



COMPILATION OF COMMENTS SUBMITTED BY COUNCIL MEMBERS
ON THE JUNE 2024 LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FUND
WORK PROGRAM

NOTE: This document is a compilation of comments submitted to the Secretariat by Council members concerning the project proposals presented in the June 2024 LDCF Work Program

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**JUNE 2024 LDCF WORK PROGRAM (REFERENCE: GEF/LDCF.SCCF.36/03/Rev.01):
COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS**

PROGRAMS

- 1. Global: Lesotho, Malawi, Ethiopia, Somalia: Programme for innovation in climate adaptation and resilience building solutions (PARS) (GEF ID 11566); GEF Agency: UNIDO; GEF Program Financing: \$30,107,798 (LDCF); Co-financing: \$138,029,840.**

✓ **Canada Comments**

- Establishing an effective and transparent policy and regulatory enabling environment and supporting sufficient supply of agri-food product for Micro-Small and Medium-Sized Entreprises (MSMEs) is crucial to success of the project, and this can be achieved by effective market and value chain development of all actors. Given the challenging agro-ecosystems in the project countries, there should be additional effort to focus on supply of sufficient and high quality agri-food products to ensure that MSMEs operate at profitable points.

✓ **Germany Comments**

Germany approves the PIF in the work program but asks that the following comments are taken into account:

Suggestions for improvements to be made during the drafting of the final program proposal:

- Germany asks for more details on innovative financing options for adaptation and how they are expected to positively impact MSME's.
- The full proposal should put more detail to the specific barriers that MSME's experience in the individual beneficiary countries, and explain in more detail how the measures foreseen under the project are expected to result in additional funding for adaptation and resilience building solutions. The information already provided in the stakeholder engagement documentation should be supplemented with further details and examples.
- Existing positive examples for how similar projects have succeeded in supporting MSME's in the national or regional context should be included to better illustrate the anticipated effects of the proposal.

- 2. Regional: Burkina Faso, Chad, Ethiopia, Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal: Transformation approach to large-scale investment in support of the implementation of the Great Green Wall Initiative (TALSISI-GGW) (GEF ID 11455); GEF Agency: UNEP, BOAD; GEF Program Financing: \$77,888,167 (LDCF: \$38,707,662; GEF TF: \$39,180,505); Co-financing: \$2,998,018,615.**

✓ **Canada Comments**

In regard to Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso:

- Canada has some concerns regarding programming in Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso with regards to funds at risk of being potentially diverted.
- It is important that the project proposal includes strong safeguards and accountability measures to ensure appropriate use of funding. Could the GEF please elaborate on the safeguards in place?
- We would also welcome a better understanding of how civil society actors will be engaged in the delivery of this initiative.

General:

- The program is developed under 4 interrelated components, the first one being about 'gender-responsive, climate-resilient restoration of landscapes' but only 52% of total beneficiaries are women. The program could benefit from targeting a higher number of women, especially as this demographic is the most vulnerable and impacted by climate change, and the most dependent on agriculture for their livelihoods in the informal sector.

✓ **Germany Comments**

Germany approves the PIF in the work program but asks that the following comments are taken into account:

Suggestions for improvements to be made during the drafting of the final program proposal:

- Since civil society and farmers play a key role for the longterm impacts of the project, civil society organisations and farmer associations should play a stronger role in the implementation structures at local and regional level.
- With BOAD the programme has an adequate partner, however, its regional scope may fall short given the overall regional scope of the programme. Germany suggests to consider an additional partner covering the East African part.
- With regard to the water resources management component and the risks mentioned in the project proposal regarding national and regional social conflicts, the involvement of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (CBLT) could be useful. The mandate of this regional organisation, which includes Cameroon, Nigeria, Central African Republic, Lybia, Sudan and Algeria in addition to Niger and Chad (both countries earmarked for the project), includes the management and conservation of Lake Chad and its shared water resources, the preservation of ecosystems and the promotion of peace in the region.

✓ **Norway & Denmark Comments**

- **Relevance** – Overall, the proposed LDCF-program is considered relevant to the geographical context, experiencing accelerating temperature increases, and where implications of climate change are materializing through destroyed crops and food insecurity due to irregular rainfall and reduced available agricultural and grazing land leading to heightened natural resources-related conflicts. The governments in Mali, Burkina Faso, Chad, Niger, Nigeria and Mauritania have demonstrated willingness to address these issues through programs in these thematical areas by investments from the World Bank Group, the African Development Bank, bilateral donors and through other financial institutions.

