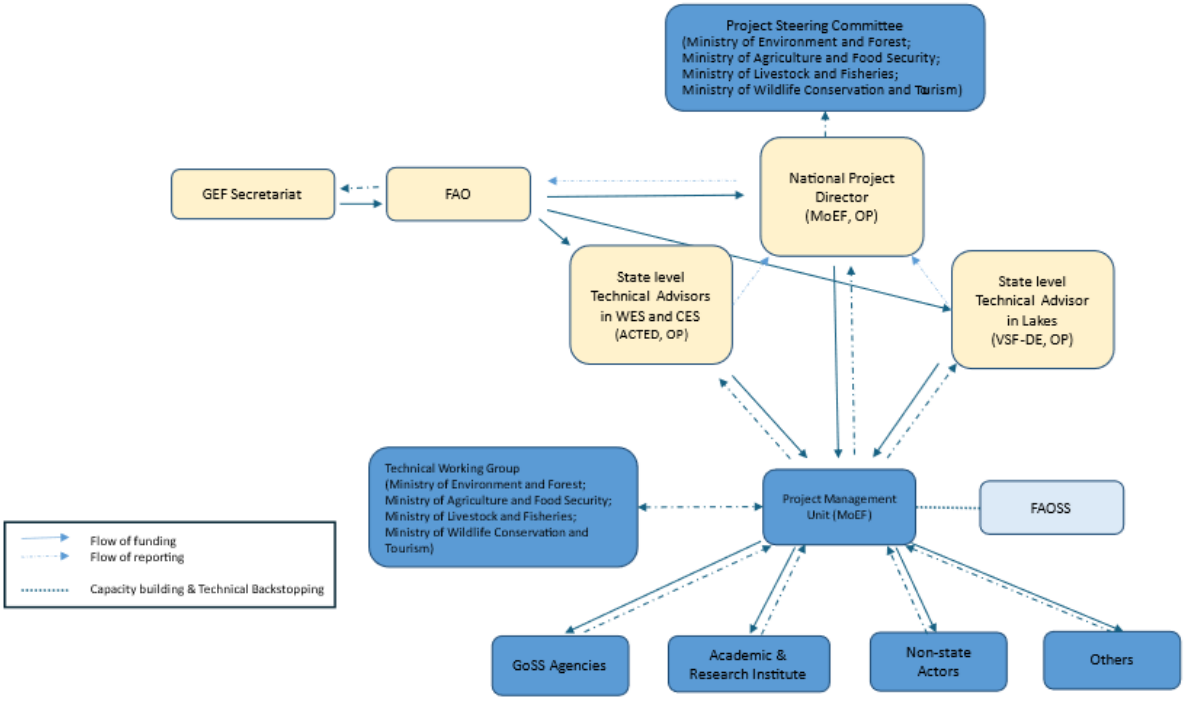
  - draft atlas of NbS, including consultations with wide range of stakeholders (outcome 2.1)

- conduct TECNA of Kagelu forest center, develop curriculum and deliver training (outcome 2.1)
- capacity assessment for forestry extension service, to provide training and to accompany forestry officers to the field (outcome 2.1)
- outcome 3.1. activities in WES and CES
- outcome 3.1. activities in Lakes
- establish a project website

- MoEF is, together with FAOSS, responsible for overall operational oversight and coordination of the implementation of the activities by all partners, for the timely reporting to FAO's OCB unit.

Further details are available in Annex H: Capacity Development, and Annex M: M&E.

The project organization structure can be depicted as:



The government will designate a **National Project Director (NPD).** Located in MoEF, the NPD will be responsible for coordinating the activities with all the national bodies related to the different project components, as well as with the project partners. The NPD will also be responsible for overall M&E and guiding the **State-level Technical Advisors** on government's policies and priorities.

The **Project Management Unit (PMU)** will be based in Juba at the MoEF, with satellite offices in each of the three target States.

The PMU will be led by the **National Technical Project Coordinator**, based in Juba. Each **state satellite PMU** will be overseen by a **State-level Technical Advisor**, operating from the state MoEF offices. In Western Equatoria State and Central Equatoria State, the State-level Technical Advisors will report to

ACTED for financial and operational matters. In Lakes State, the State-level Technical Advisor will report to VSF-DE for financial and operational matters. Each technical coordinator is assisted by an **Administrative and Financial assistant**, a **procurement officer**, an **M&E officer**, a **Knowledge Management officer**, and a **Gender, Safeguards and Stakeholder Engagement officer**. In summary:

CENTRAL PMU **MoEF offices Juba**	**Satellite PMU** **ACTED offices WES**	**Satellite PMU** **ACTED offices CES**	**Satellite PMU** **VSF offices in Lakes**
National Project Director (100%)	WES technical coordinator (100%)	CES technical Coordinator (100%)	Lakes technical coordinator (100%)
Administrative and financial assistant (40%)	Administrative and financial assistant (40%)		Administrative and financial assistant (20%)
Procurement officer (40%)	Procurement officer (40%)		Procurement officer (20%)
M&E officer (40%)	M&E officer (40%)		M&E officer (20%)
KM officer (55%)	KM officer (30%)		KM officer (15%)
Gender, safeguards and stakeholder engagement expert (25%)	Gender, safeguards and stakeholder engagement expert (25%)	Gender, safeguards and stakeholder engagement expert (25%)	Gender, safeguards and stakeholder engagement expert (25%)
	Field Technical Officer reporting to Technical State Coordinators	Field Technical Officer reporting to Technical State Coordinators	Field Technical Officer reporting to Technical State Coordinator

The distribution of PMC resources follows and represents the distribution and volume of responsibilities between the Operational Partners. More information is provided in the budget notes in Annex G and under the Capacity Development approach in Annex H, and under M&E in Annex M.

The **Project Steering Committee (PSC)** will be the main governing body of the project and will be chaired by MoEF. 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. The PSC will be comprised of representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Ministry of Wildlife and Tourism, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, and FAO. The members of the PSC will each ensure 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.

A technical committee made up of representatives from different governmental departments as well as other key institutions (such as the University of Juba) to provide technical guidance and oversight to the project. Communities receive regular visits and training sessions from government representatives, including members of the technical committee with expertise in animal health and agricultural techniques to support project interventions. Wherever possible, project activities are to be directly linked to existing governmental structures and mechanisms to ensure not only strengthened capacity of institutions but also sustainability of project interventions. The technical committee should also help to establish relationships and improve coordination between different parts of the government.

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 J for details):

- The Budget Holder FAO South Sudan country 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.

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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[1] *It should be noted that the identified Operational Partner(s) may change due to FAO internal due diligence and agreement procedures if not yet been concluded at the time of submission of the CEO Endorsement Request*

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

Yes

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

As indicated in the note for the file, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry of the Republic of South Sudan has requested support from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to strengthen its project execution capacity. This request stems from recognized operational and technical management gaps within the project's main executing partner, and focuses on two key areas:

- **Ensuring efficient and transparent procurement of goods and services:** This includes procuring entities detailed in the project document and budget.
- **Improving the Ministry's capacity to effectively plan and execute procurement procedures:** FAO will help achieve this by recruiting an OPA Manager in charge of Capacity Building who will provide support and training to the Ministry throughout the project.

In response, the FAO Country Office has designed a comprehensive support plan based on best practices and lessons learned from previous projects, such as those within the FAO GEF portfolio. This plan outlines the allocation of staff time and resources needed to deliver effective operational and technical assistance, ensuring the project's success.

FAO's support will primarily focus on supporting the Ministry with enhancing financial reporting mechanisms, and procurement and subcontracting processes including delivering targeted training on the development and management of these contractual agreements. This support aims to build capacity within the Ministry to manage these processes independently. The project document and budget also provide a breakdown of corresponding budget lines and activities.

This targeted assistance represents the most cost-effective and efficient way to address the Ministry's capacity needs, ensuring capacity building, efficient resource utilization, risk mitigation, and timely achievement of project objectives. This strategic approach also reinforces partnerships while respecting the Ministry's ownership and leadership of the project.

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)

The CARES project will actively collaborate with the following initiatives to leverage expertise, resources, and networks for greater impact and sustainability. This collaboration will be formalized through a cooperation framework encompassing aligned objectives, coordinated activities, and shared lessons learned. This may include opportunities for co-location and/or sharing of expertise and staffing where appropriate and mutually beneficial.

Table 1 - Projects to coordinate with during implementation and to build on/extract lessons learnt from

Lead Donor and Partners	Project Name, Location & Duration	Objectives and relevance to GEF project, including entry points for collaboration	Funding amount ($equiv.)
AFDB/FAO	Agricultural Markets, Value Addition and Trade Development Project (AMVAT) January 2021 – December 2025	The project aims to increase the productivity and incomes of almost 20 000 households in Central and Eastern Equatoria and Jonglei, most of whom are formerly IDPs in need of economic reintegration. The project will provide farmers and traders, particularly women and youth, with new skills and knowledge, and the agro-processing equipment they need to produce competitive products.	$ 14.1 Million

	Central Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria and Jonglei.	*Collaboration Points:* Joint training programs, value chain development, and knowledge sharing, particularly focusing on women and youth empowerment.	
FAO/WB	Building resilience for food and nutrition security in the Horn of Africa: South Sudan component (BREFONS) 2023 – 2027	BREFONS' specific objective is to build resilience to food insecurity and climate change by enabling participating countries to: (i) increase agropastoral productivity and production systems in cross-border areas in the IGAD region (the regional clusters); (ii) make agropastoral value chains more competitive, thereby ultimately boosting trade and incomes; and (iii) enhance populations' adaptive capacity so that people can better prepare for and manage climate change, climate risks, and climate variations. The BREFONS project in South Sudan is anchored on four components: (i) strengthening pastoral and agropastoral production systems' resilience to climate change; (ii) supporting the development of agribusiness; (iii) building agropastoral communities' capacity to adapt to climate change; and (iv) coordinating the programme and managing knowledge. The additional financing for ADRiFi from TSF Pillar 1 will be used to scale-up activities under Component 3 of BREFONS, Sub-component 3.1: Enhancing climate services infrastructure and Sub-component 3.2: Providing climate risk finance and insurance. *Collaboration Points:* Joint planning and implementation, capacity building, and knowledge exchange, particularly strengthening climate-resilient production systems.	$ 26,912,603 million
UNDP/ GEF/ World Vision/ UNIDO/ Government of South Sudan	Watershed Approaches for Climate Resilience and Agro-pastoral Landscapes (WACRESS) 2024 - 2028	The project will be implemented in Aweil Centre and Aweil East in Northern Bahr el Ghazal State. The project will build the resilience of vulnerable communities to climate change impacts while restoring ecosystems. It aims to benefit over 75,000 people and restore over 15,000 hectares of land. *Collaboration Points:* Joint research, ecosystem restoration, and community	$33 Million

		engagement, emphasizing resilience of vulnerable communities.	
IFAD	South Sudan Livelihoods Resilience program (SSLRP) 2021-2027 Eastern Equatoria State (Magwi and Torit); Central Equatoria State (KajoKeji and Terekeka) and Jonglei State (Bor).	The goal of the SLRP is to contribute to improved and resilient livelihoods among the targeted rural communities. The program development objective is to empower communities to participate in decision-making processes that will recover agriculture livelihoods, build household resilience and promote stability. This project is implemented in three states: Eastern Equatoria, Central Equatoria, Jonglei. *Collaboration Points:* Joint community mobilization, livelihood diversification, and conflict resolution efforts.	$40.43 Million
GEF/IFAD	Strengthening Adaptation through Institutional Building and Resilient Livelihoods in South Sudanese Agro-Pastoral Landscapes (SABRELA)	The objective is to contribute to food and nutrition security and to improve the resilience in a context of climate change, of the following two target groups, of whom women and youth are the majority: (i) small economically active rural producers and their families willing to engage in commercial agriculture, (ii) small and medium-sized enterprises that provide services to rural communities in selected areas of South Sudan. Its interventions will be market driven and identified through value chain analyses. Targeted states: Easter Equatoria, Jonglei, Lakes and Unity. *Collaboration Points:* Joint value chain analysis, capacity building, and knowledge exchange, focusing on institutional strengthening and resilient livelihoods.	$10 Million
WB	South Sudan Resilient Agricultural Livelihoods Project 2021 - 2026	The development objective of South Sudan Resilient Agricultural Livelihoods Project is to strengthen capacity of farmers and their organizations and improve agricultural production. This project comprises the following four components. 1) The first component, Capacity Building in Good Agricultural Practices, has the following sub-component: (i) Formation and Strengthening of Farmer Organizations; and (ii) Improving Farming Knowledge and Skills. 2) The second component, Investment Support for Improved Agricultural Production, has the	$ 62.5 Million

		following sub-components: (i) Increasing Access to Food for Household Facing Acute Food Insecurity; (ii) Increasing Availability of Quality Seeds; and (iii) Enhancing Access to Technology and Mechanization. 3) The third component, Project Management and Technical Assistance, has the following sub-components: (i): Project Management and Coordination; and (ii) Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Support to Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security. 4) The fourth component, Contingent Emergency Response, aims to provide immediate and effective response to said Eligible Crisis or Emergency. *Collaboration Points:* Joint capacity building, technology transfer, and emergency response, focusing on farmer organizations and agricultural production.	
UNOPS/ MAFS/ MGCSW	South Sudan Safety Net 2023 – 2027 15 counties	The Safety net provides cash assistance to poor and vulnerable households to meet immediate consumption gaps and build resilience to withstand future shocks. Targeted beneficiaries will participate in climate-smart Labor-Intensive Public Works (LIPW) or in behavioural change communications training that aims to promote human capital development. The project will also sensitize and train households on Financial Literacy, Water Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), and Early Childhood Development (ECD) helping to improve their overall well-being. *Collaboration Points:* Joint targeting, community engagement, and livelihood support.	$ 129 Million
Fauna and Flora	Improving protected area management in Western Equatoria, South Sudan - 2023 - 2026	The project is focused on protecting biodiversity and improving the livelihoods of local communities within two game reserves. The goal of the project is to ensure there is a network of functioning protected areas in Western Equatoria state, that will safeguard crucial habitat and the biodiversity it harbours, whilst enhancing	

		human well–being and creating opportunities for people. Collaboration points: Community engagement in development of livelihoods and conservation.	
VSF DE	Fostering Peace and Natural Resources Governance in NaturAfrica Supported Landscapes in South Sudan (FOPNAG) 2023 - 2026 Eastern Equatoria Central Equatoria (Yei County) Western Equatoria (Maridi County)	The project aims to adopt a holistic approach linking non-violent conflict resolution and peacebuilding to livelihood recovery and economic opportunities to enable sustainable peace and social cohesion. The action seeks to reduce food security through diversifying livelihoods and provision of economic opportunities as peace dividends. Concurrently the action will strengthen social cohesion through inclusion of marginalized groups, advocacy and capacity building aimed at strengthening inter and intra community relations through awareness on conflict resolution and reconciliation. The active participation of community members in peace building activities through the establishment of peace committees and the facilitation of community dialogues will strengthen trauma healing. *Collaboration Points:* Joint community dialogues, peace-building initiatives, and livelihood diversification strategies.	$3,419,118.84
IFAD/ VSF DE	South Sudan Livelihoods Resilience program (SSLRP) 2022-2027 Eastern Equatoria State (Magwi and Torit); Central Equatoria State (KajoKeji and Terekeka) and Jonglei State (Bor).	The goal of the SLRP is to contribute to improved and resilient livelihoods among the targeted rural communities. The program development objective is to empower communities to participate in decision-making processes that will recover agriculture livelihoods, build household resilience and promote stability. This project is implemented in three states: Eastern Equatoria, Central Equatoria, Jonglei. *Collaboration Points:* Joint community mobilization, livelihood diversification, and conflict resolution efforts.	$34,120,000

Local initiatives to coordinate with:

Organisation	Name of the intervention	Ongoing/Planned	Geographical Area

ACROSS	Giving goats to women	Planned	Lainya, Kenyi and Wuji Payams
Yei Green Home	Coffee Nursery	Ongoing	Yei
CDC	Capacity building	ongoing	Yei
FAO	Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL)	Ongoing	All payams of Yei County
Rural Women for Development in South Sudan	FSL	Ongoing	All payams of Yei County
Mugwo Development Organization	FSL	Ongoing	Mugwo
Kagelu Forestry Training Center and Yei Agricultural Research Center	Nursery raising, training of farmers	Ongoing	Yei and Lainya Counties
Crop Training Centre	One-year training certificate course in four different areas including animal production and management, crop production and management, agribusiness and extension	Ongoing	Accepts students from all over South Sudan and beyond

The CARES project will actively collaborate with relevant initiatives carried out locally to ensure leveraging the expertise, resources, and networks of other initiatives to achieve greater impact and sustainability. To that purpose, the project will establish a cooperation framework with other initiatives by aligning objectives, coordinating activities, and sharing lessons learned. Key collaborations include:

- The project will collaborate with the AMVAT Project through joint training programs, value chain development, and knowledge sharing, particularly focusing on empowering women and youth.

- - Cooperation with the BREFONS Project will involve joint planning and implementation, capacity building, and knowledge exchange, particularly in strengthening pastoral and agropastoral production systems' resilience to climate change.
- - With the WACRESS Project, CARES will engage in joint research, ecosystem restoration, and community engagement, emphasizing the resilience of vulnerable communities to climate change impacts.
- - The SSLRP Project collaboration will include joint community mobilization, livelihood diversification, and conflict resolution efforts aimed at contributing to improved and resilient livelihoods among targeted rural communities.
- - In partnership with the SABRELA Project, CARES will undertake joint value chain analysis, capacity building, and knowledge exchange, particularly strengthening adaptation through institutional building and resilient livelihoods in South Sudanese agro-pastoral landscapes.
- - With the South Sudan Resilient Agricultural Livelihoods Project, the focus will be on joint capacity building, technology transfer, and emergency response efforts to strengthen the capacity of farmers and their organizations, as well as improve agricultural production.
- - The collaboration with the South Sudan Safety Net Project will include joint targeting, community engagement, and livelihood support aimed at building resilience against future shocks.

- - Finally, the CARES project will engage with the FOPNAG Project through joint community dialogues, peace-building initiatives, and livelihood diversification strategies to reduce food insecurity and strengthen social cohesion.

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.

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

META INFORMATION – LDCF

LDCF **true**	SCCF-B (Window B) on technology transfer **false**	SCCF-A (Window-A) on climate Change adaptation **false**

Is this project LDCF SCCF challenge program?
false

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

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 **false**	Adaptation Fund **false**	Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR) **false**

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
false

This Project covers the following sector(s)[the total should be 100%]: *	
Agriculture	50.00%
Nature-based management	50.00%
Climate information services	0.00%
Coastal zone management	0.00%
Water resources management	0.00%
Disaster risk management	0.00%

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 **false**	Change in mean temperature **false**	Increased climatic variability **false**	Natural hazards **false**
Land degradation **true**	Coastal and/or Coral reef degradation **false**	Groundwater quality/quantity **false**	

CORE INDICATORS – LDCF

	Total	Male	Female	% for Women
CORE INDICATOR 1 Total number of direct beneficiaries	220,000	110,000.00	110,000.00	50.00%
CORE INDICATOR 2 (a) Area of land managed for climate resilience (ha) (b) Coastal and marine area managed for climate resilience (ha)	1,144,798.00 0.00			
CORE INDICATOR 3 Number of policies/plans/ frameworks/institutions for to strengthen climate adaptation	14.00			
CORE INDICATOR 4 Number of people trained or with awareness raised	120,000	60,000.00	60,000.00	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	0	0	0
1.2 Number of direct beneficiaries with diversified and strengthened livelihoods and sources of income	86000	43,000	43,000
1.3 Number of direct beneficiaries from the new or improved climate information services including early warning systems	86000	43,000	43,000
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)	110,000		

SUB-INDICATOR 2

2.1 Hectares of agricultural land

0

2.2 Hectares of urban landscape

0

2.3 Hectares of rural landscape

0

2.4 Hectares of forests

1,144,798

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)

1

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

1

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

12

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		
b) Local government	0		
c) Local community organizations	0		
d) Extension services	0		
e) Hydromet and disaster risk management agencies	0		
f) School children, university students, and teachers	0		
g) Youth	0		

SUB INDICATOR 5

	Total	Male	Female

5.1 Amount of investment mobilized (US$) from private sector sources			
5.2 Number of entrepreneurs supported for climate adaptation or resilience	0		
5.3 Total financial value of lines of credit and/or investment funds			
5.4 Number of MSMEs incubated/accelerated with technical assistance, financial matchmaking, and/or direct financing			

Key Risks

	Rating	Explanation of risk and mitigation measures
CONTEXT		
Climate	Substantial	A key component of the project is the development of sustainable use and livelihood options designed to reduce stresses on ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation of both ecosystems and local communities.
Environmental and Social	Moderate	The project ESS risk has been rated as Moderate, considering the main risks related to ESS 1 (Biodiversity conservation, and sustainable management of natural resources) and ESS 9 (Cultural Heritage). Additional ESS have been triggered, with Low risks, such as: ESS 2 - Resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management, ESS 3 - Climate change and disaster risk reduction, ESS 4 - Decent work, ESS 5 - Community Health, Safety and Security, ESS 6 - Gender equality and prevention of gender-based violence (GBV) and ESS 7 - Land tenure, displacement, and resettlement To mitigate the risks rated as Moderate the following measures have been identified: ESS1: - Ensure site specific restoration plans of degraded forest lands are adhered to; Enhance nature-based solutions, using indigenous species and knowledge so that impacts on the ecosystem are beneficial to the environment; Enhance nature-based solutions, ensure implementation of national forestry frameworks, using native species, and sustainable forest management (eg natural regeneration) activities; No new genetic resources will be introduced, rather species that are native/ indigenous/ adapted species will be used under this project; EES9: Ensure adequate implementation of chance find procedures; Ensure proper implementation of chance find procedures but no knowledge or heritage will be used for commercial purposes. The mitigation of Low risks is described in Annex F to the ProDoc. In addition to the above measures identified, the following have been prepared during PPG – and will ensure the management/mitigation of ESS risks: Environmental and Social Management Framework, Gender Analysis

		and Action Plan, Environmental and Social Risk Matrix, Stakeholder Engagement Plan and Grievance Redress Mechanism.
Political and Governance	Substantial	The project will support several actions to improve governance and strengthen collaboration among partners institutions and stakeholders, strengthening the capacity of management authorities and other agencies to implement monitoring and enforcement programs. The project will put in place measures to mitigate also the risk related to the lack of resources for governmental staff.
INNOVATION		
Institutional and Policy	Substantial	The PPG data collection revealed that civil servant salaries of state and count level officers, extension staff, as well as staff in central (university of Juba) and state level research and training institutions are not paid regularly. This can affect the performance of their work and engagement under the project, and their longer term ability to apply the skills and knowledge acquired through the project
Technological	Moderate	The complexity of certain approaches will be overcome with adequate international and/or national expertise on project design and management.
Financial and Business Model	Moderate	By working on an increased climate resilience of local communities, the project will limit macroeconomic impacts on the expected outcomes.
EXECUTION		
Capacity	Moderate	The project will work hand in hand with institutions on the introduction of climate resilience planning into national strategies and policies, with the aim of reducing the negative impacts of existing policies on ecosystems.
Fiduciary	Substantial	The management of the project will be supported by a strong technical expertise in financial management, to ensure the financial and logistics (procurement process) procedures will be implemented.
Stakeholder	Substantial	Given the conflictual context in South Sudan the risks of a weak stakeholders engagement is high. The risk is mitigated by the implementation of the Stakeholders Engagement Plan and the Grievance Mechanism.
Other	Substantial	Conflict: The project recognizes the significant impact of conflict on its successful implementation. National and inter-communal conflicts have caused displacement and loss of livelihoods, hindering climate change adaptation efforts. These conflicts risk leaving communities poorer and less resilient to the interconnected climate and security crises. While Outcome 3.2 aims to address these challenges through dialogue, the project acknowledges that conflict poses a substantial risk to its overall success.
Overall Risk Rating	Substantial	Considering that higher rating of the identified risks is Substantial, the overall risk rating is Substantial. The main mitigation measures have been identified

		and will be monitored and updated – if needed – during project implementation.

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)

The project aligns with South Sudan's commitments under multilateral environmental agreements and the project's components address specific objectives and outputs that support national policies and strategies adopting both a landscape and value chain-based approach. Specifically, under Component 1, the project aims to strengthen governance mechanisms for integrated land use planning, which aligns with the South Sudan National Environment Policy, South Sudan Vision 2040, and the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. The project also focuses on removing barriers to accessing knowledge and innovations, which aligns with the National Action Program under the UNCCD and South Sudan's National Women's Strategy. Component 2 aims to raise awareness, build capacity, and create an enabling environment for climate change adaptation. This aligns with the National Adaptation Plan, South Sudan's National Environment Policy, and the Policy on Agriculture and Livestock. The project emphasizes the importance of weather-informed recommendations, market information systems, and gender-sensitive approaches to support climate resilience in the agricultural sectors. Under Component 3, the project promotes nature-based solutions for adaptive land use management and production systems, aligning with the National Environment Policy, South Sudan Vision 2040, and the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. The project's focus on sustainable forest management, community-based livestock management plans, and climate-resilient crop production aligns with South Sudan's commitment to conserving biodiversity and promoting sustainable natural resource management. It is important to note that project activities targeted at women are included in all Components, but Component 3 has a specific emphasis on opportunities for women, as they frequently play a major role in crop production.