Mali has, for instance, established a national Climate Fund through UN's Multi Partner Trust Fund Office that enables funding to initiatives that aim to reduce the effects of climate change and to contribute with climate smart natural resources management and agriculture production. The countries have affirmed the need for a stronger coordination between GGW initiatives, national and local stakeholders as well as strengthened absorption capacity of climate finance.

- **Ambitious:** As this program aims at tackling five big problem areas (limited resource management, desertification, livelihood and food insecurity, water insecurity and reduced health and safety) across nine countries, this requires a great effort of coordination among the governments and other stakeholders across borders. These represent quite different political contexts, although the countries represent similar challenges linked to natural resources conservation and climate change degradation. The common approach shall be carefully designed to consider the differences, especially the different types of stakeholders.
- **Secure ownership and sustainability:** It is seen as positive that the program will focus on enhancing the role of local actors and stakeholders in restoring and managing natural resources, as this is a key element to ensure sustainability. It is also important for the program to be sensitive to the local contexts, taking into account the needs of pastoralists and their livestock for example.
- **Added value/coordination:** There are already many different programs under the big Great Green Wall Initiative-umbrella, and many of them are mentioned in the program document. As this proposed approach aims at increasing the impact of all the investments and initiatives made in nature restoration and climate mitigation, it is therefore key to reduce duplication, seek complementarity between different programs, ensure stakeholder participation in coordination mechanisms and involvement from government in the implicated countries. Ownership in the coordination efforts shall also be secured by the implementing stakeholders such as the World Bank, African Development Bank, UNEP and so forth. It is very important to include other ongoing programs within the Great Green Wall initiative in the overview to ensure a complete mapping, such as Desert to Power (climate-resilient infrastructures and access to renewable energy) by the African Development Bank, the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAAP) by the African Development Bank (Digital Climate-Informed Advisory Services).

✓ **United States Comments**

- Given recent coups in Mali and Niger, we want to empathize that this project should: (i) Embed robust transparency practices and governance safeguards; (ii) Continue to strengthen civilian, technocratic institutions to build local capacity and support long-term development and growth; (iii) Reflect strong political ownership and commitment to reform, as evidenced by Treasury's bilateral dialogue with the relevant authorities and their implementation track record; and (iv) Minimize the risk of diversion of resources to malign actors.
- With the uptick in extremist violence and a loss of state control in several of the participating countries, implementation risks will be paramount. Given this, could you let us

know how the program will address the obstacle cited in the PIF: “The potential for transformation in the GGW region remains hampered by political instability, conflict situations, fragmented efforts, limited coordination among countries and stakeholders and low capacity at multiple levels to tackle the interlinked environmental, economic, and social issues.”

- Regarding scalability and technology, we would like to better understand how the project will address access challenges to technology (i.e. drones to monitor deforestation) that could potentially limit the capacity of technology utilization (i.e. access to internet or smart phones) by local implementors such as farmers or pastoralists.
- If appropriate, we encourage watershed management to be considered in the drought focus and the issue of overgrazing to be considered in the agro-pastoralist and livestock focus.
- We recommend the project to include a sustainable land management framework, plan or development, especially for addressing drought.
- The proposal notes political and governance risks, how will these risks be addressed to ensure local community involvement and access to certain areas?

STAND-ALONE FULL-SIZED PROJECTS

- 3. Angola: Strengthening climate resilience of communities in Angola through community-based adaptation action (GEF ID 11545); GEF Agency: FAO; GEF Project Financing: \$8,932,420 (LDCF); Co-financing: \$41,860,000.**

✓ **Germany Comments**

Germany approves the following PIF in the work program but requests that the following comments are taken into account:

Germany requests that the following requirements are taken into account during the design of the final project proposal:

- The PIF states that existing cooperatives have very limited capacity to develop viable business plans. Germany would welcome a clarification whether this constraint will be primarily addressed by the Farmer Field Schools (which will identify and promote climate-resilient agrifood value chains), by financial institutions and/ or by private sector companies. Moreover, we recommend to include a description of how the respective actor(s) are intended to strengthen the cooperatives’ capacities to develop and implement business plans. This could be addressed by adjustments in the Theory of Change, i.e., by illustrating the linkages between barriers identified and the respective activities to address them.
- Germany recommends including information on the characteristics and development of suitable climate-resilient financial products and listing criteria for a successful provision of microloans to community producer groups and SMEs in order to lack of access to finance for small businesses in Angola.