The project directly supports the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) objectives under GEF-8 by strengthening climate adaptation measures in vulnerable rural communities. It contributes to key GEF-8 adaptation priorities by:

- **Strengthening Climate Resilience:** Integrating climate adaptation into local governance through improved land use planning, sustainable water management, and early warning systems, supporting GEF-8's focus on building institutional capacity and knowledge-sharing.
- **Promoting Climate-Smart Agriculture and Sustainable Land Management:** Enhancing climate-resilient food systems through climate-adaptive crop production, agroforestry, and sustainable grazing practices, aligning with GEF-8's priorities to scale up sustainable land management and support climate-resilient agricultural livelihoods.
- **Advancing Ecosystem-Based Adaptation and Nature-Based Solutions:** Promoting nature-based solutions by restoring degraded landscapes, reforesting, and integrating biodiversity conservation into agricultural systems, contributing to GEF-8's goal of enhancing ecosystem services for climate resilience.

- **Improving Access to Climate Information:** Enhancing the availability of climate and market information systems, empowering smallholder farmers and pastoralists to make informed decisions, supporting GEF-8's efforts to enhance climate risk information systems and forecasting tools.
- **Ensuring Gender and Social Inclusion in Climate Adaptation:** Incorporating gender-responsive adaptation strategies, ensuring access to climate finance, technology, and decision-making platforms for women, youth, and marginalized groups, reflecting GEF-8's commitment to inclusive climate adaptation.

The project's objectives and activities directly and indirectly contribute to NDC commitments, making it a valuable tool for South Sudan to fulfil its obligations under the Paris Agreement and take meaningful action against climate change. The project's focus on sustainable land use practices, conservation of natural resources, and climate change resilience aligns with South Sudan's NDC goals and commitments and the following policies:

- South Sudan's National Environment Policy, which identifies sustainable natural resource management as a key priority.
- South Sudan Vision 2040, which aims to promote sustainable development and address environmental challenges.
- The project also aligns with the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, which aims to conserve and sustainably manage South Sudan's biodiversity and ecosystems. The plan recognizes the importance of the Greenbelt as a critical ecosystem and identifies the need for sustainable land use practices and conservation measures to protect it.

The project also contributes to key targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework:

- Target 10: Enhance Biodiversity and Sustainability in Agriculture, Aquaculture, Fisheries, and Forestry
- Target 11: Restore, Maintain and Enhance Nature’s Contributions to People
- Target 13: Increase the Sharing of Benefits from Genetic Resources, Digital Sequence Information and Traditional Knowledge

The project objectives are in accordance with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for Sudan (2009-2012) which focuses on five key result areas: 1) sustained peace and stability, 2) sustainable economic development, 3) expanded basic service, 4) strengthened public accountability, good governance and the rule of law and 5) strengthened social fabric. By aligning with these priorities, the project becomes a crucial instrument for achieving sustainable economic growth, poverty reduction, and overall development in the country.

While the project champions sustainable natural resource management, it is vital to acknowledge that deeply ingrained socio-cultural and legal factors could potentially hinder the full realization of women’s land ownership rights, despite the project’s emphasis on promoting equal land rights and access for women. Specifically, weak enforcement of environmental protection laws could lead to continued land degradation and biodiversity loss. Additionally, a lack of integration of climate adaptation into national sectoral policies could limit the effectiveness of resilience-building interventions. To address these challenges, the project will collaborate with relevant national authorities, including the South Sudan land commission, to advocate for policy adjustments and integration of sustainability principles into national regulations, including the Land Policy and the Forestry Policy. The project will also work with local communities to raise awareness of the importance of women’s land rights and to promote sustainable farming practices. This collaborative effort will ensure that the project’s positive impacts are maximized and its goals are fully realized.

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; Yes

Co-financier;

Member of project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body ;

Executor or co-executor;

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
Low	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).

The project is expected to bring several socio-economic benefits to the targeted communities, including but not limited to:

i. **Enhanced agricultural productivity:** by adopting climate-resilient farming and livestock rearing practices, farmers can achieve higher yields per unit of land, leading to more efficient and sustainable agricultural production

ii. **Improved local food security:** Increased agricultural productivity and diversified food sources enhance the availability and stability of food supplies within local communities, reducing the risk of food shortages.

iii. **Increased and steadier income streams:** Through better market linkages, post-harvest processing, and storage facilities, farmers can sell surplus produce at optimal times, ensuring a more consistent and reliable income throughout the year.

iv. **Reduction of poverty:** Higher incomes from improved agricultural productivity, diversified livelihoods, and better market opportunities enable households to rise above poverty and invest in their futures.

v. **Diversified livelihoods:** Promoting NTFPs and supporting various livelihood activities provide alternative income streams, reducing economic dependency on a single source and enhancing financial stability.

vi. **Improved social status and political decision power for women and marginalized groups:** Climate-resilient livelihood activities and support for women and minority groups elevate their economic status, empowering them to participate more actively in community and political decision-making processes.

vii. **Reduction in conflict and improved social cohesion:** By addressing the root causes of resource competition and promoting conflict mediation skills, communities experience fewer conflicts, fostering a more harmonious and cooperative social environment.

Moreover, the project will promote full and productive employment and decent work in the rural areas of the targeted communities. The project will contribute to the following Pillars of Decent Work in rural areas: i) Pillar 1 on employment creation and enterprise development and ii) Pillar 4 on governance and social dialogue. More specifically, the project contributes to Pillar 1 by supporting small-scale producers, piloting employment creation programmes, supporting agribusiness and marketing enterprises, providing trainings, and promoting employment-centred livelihoods diversification. Additionally, the project contributes to Pillar 4 by supporting the formation and strengthening of organizations and networks for producers and farmers, supporting mechanisms that allow rural poor to participate in local governance and decision-making, empowering rural women and youth groups to be involved in governance and decision-making processes.

Lastly, the project will support the achievement of adaptation benefits as defined by LDCF by addressing short, medium, and long-term resilience needs through the implementation of the NAP. Specifically, it will enhance short-term resilience by introducing climate-resilient farming practices and providing essential services to pastoralists. For medium-term needs, the project will diversify livelihoods, improve market access, and offer trainings to bolster economic stability and adaptive capacity. Long-term resilience will be supported by empowering women and youth, building institutional capacities, and fostering social cohesion to mitigate climate-related conflicts. By aligning with NAP and NDC priorities and ensuring community engagement, the project will contribute effectively to South Sudan's national adaptation goals.

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	LDCF	South Sudan	Climate Change	LDCF Country allocation	Grant	8,932,420.00	848,580.00	9,781,000.00
Total GEF Resources ($)						**8,932,420.00**	**848,580.00**	**9,781,000.00**

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Was a Project Preparation Grant requested?

true

PPG Amount ($)

200000

PPG Agency Fee ($)

19000

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	PPG($)	Agency Fee($)	Total PPG Funding($)
FAO	LDCF	South Sudan	Climate Change	LDCF Country allocation	200,000.00	19,000.00	219,000.00
Total PPG Amount ($)					**200,000.00**	**19,000.00**	**219,000.00**

Please provide Justification

Sources of Funds for Country Star Allocation

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Sources of Funds	Total($)
Total GEF Resources					**0.00**

Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Co-financing($)
CCA-1-1	LDCF	8,932,420.00	27132520
Total Project Cost		**8,932,420.00**	**27,132,520.00**

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($)
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Environment (Lake State)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3000000
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment and Forestry (Office of the Undersecretary of Environment)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	11132520
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment and Forestry (Directorate of Forestry)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	5000000
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	5000000
Recipient Country Government	Government of Western Equatoria State	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	3000000
Total Co-financing				**27,132,520.00**

Please describe the investment mobilized portion of the co-financing

Not Applicable

ANNEX B: ENDORSEMENTS

GEF Agency(ies) Certification

GEF Agency Type	Date	Project Contact Person	Phone	Email
Project Coordinator	12/31/2024	Sandra Corsi	+393929456066	sandra.corsi@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)
David Bartali Oliver	GEF OFP / Director General Directorate of Planning and Sustainable Development	Ministry of Environment and Forestry	7/28/2024

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	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
Project Objective: Promote climate change adaptation and resilience in the agricultural sector (forestry, crop, and livestock production) through nature-based solutions, integrated land use planning, and climate services to deliver food security and sustainable livelihoods for 220,000 vulnerable people in areas prone to climate-related impacts.							
	Core Indicator 1: Total number of direct beneficiaries	0	75,000 (37,500 women and 37,500 men)	220,000 (110,000 women and 110,000 men)	List of beneficiaries Supervision and oversight missions Consultant reports Workshop/training minutes and list of participants Periodic reports Interviews/Surveys	Assumption: Direct project beneficiary data will be collated and regularly maintained by the PMU	PMU
	Core Indicator 2: (a) Area of land managed for climate resilience (ha)	0	572,400	1,144,798	GIS mapping of landscapes under project intervention; review of land use practices from field reports	Assumption: Local communities support the project intervention	PMU
	Core Indicator 3: Number of policies/plans/ frameworks/ institutions to strengthen climate adaptation	0	3.1:1 3.4: 1	3.8: 12	Periodic reports Policies/plans/ frameworks/ institutions to strengthen climate adaptation developed	Assumption: institutional stakeholders are interested in and participate actively in project activities.	PMU
	Core Indicator 4: Number of people trained or with awareness raised	0	40,000 (20,000 women and 20,000 men)	120,000 (60,000 women and 60,000 men)	List of beneficiaries Supervision and oversight missions Consultant reports Workshop/training minutes and list of participants Periodic reports Interviews/Surveys	Assumption: Project beneficiaries are interested in and participate actively in project activities	PMU
Component 1: Strengthening governance mechanisms for integrated land use planning							
Outcome 1.1: Regulatory frameworks for integrated land use planning and nature-based adaptation solutions for agriculture systems are established in a	**Indicator 5**: Data sharing protocol	0	1	1	Periodic reports Protocol Meeting minutes Interviews	Assumption: Sufficient capacity, commitment, and institutional support within relevant government agencies or departments to share data	MoEF

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
participatory way	**Indicator 6**: Number of forestry policies and bills revised to integrate community forests in which institutional arrangements for the practical implementation of community forests are made explicit	0	1	1	Periodic reports Review of Forest Policy and Forest Bill Official announcements Meeting minutes Interviews	Assumption: Sufficient capacity, commitment, and institutional support within relevant government agencies or departments to undertake comprehensive reviews of both the Forestry Policy and Forestry Bill on community forests	MoEF
Output 1.1.1 Coordination mechanisms in the agricultural sectors established	**Indicator 1.1.1.a**: Number of expert panels at national level established	0	1	4 (one for crops, one for forestry, one for livestock and one for pastoralism) with at least 50% of members being women	Periodic reports Expert group members list Meeting minutes Expert group at national level established Interviews	Assumption: Sufficient political will and support from relevant government agencies and stakeholders to establish and maintain national-level expert groups.	PMU
-	**Indicator 1.1.1.b:** Number of CoP established at county level	0	3 with at least 50% of members in each being women	6 with at least 50% of members in each being women	Periodic reports CoP membership list Meeting minutes Action plan Interviews	Assumption: Sustained commitment and cooperation from relevant governmental bodies, institutions, and stakeholders to support the establishment and ongoing operations of the CoP	MoEF, ACTED, VSF
Output.1.1.2 NRM policies are strengthened	**Indicator 1.1.2.a:** Recommendations for harmonisation formulated	0	1	1	Periodic reports Official announcements Meeting minutes Interviews	Assumption: Sufficient capacity, commitment, and institutional support within relevant government agencies or departments to undertake comprehensive reviews of policies	MoEF

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
	Indicator 1.1.2.b: Number of awareness campaign on community forests at national, state and county level	0	4 (1 national and 1 per State)	10 (1 national, 1 per State, and 1 per county)	List of beneficiaries Supervision and oversight missions Consultant reports Workshop/training minutes and list of participants Periodic reports Interviews/Surveys	Assumption: Project beneficiaries are interested in and participate actively in project activities	PMU
Output 1.1.3. Regulations, standards, and enforcement mechanisms are strengthened	**Indicator 1.1.3.a**: Number of enforcement activities that follow up on the recommendations	0	1 per county	At least 3 per county	Periodic reports Report with recommendations Field visit reports Reports from department of forestry	Assumption: communities, and county level officers alike are willing to collaborate on improved enforcement	PMU
	Indicator 1.1.3.b: Number of regulations or standards on bio-energy production, charcoal plantations and NTFP	0	1	3 (one for each: bio-energy, charcoal and NTFP)	Periodic reports Regulations on bio-energy production and charcoal plantations developed Standard development documents Meeting minutes Interviews	Assumption: Sufficient political will, institutional capacity, and stakeholder cooperation to support the development and implementation of regulations on bio-energy production and charcoal plantations. Sufficient stakeholder engagement, technical expertise, and institutional support to develop and implement standards on NTFP.	PMU
Component 2: Fostering climate resilient and inclusive agriculture and ecosystem management through capacity building, information systems, and stakeholder empowerment							
Outcome 2.1: Improved capacity of government institutions, non-governmental organizations, and local communities to effectively plan and implement climate resilient agriculture management interventions	**Indicator 7**: Number of extensive training of staff in vocational and research centres provided	0	0	6 with at least 50% of participants being women	List of beneficiaries Supervision and oversight missions Consultant reports Workshop/training minutes and list of participants Periodic reports Interviews/Surveys	Assumption: Project beneficiaries are interested in and participate actively in project activities	MoEF, ACTED, VSF
	Indicator 8: An improvement of two points on a	0	0	2 points out of 5 improvement	Periodic reports Interviews	Assumption: Sufficient institutional	PMU

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
	five-point scale of the conflict tracking tool is registered in 75% of the participating communities			s for at least 75% communities	Monitoring activities reports	support, stakeholder collaboration, and resource allocation to conduct comprehensive assessment of conflict scoring	
Output.2.1.1 The capacity of agricultural research institutes is strengthened so they can provide training on NbS and climate adaptation in agriculture	**Indicator 2.1.1.a:** Number of technology and capacity needs assessment in research and vocational training centres conducted	0	2	4 (1 per research and vocational training centre)	Periodic reports Meeting minutes Technology and capacity needs assessment in research and vocational training centres conducted Interviews	Assumption: Sufficient institutional support, stakeholder engagement, and resource allocation to conduct comprehensive technology and capacity needs assessments at research and vocational training centres.	MoEF, ACTED, VSF, PMU
	Indicator 2.1.1.b: Number of Atlases (or technical guide) on Nature-based solutions	0	0	1	Periodic reports Atlas on nature-based solutions developed Interviews	Assumption: Sufficient expertise, funding, and collaboration among stakeholders to develop comprehensive and accurate atlases on nature-based solutions.	PMU
Output.2.1.2 Extension services in NbS are strengthened at state and county level	**Indicator 2.1.2.a**: Number of trainings conducted by county officers in the communities (including pastoralist communities)	0	TBD	TBD, at least 3 per participating community, with at least 50% female participation	List of beneficiaries Supervision and oversight missions Consultant reports Workshop/training minutes and list of participants Periodic reports Interviews/Surveys	Assumption: Project beneficiaries are interested in and participate actively in project activities	PMU
	Indicator 2.1.2.b: Communities and officers are provided with the means to communicate with each other	0	Each officer and each community is equipped with at least an mobile phone and call credit	Each officer and each community is equipped with at least a mobile phone and call credit	List of beneficiaries Supervision and oversight missions Consultant reports Periodic reports Interviews/Surveys	Assumption: Project beneficiaries are interested in and participate actively in project activities	PMU
Output 2.1.3 Integrated land use planning and conflict	**Indicator 2.1.3.a**: Number of contextual analyses to	0	One in each target community (TBD based on	One in each target community (TBD based	Periodic reports Consultant reports Contextual analysis developed	Assumption: Sufficient access to reliable data,	MoEF, ACTED, VSF

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
prevention capacities are strengthened at community level with a special focus on the role of women and youth	identify land use, conflict histories and dynamics developed		number of target community)	on number of target community)		stakeholder cooperation, and technical expertise to conduct comprehensive contextual analyses to identify land use, conflict histories, and dynamics.	
	Indicator 2.1.3.b: Number of mediations, conflict resolution and prevention training delivered for women and youth	0	One training in at least 25% of the participating communities	2 trainings delivered in 100% of the participating communities	List of beneficiaries Supervision and oversight missions Consultant reports Periodic reports Interviews/Surveys	Assumption: Project beneficiaries are interested in and participate actively in project activities	MoEF, ACTED, VSF
Outcome 2.2: Monitoring networks and information systems are established and strengthened	**Indicator 9**: Number of simple early warning alert protocols operational	0	0	at least 4, applied in at least two participating States	Periodic reports Consultant reports Simple early warning alert protocols developed	Assumption: Sufficient collaboration, technical expertise, and institutional support to develop effective and operational Simple Early Warning Alert Protocols.	PMU
	Indicator 10: Number of GIS based maps of forest, land and water resources created	0	0	At least 6 (one per participating county)	Periodic reports Consultant reports GIS maps	Assumption: Sufficient technical expertise, access to data, and stakeholder collaboration to create accurate and comprehensive GIS-based maps of forest, livestock, and water resources.	MoEF, ACTED, VSF
Output.2.2.1 The monitoring of climate risks and government capacity to deliver basic climate services and conduct vulnerability assessments is strengthened	**Indicator 2.2.1.a**: Number of climate risk and vulnerability assessment (CRVA) trainings and joint assessments at National, State, and County level	0	4	10 (1 national level, 3 state level, 6 county level) with at least 50% female participants	List of beneficiaries Supervision and oversight missions Consultant reports Workshop/training minutes and list of participants Periodic reports Interviews/Surveys	Assumption: Sufficient, willing, and capable stakeholders who can actively participate in and contribute to climate risk and vulnerability assessments.	MoEF, ACTED, VSF

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
	Indicator 2.2.1.b: Number of rain gauges installed	0	2	12 two per county	Periodic reports Consultant reports	Assumption: Met office and community stakeholders are willing to maintain equipment and establish data communication protocols	PMU
Output 2.2.2 The existing National Environmental Information System is expanded with gender-responsive modules on forests, rangelands, livestock and water resources	**Indicator 2.2.2.a**: Number of inventories of forest, land and water resources conducted	0	6	18 (three (forest, land and water) per county)	Periodic reports Consultant reports Inventory of forest, land and rangeland resources developed	Assumption: sufficient institutional capacity, stakeholder cooperation, and resource allocation to conduct comprehensive inventories of forest, land, and rangeland resources.	PMU
	Indicator 2.2.2.b: Number of trainings of state and county level officers in data collection and monitoring conducted	0	9 (one per state, one per county)	18 (two per state, two per county) with at least all female officers trained	List of beneficiaries Supervision and oversight missions Consultant reports Workshop/training minutes and list of participants Periodic reports Interviews/Surveys	Assumption: Project beneficiaries are interested in and participate actively in project activities	PMU
Outcome 2.3: Agricultural resilience and market access are enhanced through gender-sensitive incentives, business models, and financial access	**Indicator 11:** Number of private sector enterprises engaged in climate change adaptation and resilience action through agribusiness hubs	0	2	6 (one per county level agribusiness hub) with at least 50% of them focusing on women-led businesses	List of beneficiaries Supervision and oversight missions Consultant reports Agribusiness hubs established Periodic reports Interviews/Surveys	Assumption: Private sector enterprises are interested in and participate actively in project activities	PMU
	Indicator 12: Number of financing mechanisms for women piloted	0	2	6 (one per county)	Periodic reports Field visit reports Interviews	Assumption: Sufficient political will, stakeholder collaboration, and resource allocation to successfully establish agribusiness hubs.	MoEF, ACTED, VSF, PMU
Output 2.3.1 Agricultural resilience and market access are enhanced through gender-sensitive	**Indicator 2.3.1.a:** Number of kick-starter grants to private sector actors provided	0	TBD	TBD	Periodic reports Interviews Documents on grants	Assumption: Sufficient demand and capacity	MoEF, ACTED, VSF, PMU

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
incentives, business models, and financial access	**Indicator 2.3.1.b**: Number of feasibility study on public-private partnership models for rural agri-business development conducted	0	0	1	Periodic reports Feasibility study delivered One initiative piloted	Assumption: Sufficient collaboration, technical expertise, and institutional support to develop comprehensive feasibility studies for PPP models aimed at rural agri-business development.	MoEF, ACTED, VSF, PMU
Component 3: Promoting nature-based solutions for adaptive land use management and livelihood improvement							
Outcome 3.1: Nature-based solutions are applied for adaptive forest management, diversification, and livelihood improvement in local communities	**Indicator 13:** Number of community forestry management plans developed	0	At least one per participating community	At least one per participating community	Periodic reports Stakeholder consultations reports Site visits reports Community forestry management plans developed Interviews	Assumption: sufficient community engagement, institutional support, and resource availability to successfully develop community forestry management plans.	PMU
	Indicator 14: Number of capacity building to NTFP producer groups around post-harvest processing of NTFP delivered	0	At least 1 per community with 50% of participants being women	At least 1 per community with 50% of participants being women	List of beneficiaries Supervision and oversight missions Consultant reports Workshop/training minutes and list of participants Periodic reports Interviews/Surveys	Assumption: Project beneficiaries are interested in and participate actively in project activities	PMU
Output.3.1.1 Gender-responsive community forestry management plans are developed, degraded forests are restored, and communities practice sustainable NTFP extraction and production methods	**Indicator 3.1.1.a**: Number of capacity building program at national, state, and county level on community forests delivered	0	10 - 1 at national 1 per state (3) 1 per county (6) With for each at least 50% of participants being women	10 - 1 at national 1 per state (3) 1 per county (6) With for each at least 50% of participants being women	List of beneficiaries Supervision and oversight missions Consultant reports Workshop/training minutes and list of participants Periodic reports Interviews/Surveys	Assumption: Project beneficiaries are interested in and participate actively in project activities	PMU
	Indicator 3.1.1.b: Number of community forest registry at county level developed	0	0	6 (1 per county)	Periodic reports Community forest registry developed Interviews	Assumption: Sufficient community engagement, institutional support, and resource availability to successfully develop community	PMU

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
						forestry registry.	
Output 3.1.2 Strengthened climate-proofed NTFP value chains and improved market access -	**Indicator 3.1.2.a**: Number of studies on viable and marketable NTFP in the area developed	0	6 (1 per county)	6 (1 per county)	Periodic reports Field visits reports Stakeholder consultation reports Study on viable and marketable NFP developed Interviews	Assumption: Sufficient interest, collaboration, and resource allocation to successfully conduct comprehensive studies on viable and marketable NTFPs.	PMU
	Indicator 3.1.2.b: Number of trainings delivered to NTFP producer groups around sustainable cultivation and extraction of NTFP	0	1 group per participating community at least 50% of participants being women	1 group per participating community at least 50% of participants being women	List of beneficiaries Supervision and oversight missions Consultant reports Workshop/training minutes and list of participants Periodic reports Interviews/Surveys	Assumption: Project beneficiaries are interested in and participate actively in project activities	PMU
Outcome 3.2: Community-led transhumance corridors management for effective conflict management	**Indicator 15**: Number of corridor governance structures (e.g., councils, committees) formalized and operational.	0	1 per corridor, at least 50% of members being women	1 per corridor, at least 50% of members being women	Periodic reports Consultant reports Meeting minutes Interviews	Assumption: Political support, stakeholder engagement, and technical capacity to establish and operate governance structures	MoEF, ACTED, VSF, PMU
	Indicator 16: Number of corridor maps at Payam, County and State level developed	0	6, one for each county	6, one for each county	Periodic reports Field visits reports mapping data Stakeholder consultation reports Interviews	Assumption: Political support, stakeholder engagement, and technical capacity to develop comprehensive and accurate corridor maps at multiple administrative levels.	MoEF, ACTED, VSF, PMU
Output.3.2.1 Inter-community/inter-county transhumance corridor plans are developed, and governance and management arrangements are in place	**Indicator 3.2.1.a**: Number of dialogues facilitated	0	TBD	TBD at least 50% of participants being women	Periodic reports Field visits reports mapping data Stakeholder consultation reports Interviews	Assumption: Political support, stakeholder engagement, and technical capacity to develop comprehensive and accurate corridor maps at multiple	MoEF, ACTED, VSF, PMU