- According to the PIF, “based on lessons learned from past interventions in Angola and the region, the CBNRM [community-based natural resource management] approach is the most effective and appropriate approach to deliver immediate and sustainable adaptation benefits to communities”. Germany recommends including a brief presentation of the interventions referred to focusing on the lessons learned regarding CBNRM and a comparison with the alternative approaches yielding adaptation benefits to communities.

4. Cambodia: Building resilient livelihoods through nature-based solutions in the Tonle Sap Basin and Siem Reap/Phnom Kulen landscape (GEF ID 11332); GEF Agency: UNDP; GEF project financing: \$6,684,703 (LDCF); Co-financing: \$15,000,000.

✓ **Canada Comments**

- The project presents a strong landscape approach and provides confidence in contributing to a broad set of agri-food outcomes. However, we would welcome more clarity on the approach to improving food security. The project could benefit from reinforcing the importance of agricultural trade (for imports) to meet variable and surge demand of the tourism industry to ensure this temporal food pressure is not entirely borne by this agriculture system. Facilitating food trade from other regions is an important solution to complement the proposed integrated water management approach of the project.

✓ **Germany Comments**

Germany approves the PIF in the work program but asks that the following comments are taken into account:

Suggestions for improvements to be made during the drafting of the final program proposal:

- Component 4.2 mentions that innovative technologies for climate smart agriculture, agroecology and soil conservation would be identified to enhance community and ecosystem resilience in the TSB. While Germany approves this idea, we appreciate more information on what kind of innovative technologies use is planned, given that the core of the project is Nature based solutions.
- Monitoring and Evaluation is a vital part of the project, as outlined in component 5. The establishment of an M&E programme to collect and curate lessons learned from project activities can build a solid foundation for future planning of projects. We would like to see this supported by indicators that are applicable to use for lessons learned for future projects.
- Germany welcomes the complementarity between interventions under the GEF-8 project and this LDCF project. This shows holistic planning and potentially great benefits for the TSB region. In order to reach the maximum complementarity between the projects, we would like to see more elaboration on how the complementarity will be ensured throughout the implementation of both projects.

5. **Chad: Strengthening the resilience of smallholder farmers and ecosystems to the effects of climate change” (STRADAP) Project (GEF ID 11550); GEF Agency: IFAD; GEF Project financing: \$7,105,936 (LDCF); Co-financing: \$35,166,600.**

✓ **Canada Comments**

- The project presents a strong pathway to integrate marginalized groups (women and youth) into a climate-adaptive and resilient agro-silvo pastoral and fishing value chains. The existence of a limited agricultural value-chain exacerbated by political instability and security concerns for project staff and beneficiaries and poor market linkages poses a challenge for the weak bargaining power of farmers isolated from market. This can lead to reduced incentives for beneficiaries to continue adoption of resilience practices if farmers cannot be assured of market access and fair prices for their products. The project should ensure a strong vulnerability and conflict-sensitivity analysis, as well as a high-quality cost effectiveness analysis of the interventions to inform the best-fit approach for project sustainability.

✓ **Germany Comments**

Germany approves the PIF in the work program but asks that the following comments are taken into account:

Suggestions for improvements to be made during the drafting of the final program proposal:

- Germany notes that some specific targets and indicators for some of the outcomes and output are not fully detailed in the project description, such as for example precise measures for output 2.1.
- Germany asks for further elaboration on the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders, particularly in the implementation and monitoring phases.
- Germany cautions that the security risks, particularly in the vicinity of Lake Chad, should not be underestimated in the implementation. These are recognised in the ‘Key risks’, but few adequate measures are proposed.
- It is very commendable that women were explicitly taken into account in the formulation of the project objectives. However, it should be emphasised how they are actually involved and how the ambitious objectives (e.g. Output 1.1.3, empowering 500 subnational decision-makers, half of whom women) can realistically be achieved, as experience on the ground has shown that this is often difficult.
- The proposal could take greater account of pastoral communities, since they not only have great potential for economic development and food security in Chad, but must be taken into account to ensure peaceful coexistence with sedentary farmers. Furthermore, cooperation with the *Commission Economique du Bétail, de la Viande et des Ressources Halieutiques* (CEBEVIRHA) is recommended.