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
						administrative levels.	
Output 3.2.2. Corridors are restored and maintained	**Indicator 3.2.2.a:** Number of water holes and fodder points established	0	TBD	TBD	Periodic reports Field visit reports Interviews	Assumption: Necessary resources, including funding, expertise, and cooperation from relevant stakeholders such as local communities and authorities	MoEF, ACTED, VSF, PMU
	Indicator 3.2.2.b: Number of pastoralist risk funds set up	0	0	1	Periodic reports Field mission reports Interviews	Assumption: Sufficient community and local government support and participation to establish these funds, ensuring contributions from various sources are sustained.	MoEF, ACTED, VSF, PMU
Outcome 3.3: Enhanced livestock management through nature-based adaptation solutions and inclusive value chains that support livelihoods and reduce pressure on natural resources	**Indicator 17**: Number of community livestock management plans developed	0	One per participating community	One per participating community	Periodic reports Site visit reports Stakeholder consultation reports Interviews	Assumption: Strong community engagement and participation in the planning process.	PMU
	Indicator 18: Number of community-owned animal drug centres established	0	TBD	TBD	Periodic reports Site visit reports Stakeholder consultation reports Interviews	Assumption: Sufficient community interest, institutional support, and resource availability to establish and sustain community-owned animal drug centres.	MoEF, ACTED, VSF, PMU
Output 3.3.1. Community livestock management plans are developed, degraded lands are restored, and communities manage land sustainably -	**Indicator 3.3.1.a**: ha of rangeland restored	0	TBD	TBD	Periodic reports GIS data Site visit reports Interviews	Assumption: Strong community engagement and participation in the restoration process.	MoEF, ACTED, VSF, PMU
	Indicator 3.3.1.b: Number of trainings on sustainable production methods provided to livestock producer groups	0	TBD	TBD at least 50% of participants being women	List of beneficiaries Supervision and oversight missions Consultant reports Workshop/training minutes and list of participants	Assumption: Project beneficiaries are interested in and participate actively in	PMU

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
					Periodic reports Interviews/Surveys	project activities	
Output 3.3.2. Strengthened climate-proofed livestock value chains and improved market access -	**Indicator 3.3.2.a**: Number of marketing studies conducted	0	One per county	One per county	Periodic reports Marketing study	Assumption: Project beneficiaries are interested in and participate actively in project activities	PMU
	Indicator 3.3.2.b: Number of business development skill training to producer groups delivered	0	0	TBD at least 50% of participants being women	List of beneficiaries Supervision and oversight missions Consultant reports Workshop/training minutes and list of participants Periodic reports Interviews/Surveys	Assumption: Project beneficiaries are interested in and participate actively in project activities	MoEF, ACTED, VSF, PMU
Outcome 3.4: Climate resilient and adapted crop production through innovative technologies, nature-based agronomic practices, and inclusive crop value chains that support livelihoods and reduce pressure on natural resources	**Indicator 19**: Number of community production plans developed	0	1 per community	1 per community	Periodic reports Site visit reports Stakeholder consultation reports Interviews	Assumption: Strong community engagement and participation in the planning process.	PMU
	Indicator 20: Number of capacity building to farmer groups around storage, cooling, and processing provided	0	0	1 per community, at least 50% of participants being women	List of beneficiaries Supervision and oversight missions Consultant reports Workshop/training minutes and list of participants Periodic reports Interviews/Surveys	Assumption: Project beneficiaries are interested in and participate actively in project activities	MoEF, ACTED, VSF
Output 3.4.1. Gender-responsive community production plans are developed, degraded lands are restored, and communities practice sustainable production methods -	**Indicator 3.4.1.a**: Ha of cropland restored	0	TBD	TBD	Periodic reports GIS data Site visit reports Interviews	Assumption: Strong community engagement and participation in the restoration process.	MoEF, ACTED, VSF
	Indicator 3.4.1.b: Number of capacity building and training around sustainable management of cropland provided	0	1 per participating community, at least 50% of participants being women	1 per participating community, at least 50% of participants being women	List of beneficiaries Supervision and oversight missions Consultant reports Workshop/training minutes and list of participants Periodic reports Interviews/Surveys	Assumption: Project beneficiaries are interested in and participate actively in project activities	PMU
Output 3.4.2. Strengthened climate-proofed	**Indicator 3.4.2.a**: Number of	0	One per county	One per county	Periodic reports Marketing study	Assumption: Project beneficiaries	PMU

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
crop value chains and improved market access -	marketing studies conducted					are interested in and participate actively in project activities	
	Indicator 3.4.2.b: Number of business development skill training to producer groups delivered	0	0	TBD at least 50% of participants being women	List of beneficiaries Supervision and oversight missions Consultant reports Workshop/training minutes and list of participants Periodic reports Interviews/Surveys	Assumption: Project beneficiaries are interested in and participate actively in project activities	MoEF, ACTED, VSF, PMU
Component 4: Knowledge Management							
Outcome 4.1: Increased knowledge and awareness of nature-based, sustainable agriculture practices and ecosystems conservation among key stakeholder groups	**Indicator 21**: Number of communication and knowledge products developed and shared	0	5	10 (2 per year at least)	Periodic reports Websites, press/web articles, events reports and participants lists Interviews/Surveys	NA	PMU
Output.4.1.1. Gender-Responsive Knowledge Management, Exchange, and Experience Sharing Established	**Indicator 4.1.1.a:** Number of communication plans developed and updated	0	1 (developed)	2 (1 developed and 1 updated)	Communication plan document	NA	PMU
	Indicator 4.1.1.b: Number of project website created	0	1	1	Website accessible	NA	PMU
Outcome 4.2: Effective implementation and monitoring of Environmental and social safeguards and gender activities	**Indicator 22**: Number of ESS Management activities conducted	0	5: Implementation of: - labour management procedures -ESMF -SEP and GRM -Gender Action Plan Development and implementation of a Livelihood Action Plan	5	Periodic reports on implementation of: -labour management procedures -ESMF -SEP and GRM -Gender Action Plan -Livelihood Action Plan	NA	PMU
Output 4.2.1. Environmental and Social Safeguards Management is	**Indicator 4.2.1.a**: Percentage of grievances dealt with to a satisfactory level	0	100% of those received up to that point	100% of those received up to that point	Periodic reports GRM updated Supervision missions	The GRM is widely known and project beneficiaries and others understand and	PMU

Results chain	Indicators	Baseline	Mid-term target	Final target	Means of verification	Assumptions	Responsible for data collection
developed and operationalized						are comfortable using it	
Component 5: Monitoring & Evaluation							
Outcome 5.1 Monitoring and evaluation framework established and M&E activities conducted	**Indicator 23**: Number of M&E activities conducted	0	10 periodic reports (4 per year) 1 MTR	20 periodic reports (4 per year) 1 TE	Periodic reports produce MTR produced TE produced	NA	PMU
Output.5.1.1. Project M&E framework	**Indicator 5.1.1.a**: Project M&E Framework developed	0	1	1	M&E framework produced	NA	PMU
Output 5.1.2.: Periodic M&E reports generated and submitted to FAO SS and Mid-term Evaluation and Terminal Evaluation executed	**Indicator 5.1.1.b**: Number of Evaluations conducted	0	1	2	Periodic reports: MTE produced TE planned	NA	PMU

Methodological approach and underlying logic to justify target levels for Core and Sub-Indicators:

CI1: The total population in the target counties amounts to 857,868 people. The project estimates that 25% of them will experience either monetary or non-monetary benefits from the project activities. Rounded that means 220,000 people. We estimate that half of them will be women.

CI 1.2: We estimate that 10% of the overall population will benefit from improved income opportunities due to the project's activities

CI 1.3: We estimate that at least 10% of the overall population in the target counties will benefit from improved climate information services

CI 1.6; We estimate that half of the people that will benefit from increased income opportunities will be falling under the youth category.

CI 2: A comprehensive spatial analysis, employing various techniques such as satellite imagery, land cover mapping, and expert knowledge, revealed that an estimated 1,144,798 hectares of forest land were lost in South Sudan between 2010 and 2023. To address this, the project's policy and capacity-building interventions will benefit all degraded forest areas, while specific, targeted activities under Components 2 and 3 will focus on improving 1,000 hectares (0.09%) of this landscape(sub indicator 2.4). Detailed maps of land use are non-existent in South Sudan. The project will address this challenge for the target counties and suggests that the exact targets for sub indicators 2.1 and 2.3 can be refined at MTR using the results under output 2.2.2. and the results of the participatory land use planning in each targeted community.

CI 3:

CI 3.1: The project will review national policies and guidelines related to agriculture, forestry, disaster response, and sustainable development. It will also provide concrete recommendations for streamlining peace-positive sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture and NRM, as well as for

harmonizing or adopting key draft legislative pieces for natural resource management and climate change adaptation. This includes facilitating the enabling environment for community forests by addressing gaps in the Forest Policy and Forest Bill related to the definition of terms and the clarity of roles and responsibilities among stakeholders.

CI 3.4: Under output 1.1.1, the project will establish a data-sharing protocol between ministries

CI 3.8: Under output 2.2.1, the project will conduct a Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (CRVA) in each target community. As the project has six target counties, a minimum of 12 CRVAs are planned (2 per county).

CI4: We estimate that apart from the 86,000 people that are directly benefitting from improved income opportunities and climate services, an additional 34,000 people will benefit in Juba and elsewhere in the country from the knowledge sharing events and activities conducted under the project.

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 ($)		
	Budgeted Amount	Amount Spent To date	Amount Committed
Personnel (including: PPG Coordinator, Financial Management Analyst; Finance Expert for agriculture sector; Gender and social inclusion expert; Expert in institutional, policy and governance processes with knowledge management competences; conflict management expert; Agronomist for crop production; Agronomist for livestock production; Forestry expert; Climate Change expert; GEF Project Design expert and PPG co-coordinator; EXACT expert)	128,925.00	85,663.00	43,262.00
Contracts (including: OPIM fiduciary assessment and LoAs to conduct a comprehensive spatial analysis, employing various techniques such as satellite imagery, land cover mapping, and expert knowledge other than state level assessments and stakeholder consultations)	35,000.00	32,320.00	2,680.00
Travels	22,000.00	13,578.00	8,422.00
Workshops (including: PPG inception workshop; Local stakeholder consultations; Logframe validation workshop)	14,075.00	1,906.00	12,169.00
Total	**200,000.00**	**133,467.00**	**66,533.00**

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
Aduel	6.613333	29.94667	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Wulu Centre	6.51	29.62	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Yei Town	4.089905	30.67164	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Ibba Centre	4.789387	29.1378	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Maridi Centre	4.916667	29.46667	

Location Description:

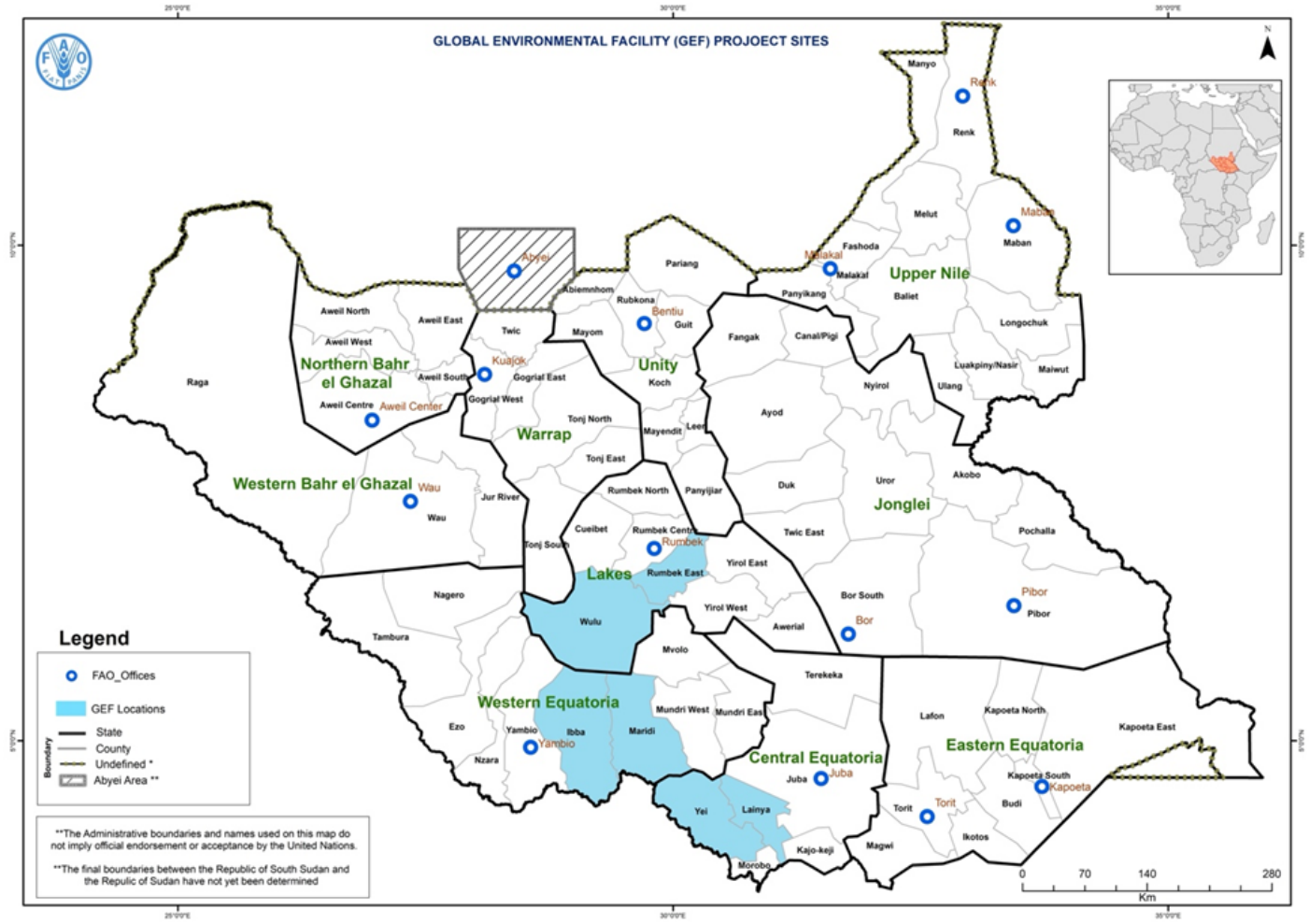
Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Lokurubang	4.31727	31.05455	

Location Description:

Activity Description:

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



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

AnnexF_Risk_Safeguards

ANNEX G: BUDGET TABLE

Please upload the budget table here.

FAO Cost Categories	Component 1 Total	Component 2 Total	Component 3 Total	Component 4 Total	M&E	PMC	TOTAL	RESPONSIBLE PARTY
5013 Consultants								
International consultant to review NRM policies and formulate recommendations	**32,000**	**0**	**0**	**0**			**32,000**	**MOEF**
International consultant to develop safeguard plans and assessments	**0**	**0**	**0**	**56,000**			**56,000**	**MOEF**
Sub-total international Consultants	**32,000**	**0**	**0**	**56,000**	**0**	**0**	**88,000**	
National Project Director					51,200	40,000	**91,200**	**MOEF**
Technical Advisor WES 100%	**6,000**	**18,000**	**24,000**	**12,000**			**60,000**	**ACTED**
Technical Advisor CES 100%	**6,000**	**18,000**	**24,000**	**12,000**			**60,000**	**ACTED**
Technical Advisor Lakes 100%	**6,000**	**18,000**	**24,000**	**12,000**			**60,000**	**VSF**
Administrative and financial assistant 40% Juba						26,400	**26,400**	**MOEF**
Administrative and financial assistant 40% WES and CES						26,400	**26,400**	**ACTED**
Administrative and financial assistant 20% Lakes	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**		13,200	**13,200**	**VSF**
Procurement officer 40% Juba	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**		16,000	**16,000**	**MOEF**
Procurement officer 40% WES and CES						16,000	**16,000**	**ACTED**
Procurement officer 20% Lakes						8,000	**8,000**	**VSF**
M&E officer 40% Juba					26,400		**26,400**	**MOEF**
M&E officer 40%. WEC and CES					26,400		**26,400**	**ACTED**
M&E officer 20% Lakes	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	13,200		**13,200**	**VSF**
KM officer 55% Juba				**32,670**			**32,670**	**MOEF**
KM officer 30% WES and CES				**17,820**			**17,820**	**ACTED**
KM officer 15% Lakes	**0**			**8,910**			**8,910**	**VSF**
Gender, safeguards and stakeholder engagement expert 25% Juba				**16,500**			**16,500**	**MOEF**
Gender, safeguards and stakeholder engagement expert 50% WES and CES				**33,000**			**33,000**	**ACTED**
Gender, safeguards and stakeholder engagement expert 25% Lakes	**0**	**0**	**0**	**16,500**			**16,500**	**VSF**
Field technical Officers (3)	**3,400**	**10,200**	**13,600**	**6,800**	10,000	10,000	**54,000**	**ACTED and VSF**
National consultant to draft and facilitate the data sharing protocol process	**18,000**	**0**	**0**	**0**			**18,000**	**MOEF**
National consultant to support the amendment and adoption of key draft legislative pieces	**36,000**	**0**	**0**	**0**			**36,000**	**MOEF**
National consultant to develop regulations and standards	**90,000**	**0**	**0**	**0**			**90,000**	**MOEF**
National consultant to strengthen environmental enforcement. Assessment and recommendations.	**18,000**	**0**	**0**	**0**			**18,000**	**MOEF**
Sub-total national Consultants	**183,400**	**64,200**	**85,600**	**168,200**	**127,200**	**156,000**	**784,600**	
5013 Sub-total consultants	**215,400**	**64,200**	**85,600**	**224,200**	**127,200**	**156,000**	**872,600**	
5650 Contracts							**0**	

capacity assessment and formulation of a comprehensive capacity building programme (outcome 1.1)	**50,000**	**0**	**0**	**0**			**50,000**	**FAO**
design and execute environmental regulations awareness raising campagn (outcome 1.1)	**25,000**	**0**	**0**	**0**			**25,000**	**FAO**
design and execute community forest and integrated land use planning awareness raising campagn (outcome 1.1)	**45,000**		**0**	**0**			**45,000**	**FAO**
strenthening environmental enforcement, patrolling etc including equipment jointly with MOEF (outcome 1.1)	**135,000**	**0**	**0**	**0**			**135,000**	**FAO**
assess integration of customary and government structures and systems amd to formulate recommendations for better integration of women (outcome 1.1)	**45,000**	**0**	**0**	**0**			**45,000**	**FAO**
draft atlas of NbS, including consultations with wide range of stakeholders (outcome 2.1)	**0**	**30,000**	**0**	**0**			**30,000**	**FAO**
conduct TECNA of Kagelu forest center, develop curriculum and deliver training (outcome 2.1)	**0**	**13,500**	**0**	**0**			**13,500**	**FAO**
conduct TECNA of Yei and Yambio institutes,conduct training and develop curriculum, organise networking events	**0**	**35,000**	**0**	**0**			**35,000**	**ACTED**
conduct TECNA of Nyankot livestock center, conduct training and develop curriculum, organise networking events	**0**	**17,500**	**0**	**0**			**17,500**	**VSF**
assess and support strengthening of crop production extension services under output 2.1.2.	**0**	**235,000**	**0**	**0**			**235,000**	**ACTED**
assess and support strengthening of livestock production extension services under output 2.1.2.	**0**	**235,000**	**0**	**0**			**235,000**	**VSF**
capacity assessment for forestry extension service, to provide training and to accompany foretry officers to the field (outcome 2.1)	**0**	**125,000**	**0**	**0**			**125,000**	**FAO**
conduct the contextual analysis in every county	**0**	**60,000**	**0**	**0**			**60,000**	**ACTED and VSF**
develop a tailormade approach to NRM dialogues. Implementation of the methodlogy and establishment of the NRMCs.	**0**	**140,000**	**0**	**0**			**140,000**	**ACTED and VSF**
develop and deliver a conflict mediation capacity building	**0**	**140,000**	**0**	**0**			**140,000**	**ACTED and VSF**
develop a conflict incident tracking tool	**0**	**15,000**	**0**	**0**			**15,000**	**VSF**
assessment and development and delivery of training at multiple levels and accompanying the Met service.	**0**	**150,000**	**0**	**0**			**150,000**	**ACTED and VSF**
assist MET with development of indicators, early warning protocols	**0**	**100,000**	**0**	**0**			**100,000**	**ACTED and VSF**
conduct water auditing in alignment with FAO's metodology	**0**	**150,000**	**0**	**0**			**150,000**	**ACTED and VSF**
conduct remote sensing based map creation, training uni, ground truthing and training at county level	**0**	**290,000**	**0**	**0**			**290,000**	**ACTED and VSF**
Activities to facilitate access to finance for smallholders and women entrepreneurs under output 2.3.1.	**0**	**280,000**	**0**	**0**			**280,000**	**ACTED and VSF**
Activities to establish agrihubs in each county	**0**	**403,500**	**0**	**0**			**403,500**	**ACTED and VSF**

Activities under outcome 3.1. in WES and CES	0	0	667,445	0			667,445	FAO	
Activities under outcome 3.1. in Lakes	0	0	344,000	0			344,000	FAO	
Activities under outcome 3.2. in WES and CES	0	0	630,000	0			630,000	ACTED	
Activities under outcome 3.2. in Lakes	0	0	400,000	0			400,000	VSF	
Activities under outcome 3.3. in WES and CES (livestock)	0	0	525,000	0			525,000	ACTED	
Activities under outcome 3.3. in Lakes (livestock)	0	0	275,000	0			275,000	VSF	
Activities under outcome 3.4. in WES and CES (agriculture)	0	0	695,334	0			695,334	ACTED	
Activities under outcome 3.4. in Lakes (agriculture)	0	0	353,000	0			353,000	VSF	
Activities on value chain development with direct benefit to the local communities	0	0	154,000	0			154,000	ACTED and VSF	
Establish a project website	0	0	0	10,000			10,000	FAO	
Audit (3OPs 1per year each)	0	0	0	0		97,500	97,500	FAO	
Spot-checks (3OPs 2per year each)	0	0	0	0		150,000	150,000	FAO	
Terminal Report	0	0	0	0	7,012		7,012	FAO	
Firm to conduct MTE	0	0	0	0	50,000		50,000	FAO	
Firm to conduct TE	0	0	0	0	70,000		70,000	FAO	
5650 Sub-total Contracts	**300,000**	**2,419,500**	**4,043,779**	**10,000**	**127,012**	**247,500**	**7,147,791**		**0**
5021 Travel									
Travel for international consultant to review NRM policies and formulate recommendations	3,500						3,500	MOEF	
Travel for National consultant to support the amendment and adoption of key draft legislative pieces	3,000						3,000	MOEF	
Travel for national consultant to strengthen environmental enforcement. Assessment and recommendations.	3,000						3,000	MOEF	
Travel for national consultant to conduct TECNA of Kagelu forest centre, develop curriculum and training		4,000					4,000	MOEF	
Travel for the producer groups to visit the field schools	0	40,000		0			40,000	MOEF	
Travel for international consultant to conduct ESIA, SESA and ESMP	0	0		16,000			16,000	MOEF	
Travel for Gender, Safeguards and Stakeholder Engagement expert	0	0		22,500			22,500	MOEF ACTED VSF	
Monitoring missions M&E and KM Officers	0	0		10,000	10,000		20,000	MOEF ACTED VSF	
Travel within states for technical coordinators and Field officers	0	15,000	20,000	22,500			57,500	MOEF ACTED VSF	
5021 Sub-total travel	**9,500**	**59,000**	**20,000**	**71,000**	**10,000**	**0**	**169,500**		
5023 Training, workshops, meetings									
PSC meetings	0			0	9,000	9,000	18,000	MOEF	
Inception workshop				20,812			20,812	MOEF	
Meetings of the techincal committees	50,000			0			50,000	MOEF	

Meetings of the multidisciplinary panels	15,000			0			15,000	MOEF
Meetings of Communities of Practice at county level	60,000			0			60,000	MOEF
Meetings for data sharing protocol process	10,000			0			10,000	MOEF
Meetings for revisions of NRM policies	20,000			0			20,000	MOEF
Meetings for national expert panels to determine the scope of agricultural vocational and training centers		15,000		0			15,000	MOEF ACTED VSF
Joint social activities in each county		0		90,000			90,000	ACTED and VSF
Exchnage visist for CoP between counties				75,000			75,000	MOEF
National learning event				15,000			15,000	MOEF
Regional exchange event				10,000			10,000	MOEF
Workshops for ESIA, SESA and ESMP in each county				18,000			18,000	MOEF
5023 Sub-total training	155,000	15,000	0	228,812	9,000	9,000	416,812	
5024 Expendable procurement								
Knowlege products materials (Printing, Visibility and Promotional Materials)				15,000			15,000	MOEF *
5024 Sub-total expendable procurement	0	0	0	15,000	0	0	15,000	
6100 Non-expendable procurement								
Equipment for 4 research and vocation centers	0	40,000	0	0			40,000	MOEF ACTED VSF *
2 vehicles for LAKES, WES and CES (The Ministry of Environment and Forestry will provide co-financing in terms of driver, fuel, insurance and maintenance for the project vehicle throughout the project implementation.)	0	30,000	40,000	0			70,000	MOEF *
motorcycles (1 per county)	0	12,000	0	0			12,000	MOEF *
IT equipment PMU	0	0	0	0		8,000	8,000	MOEF ACTED VSF *
Equipment for forestry extension officers	0	20,000	0	0			20,000	MOEF *
Equipment and materials for establishment of forestry field schools	0	65,864	0	0			65,864	MOEF *
Rain gauges	0	90,000	0	0			90,000	ACTED and VSF
6100 Sub-total non-expendable procurement	0	257,864	40,000	0	0	8,000	305,864	
5028 GOE budget							0	
Telecommunication and office running costs (telephone, internet, electricity..)				0		4,853	4,853	MOEF
6300 Sub-total GOE budget	0	0	0	0	0	4,853	4,853	
TOTAL	679,900	2,815,564	4,189,379	549,012	273,212	425,353	8,932,420	
		* procurement administered by FAO then assets transferred						

SSD budget 26.5.25.xlsx

Vehicles Justification Request:

CARES_Budget_VehiclesJustification.pdf

Vehicles Cofinance:

Vehicle Cofinance PMU.pdf

Vehicles Inventory:

Vehicle Inventory_MoEF.pdf

Vehicle Inventory_VSF-Germa

Please explain any aspects of the budget as needed here

See supporting documentation attached (justification, co-finanicng, inventory) for requested vehicles.

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.

	Comment	Response
	STAP – 19.01.2024	15.11.2024
	General	
1.	Even at $10 million of investment, the project is over ambitious in terms of the many things it hopes to address and accomplish and in its geographical scope, while at the same time failing to clearly articulate a specific adaptation rationale - a causal pathway that connects climate change impacts to interventions to benefits.	We have completely restructured the climate change rationale and explained the causal pathways in detail
2.	While marked by detailed, well-articulated activities with specific goals, the project is	We have now identified pathways of impact, have identified the ideal solution to address

	focused on overcoming identified barriers to human well-being in a changing climate without articulating what overcoming those barriers would produce. The issues laid out in the rationale suggest that climate change is negatively impacting agricultural outcomes but the project offers no clear mechanism of impact that might be addressed through intervention.	them, have identified the barriers and have overall aligned the ToC and the interventions to address the challenges related to the impact pathways as well as the barriers.
3.	The project also mentions farmer-herder conflict and the risk of increased cattle raiding between herder groups, but again does not articulate a clear climate impact pathway producing these results, and therefore little sense of where an appropriate intervention might be staged	We have now detailed the impact pathways. Moreover, the problem statement now describes the conflict context better as well as the conflict, underdevelopment, climate impact nexus.
4.	some of the challenges laid out in the rationale are systemic issues that go well beyond climate change and variability (i.e. farmer-herder conflict), but the project does not articulate how even the best-designed adaptation actions might result in adaptation benefits despite larger non-climate problems.	The problem description now describes how communities in South Sudan are faced with a multifaceted and intertwined set of challenges (poverty, underdevelopment, short-term household coping strategies leading to land degradation, persistent inter-community conflicts) that cause and aggravate widespread food insecurity. Climate change is both a cause and a multiplier of these existing challenges. Both extreme weather patterns and historically low agricultural production due to longstanding conflict and underdevelopment underscore the importance of scaling up climate actions that build community resilience.
	ToC and rationale	
5.	In summary, - the project presents a set of well-articulated activities that lack clear connection to one another or to an overall future envisioned for the (rather large) project area. - Each project component seems well thought through in relation to a specific barrier, and therefore it is possible that the project will effectively address each barrier, but it is not clear how addressing those barriers will add up to adaptation benefits vis à vis current and expected challenges in the country.	In the ProDoc we advocate that that 'Climate resilience' of agro-pastoral-systems is more likely to be obtained and sustained by addressing the entire set of challenges in an integrated and holistic way. We also specify that: The project combines climate change adaptation activities – such as the introduction of climate-smart agricultural techniques and water conservation/sharing methods and livelihood diversification with inclusive approaches to dialogue, conflict resolution, and natural resource governance. It will bring transformational and behavioural change by integrating climate change adaptation, conflict prevention and peacebuilding approaches for strengthening social, environment and economically sustainable climate resilience at local levels. By

		adopting a "peace positive" approach to planning and implementing climate action, the project aims for long term sustainability of project interventions and behavioural change.
6.	The project theory of change (ToC) is confusing, particularly around the adaptation benefits it is intended to deliver. It does not start from the challenges in the description/rationale, in part perhaps because those challenges are not articulated in a manner that connects them to a source of climate impacts.	The project's Theory of Change is now summarized as: '*If the intersection of conflict, degraded ecosystems and climate change impacts are addressed in a holistic way, facilitating collaboration and dialogues around natural resources use that involve all stakeholders and aim at repairing social trust, and if they are underpinned by facilitating policies, laws and regulations as well as capable research, extension and information systems, climate resilience of agro-sylvo-pastoral-systems can be obtained and the lives and livelihoods of the people that depend on these systems improved*' We have also included a new, and clearer ToC figure which shows the clear connection between main threats, barriers, outcomes, project objectives, mid-term outcomes and long-term sustainability perspective.
7.	For example, it is clear that there has been a significant increase in temperature in the country, but this is not linked to agricultural production through a specific mechanism that might inform intervention selection and design. Rainfall has increased or decreased, depending on the part of the country, but the project is not clear which of these issues it is addressing and if this informed site selection. Further, as with temperature, the data on precipitation are not linked to production, and therefore it is not clear if a precipitation decline of 25mm/yr (for example) has a meaningful impact on production or not.	We have targeted the climate impact description better in the ProDoc, and more specifically under the 'Possible futures without intervention' subsection under section A.1. We have also included a detailed description under section A.1. of climate and environmental challenges (besides socio-economic challenges) for each of the six target counties.
8.	It is not clear if climate is the principal driver of challenges or if other issues should be the primary focus of the project and a means to indirectly deliver adaptation benefits.	See answer to comment number 4. Climate change is treated as both a cause and a multiplier of an already existing challenging situation on the ground. The project addresses all challenges in a holistic way.
9.	Without a clear connection between climate impacts and the challenges identified in the rationale, it is difficult to evaluate the assumptions behind the theory of change and therefore the likelihood the project will deliver adaptation benefits. The assumptions do not	The assumptions now relate to the different stakeholders and beneficiaries involved in the project. The project is designed around a participatory peace-positive and tiered capacity building approach, rooted in strengthening existing government and local

	include information about how interventions will lead to outcomes, or how outcomes will address challenges. Instead, all assumptions relate to conditions in the project area, which are important but not sufficient to support the ToC.	population's capacities on the ground in the target areas. Therefore, the main assumptions relate to the willingness, enthusiasm and commitment to this approach of all the actors involved whether executing or operational partners, government staff that receives training (e.g extension workers, staff from the MET, or smallholder farmers and women's NTFP producer groups in small communities).
10.	The activities are well-described and appear to be thoughtfully designed, but their adaptation benefits are not clearly articulated – what they are intended to achieve, or how they will achieve it. Instead, the focus of the project appears to be on addressing the barriers identified in the PIF, but these are barriers to the achievement of larger goals. So, the organization of activities under the project makes sense insofar as they are intended to address barriers, but it is not clear what these barriers are preventing from happening so there is no clear connection between activity, outcome, and adaptation benefit.	We have made it clear now what the preferred solution would be as well as the barriers to this ideal situation is exactly these that the project addresses. Also see our answer to comment number 5 and 6.
11.	Further, while the PIF does include data from two RCP scenarios, giving it the potential to consider different plausible futures against which to measure the potential of the proposed activities, the climate data is not integrated into any wider system dynamics. Without considering climate in the context of other system drivers, the PIF cannot articulate how those two futures might play out on the system of farmers and pastoralists in a country with significant governance and economic challenges. It does not articulate even how these different scenarios might produce different agricultural or pastoral outcomes. This makes it difficult for the PIF to address the interconnections between the four project components, as ideally these would be linked in an effort to address not only present challenges, but their likely manifestation in one or more plausible futures.	Please see our answer to comment number 7.
12.	There are numerous relevant past and current GEF and non-GEF projects in South Sudan, many of which are described in this PIF. While there is mention of taking into account 'lessons learned' from these projects, it is not clear what these lessons are or how they have been integrated into the ToC, including informing	We include a clearer description of these lessons learned and their relevance to the project at hand in table 1 under section B2.

	specific interventions apart from the observation that women play a central role in forestry-related activities and will therefore also be involved in this project (which one would hope).	
	Specific recommendations	
13.	The PIF should develop at least two plausible future narratives. These cannot be limited to different climate futures. They must include other relevant trends, including plausible political, demographic, and economic factors. Climate change will be part of these narratives, and might exacerbate any challenges that emerge in other aspects of the system in the future, but in each narrative it should be clearly interwoven with the wider system. Such narratives can help define what interventions and goals make sense in the context of this project, and what adaptation benefits are likely to be achieved.	The ProDoc describes two future scenarios, namely 'Possible futures without intervention' subsection under section A.1. and 'Preferred solution' under section A.2. They each treat the intersection of challenges, climate (impacts) being one of them (next to conflict, underdevelopment, and land degradation).
14.	The project needs to make clear, causal connections between climate change and the challenges laid out in the rationale. As noted above, it is not enough to say that changes in rainfall will impact agriculture. How will different plausible climate futures impact the specific crops, animals, and activities of the target populations? Which crops, animals, and activities will be impacted the most and least, and who is associated with those crops, animals, and activities? This will help determine if the projected climate changes are significant enough to result in changes requiring adaptation, or if other factors (e.g., intergroup conflict) are more pressing drivers of well-being.	The specific impacts are described in the overview table for the six target counties as well as in the 'Possible futures without intervention' subsection under section A.1. More details on all these aspects per county is also to be found in Annex O. The project now furthermore explicitly addresses the INTERSECTION of the different challenges, and shows how the interventions will generate co-benefits, and well as how the project's approach will also foster sustainability of the results.
15.	The project needs to clearly link challenges (in the rationale) to barriers (how are they barriers to addressing the challenges?) to interventions (how do these activities address the barriers in a manner that will ultimately address the challenges?)	Please see our answer to comments number 5. 6 and 7.
16.	The project risk section should be revisited. Given conflict and weak institutions are identified by the project as significant challenges in the country, it seems implausible that politics and governance, institutional capacity, and social issues present low risks to the project.	The risk section has been revised and updated
	SEC	

17.	*Agency's Comments 2023.10.18 - Output 1.1.1 has been revised to further highlight the project's multidisciplinary approach.* GEF SEC given the multidimensional nature of climate change impacts, output 1.1.1 should include all relevant sectors instead of limiting it to the agriculture sector only.	
18.	**GEFSEC, November 22, 2023** **Cleared** *FAO 2023.11.16 - Outcomes 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, and 3.4 have been modified to explicitly incorporate an approach that prioritizes both inclusivity and gender sensitivity.* **GEFSEC, November 16, 2023** Although the Agency has noted adjustment of component 3 to reflect gender responsive dimension, all outputs do not have any gender-specific references. Please reflect gender perspectives in the relevant outputs in Outcome 3 *FAO 2023.11.06 - The description of Component 3 has been adjusted to reflect the gender responsive dimension of Outcome 3. Output 4.1.2 has been adjusted accordingly.* **GEFSEC, October 27, 2023** Outcome 3 has very important gender dimensions. Please reflect gender responsiveness / gender perspectives in Component 3. Please ensure that Output 4.1.2 include project results and lessons learned on gender equality/gender mainstreaming. *FAO reply 2023.10.18 - The updated Component 2 explicitly outlines activities involving women and youth, thereby enhancing the project's inclusivity and reinforcing its overall objectives.* **GEFSEC, October 14, 2023** Knowledge management and monitoring and evaluation have been included particularly in component 4 of the project. However, there are no specific activities identified in any of the components where women are expected to play a key role in specially in the decision making processes envisioned. Please ensure a clear elaboration of gender specific roles in the	

	project implementation process in either component 2, 3 or component 4.	
19.	**GEFSEC, October 22, 2023** **Cleared** *FAO 2023.10.18 - At this initial stage, the design of the project incorporates essential lessons learned from past initiatives and significant insights from key informants. These elements are integrated into the project's activities as catalysts for innovation, reinforcing its credibility, relevance, and anticipated impact. A comprehensive evaluation of past lessons, an assessment of ongoing initiatives for potential synergies, and a detailed stakeholder analysis and engagement plan are all scheduled for the PPG stage. This approach reflects our conviction that dedicating adequate time and resources to these assessments is fundamental to the project's long-term success. This is especially pertinent for stakeholder engagement, which is integral to the project's participatory and inclusive nature.* **GEFSEC, October 14, 2023** - Although a list of other ongoing or pipeline projects has been identified, there is no analysis or presentation of what lessons were learned from either previous initiatives or the ongoing interventions. Since there obviously previous intervention in the areas where the CARES project is targeting, there is need to provide an analysis of those previous projects and lessons learned. The stakeholders have been inadequately described. The project will be implemented in 7 states. However, consultations were only conducted in two states (i.e. Greenbelt area). Could you provide details on how the views of the pastoral communities in Jonglei, Warrap and Lake states were captured including a list of those consulted and the relevant dates for the State consultations. Additionally, youth constitute the largest proportion of the pastoral as well as crop farmers' communities. However, there is limited information on youth involvement in this project. Please provide details on youth engagement in the project that would contribute to Outcome 3.2 and others.	

20.	***Are the key outputs of each component defined (where possible)?*** **GEFSEC, October 22, 2023** **Cleared** *FAO 2023.10.18 - Outputs 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 2.1.1, and 2.2.2 have been updated to address the insightful observations provided by the reviewer for which we are grateful. The revisions aim to clarify how the project components align with existing institutions / policies.* **GEFSEC, October 14, 2023** Some elements have not been clearly stated. Output 1.1.1. (A). 'a specialized unit has been setup for climate prediction and data collection..... and a multidisciplinary expert panel formed'. Is this arrangement part of the CARES project? Which national or state institutions are involved in the specialized unit and the expert panel? Output 1.1.2. (A). On paragraph 2 (page 18) regarding policy for forest conservation, it is not clear which aspects of the project contribute to that policy or if the project intends to develop the stated policy. (C) page 18. 'Develop policy to strengthen extension services'. South Sudan's ministry of Agriculture and Food Security has an existing policy on extension. Does the project intend to develop a new extension policy? Output 2.1.1. 'National and state-level research institutes are established' page 19. Is it practically possible to establish these institutes within the project timeframe and have the required capacity in place to start generating the knowledge needed? How about strengthening the existing ones like Yei, Palataka and Halima Agricultural Research Centres instead of establishing new ones? Output 2.2.2 (C). There are probably many cooperatives already existing in the targeted areas especially in the Greenbelt region. There seems to be no need to form new ones instead of working with those already established within the project location.	The formulation of the outputs has changed between PIF and ProDoc. Please see table below.

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PIF	PPG	Comments
Component 1: Strengthening governance mechanisms for integrated land use planning	Component 1: Strengthening governance mechanisms for integrated land use planning	unchanged
Outcome 1.1: Participatorily establish regulatory frameworks for integrated land use planning and nature-based adaptation solutions for agriculture systems	Outcome 1.1: Regulatory frameworks for integrated land use planning and nature-based adaptation solutions for agriculture systems are established in a participatory way	Formulated as an outcome rather than an activity
Output 1.1.1: Establish coordination mechanisms among stakeholders in the agriculture sectors	Output 1.1.1. Coordination mechanisms in the agricultural sectors established	Formulated as an output rather than as an activity
Output 1.1.2: Strengthen regulations, standards, and enforcement mechanisms incorporating climate impact assessments, biodiversity-positive, and nature-based considerations into decision-making processes.	Output 1.1.2. NRM policies are strengthened	Split the original output into two separate outputs, on NRM policies and one on regulations, standards and enforcements
Output 1.1.3: Identify and remove barriers to finance and leadership positions for vulnerable groups in sustainable agricultural operations.	Output 1.1.3. Regulations, standards, and enforcement mechanisms are strengthened	Several outputs in the original RF addressed financial barriers. We have now grouped all these activities under one outcome and matching output, namely outcome 2.3 and output 2.3.1.
Component 2: Fostering climate resilient and inclusive agriculture and ecosystem management through capacity building, information systems, and stakeholders empowerment	Component 2: Fostering climate resilient and inclusive agriculture and ecosystem management through capacity building, information systems, and stakeholder empowerment	unchanged
Outcome 2.1: Improve the capacity of government institutions, non-governmental organizations, and local communities to effectively plan and implement climate resilient agriculture management interventions.	Outcome 2.1: Improved capacity of government institutions, non-governmental organizations, and local communities to effectively plan and implement climate resilient agriculture management interventions	Reformulated as an outcome rather than as an activity
Output 2.1.1: Establish, strengthen and build the capacity of agricultural research institutes	Output 2.1.1. The capacity of agricultural research institutes and vocational training centers is strengthened so they can	Reformulated as an output rather than as an activity, and specified in what sense their capacity would be strengthened

	conduct research and provide training on NbS and climate adaptation in agriculture	
Output 2.1.2: Establish functional information systems that provide weather-informed agricultural advisories and enable data-driven decision-making in adaptive agricultural management and participatory natural resource governance.	Output 2.1.2. Extension services in NbS are strengthened at state and county level	This output has been moved under outcome 2.2 below and reformulated to output 2.2.1. The monitoring of climate risks and government capacity to deliver basic climate services and conduct vulnerability assessments is strengthened This is because Outcome 2.1 now focuses on integrated and peace positive land use planning for resilience and all actors involved on the ground for that (extension officers, research institutes, vocational centers, and local communities). Outcome 2.2. then focuses on the data and monitoring systems that underpin this planning for resilience.
Output 2.1.3: Capacitate institutional actors and local communities while raising public awareness to support the adaptive integrated management of agrosylvo-pastoral ecosystems.	Output 2.1.3. Integrated land use planning and conflict prevention capacities are strengthened at community level with a special focus on the role of women and youth	The project was not sufficiently addressing the conflict sensitive context in the intervention areas. This output specifically addresses this and allows the project to plan in a peace-positive, participatory and holistic was for resilience. The peace positive and participatory approach also make the projects results more likely to be sustained after project end.
Outcome 2.2: Enhance agricultural resilience and market access through weather-informed recommendations, gender-sensitive incentives, business models, and financial access.	Outcome 2.2. Monitoring networks and information systems are established and strengthened	See our comment above for output 2.1.2. In addition, we have split up the information and data activities from the business and access to fiancé activities. as described further above, several outputs in the original RF addressed financial barriers. We have now grouped all these activities under one outcome and matching output, namely outcome 2.3 and output 2.3.1.
Output 2.2.1: Create gender-sensitive financial incentives to enhance access to resources and support for small-scale producers who adopt nature-based practices	Output 2.2.1. The monitoring of climate risks and government capacity to deliver basic climate services and conduct vulnerability assessments is strengthened	

Output 2.2.2: Establish market information systems to improve risk management and market access for farmers	Output 2.2.2. The existing National Environmental Information System is expanded with gender-responsive modules on forests, rangelands, livestock and water resources	
	Outcome 2.3: Agricultural resilience and market access are enhanced through gender-sensitive incentives, business models, and financial access	
	Output 2.3.1. Agricultural resilience and market access are enhanced through gender-sensitive incentives, business models, and financial access	
Component 3: Promoting nature-based solutions for adaptive land use management and livelihood Improvement	Component 3: Promoting nature-based solutions for adaptive land use management and livelihood Improvement	unchanged
Outcome 3.1: Apply nature-based solutions for adaptive forest management, diversification, and livelihood improvement in local communities	Outcome 3.1: Nature-based solutions are applied for adaptive forest management, diversification, and livelihood improvement in local communities	Reformulated as an outcome rather than as an activity
Output 3.1.1: Mobilize communities to actively participate in developing plans for sustainable management of agro-sylvo-pastoral ecosystems and restoration of degraded landscapes.	Output 3.1.1. Community forestry management plans are developed, degraded forests are restored, and communities manage forest resources sustainably	Under component 3, each outcome addresses a different agricultural sector. To harmonse things, we have streamlined the formulations of outputs under all of them so we each time have a first output that focuses on planning, restoration, sustainable production practices and reducing unsustainable practices. A second output then focuses on developing climate resilient/climate proofed value chains and market access
Output 3.1.2: Establish value chains for non-timber forest products	Output 3.1.2. Strengthened climate-proofed NTFP value chains and improved market access	
Output 3.1.3: Develop alternatives to unsustainable practices (such as fuel wood harvesting) and non-renewable energy sources in rural areas.		Activities addressing these aspects have been integrated under the new output 3.1.1.
Outcome 3.2: Engage communities in conserving transhumance corridors for effective conflict management	Outcome 3.2: Community-led transhumance corridors management for effective conflict management	Reformulated as an outcome rather than as an activity
Output 3.2.1: Mobilize communities to actively participate in designing climate change adaptation plans	Output 3.2.1. Inter-community/inter-county transhumance corridor plans are developed, and governance and management arrangements are in place	Reformulated as an output rather than an activity and harmonized output with overall approach under component 3.
Output 3.2.2: Implement monitoring and maintenance measures in	Output 3.2.2. Corridors are restored and maintained	Reformulated as an output rather than an activity and harmonized output

collaboration with local authorities and herders to ensure the proper functioning and preservation of transhumance corridors.		with overall approach under component 3.
Outcome 3.3: Enhance livestock management through nature-based adaptation solutions and inclusive value chains that support livelihoods and reduce pressure on natural resources.	Outcome 3.3: Enhanced livestock management through nature-based adaptation solutions and inclusive value chains that support livelihoods and reduce pressure on natural resources	Reformulated as an outcome rather than as an activity
Output 3.3.1: Mobilize communities to actively develop community-based livestock management plans in targeted regions.	Output 3.3.1. Community livestock management plans are developed, degraded lands are restored, and communities manage land sustainably	Reformulated as an output rather than an activity and harmonized output with overall approach under component 3.
Output 3.3.2: Improve accesses to markets for producers	Output 3.3.2. Strengthened climate-proofed livestock value chains and improved market access	Reformulated as an output rather than an activity and harmonized output with overall approach under component 3.
Outcome 3.4: Adapt crop production to climate change through innovative technologies, nature-based agronomic practices, and inclusive crop value chains that support livelihoods and reduce pressure on natural resources.	Outcome 3.4: Climate resilient and adapted crop production through innovative technologies, nature-based agronomic practices, and inclusive crop value chains that support livelihoods and reduce pressure on natural resources	Reformulated as an outcome rather than as an activity
Output 3.4.1: Manage climate risk along crops value chains, encompassing production, harvesting, processing, packaging, transportation, and retail.	Output 3.4.1. Gender-responsive community production plans are developed, degraded lands are restored, and communities practice sustainable production methods	Reformulated as an output rather than an activity and harmonized output with overall approach under component 3.
Output 3.4.2: Enhance agricultural productivity and climate resilience through tailored community-based production plans to embrace a nature-based solution	Output 3.4.2. Strengthened climate-proofed crop value chains and improved market access	Reformulated as an output rather than an activity and harmonized output with overall approach under component 3.
Component 4: M&E	Component 4: Knowledge Management	Created a separate component for knowledge management and a separate one for M&E as required under GEF-8
Outcome 4.1: Increase knowledge and awareness of nature-based, sustainable agriculture practices and ecosystems conservation among key stakeholder groups	Outcome 4.1: Increased knowledge and awareness of nature-based, sustainable agriculture practices and ecosystems conservation among key stakeholder groups	Reformulated as an outcome rather than as an activity
Output 4.1.1: Develop and deliver to relevant stakeholder groups an outreach and awareness-raising strategy and program on best practices and provisions on nature-based, sustainable agriculture practices.	Output 4.1.1. Gender-Responsive Knowledge Management, Exchange, and Experience Sharing Established	Combined the two former outputs under one new output
Output 4.1.2: Identify and disseminate project results,		

experiences and lessons learned to key stakeholders, with roadmap for scaling of successful project solutions.		
Outcome 4.2: Monitor, evaluate, and document the results of the project for enhanced accountability and learning	Outcome 4.2. Effective implementation and monitoring of Environmental and social safeguards and gender activities	Moved M&E to separate component
Output 4.2.1: Formulate and implement a gender-sensitive monitoring methodology plan for the project.	Output 4.2.1. Environmental and Social Safeguards Management is developed and operationalized	Included safeguards additional to gender here
Output 4.2.2: Undertake an independent mid-term review and terminal evaluation, with the evaluation findings and recommendations shared with the project management team to inform decision-making and enhance future project implementation.		Moved as output under a separate M&E component
	Component 5: Monitoring & Evaluation	Created a separate component for knowledge management and a separate one for M&E as required under GEF-8
	Outcome 5.1 Monitoring and evaluation framework established and M&E activities conducted	
	Output.5.1.1. Project M&E framework	
	Output 5.1.2.: Periodic M&E reports generated and submitted to FAO SS and Mid-term Evaluation and Terminal Evaluation executed	