6. Comoros: Increased access to water supply for resilience in Comoros (IAWASuR) (GEF ID 11522); GEF Agency: UNDP; GEF project financing: \$8,019,178 (LDCF); Co-financing: \$27,000,000.

✓ **Canada Comments**

- The project addresses the high priority of the water scarcity challenge in the Comoros. It intends to build institutional capacity to improve water management practices which must be carefully implemented with proper community engagements frameworks to avoid mixed success as existing coordination mechanisms are fragmented. The effectiveness of water resources management interventions and climate change adaptation impact will have high dependency on the technical capacities of key actors. The project should reinforce proposed activities in hydrological and meteorological capacity building with more attention to data and information systems and monitoring by all actors, including through community engagement.

✓ **Germany Comments**

Germany approves the following PIF in the work program but requests that the following comments are taken into account:

Germany requests that the following requirements are taken into account during the design of the final project proposal:

- Germany asks for additional information regarding the climate resilience of the planned water infrastructures and how they adapt to varying water availability. The full proposal would benefit from including a definition of and/or examples for the “7 water infrastructures” whose installation is foreseen under Output 2.1.
- Germany requests additional information regarding the justification for categorizing environmental and social risks as moderate, as well as on the explanation that environmental and social management plans for any construction will be required of all service providers. It is crucial to ensure that potential harm on local ecosystems through water extraction, distribution practices and wastewater discharge is avoided or minimised.
- The PIF states that “most domestic water is not treated” and that “increased temperature also contributes to declining water quality”. As the project’s objective is to increase access to “high quality” water supply, Germany recommends emphasizing how potential project measures, including the restoration of watersheds (Outcome 3), ensure that the water supplied is of high quality.

7. Gambia: Climate-resilient Banjul: Enhancing urban resilience in the Greater Banjul Area (CLIMB)” Project (GEF ID 11532); GEF Agency: UNEP; GEF Project financing: \$12,544,037 (LDCF); Co-financing: \$35,444,194.

✓ **Germany Comments**

Germany approves the PIF in the work program but asks that the following comments are taken into account:

Suggestions for improvements to be made during the drafting of the final program proposal:

- Germany suggests that the project's benefits, as clearly highlighted by the problem tree and its potential contribution to biodiversity conservation and the prevention of land degradation, should be included in the project description. Additionally, mechanisms and targets for monitoring should be established.
- The document frequently mentions grey infrastructure as both an alternative and complement to green infrastructure, which entails the EbA measures and innovative component of the project. Germany asks for further clarification on the guiding principle for selecting of the type of infrastructure proposed for the interventions, as well as on the anticipated percentage of grey infrastructure.

8. Guinea: Guinea water and sanitation project (GEF ID 11575); GEF Agency: World Bank; GEF Project Financing: \$10,092,000 (LDCF); Co-financing: \$200,000,000.

✓ **Canada Comments**

- The project's implementation could be strengthened by reinforcing the role of Small-Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) in water supply for mixed use water points so that multi-functional benefits can be delivered (for water, sanitation and irrigation). These investments will help improve hygiene practices through behavioural changes using extensive community engagement and an awareness campaign.

✓ **Germany Comments**

Germany approves the following PIF in the work program but requests that the following comments are taken into account:

Germany requests that the following requirements are taken into account during the design of the final project proposal:

- Germany recommends mentioning the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and the prominent role of water (especially Integrated Water Resource Management) in addressing climate risks and measuring impacts.
- Component 2 outlines environmental protection measures at mining sites to prevent water contamination. Germany promotes sustainable management of natural resources in Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea. Linking with this regional project would ensure alignment with the African Union's mining strategy, while leveraging the political, institutional, and legal reforms implemented by the project to prevent harmful mining practices and support the interests of mining communities.
- The proposal attributes the water shortage to upstream deforestation, which causes sediment to build up in the dam's reservoir, reducing its storage capacity. However, there is no mention of the root cause of the deforestation problem, whether it is agriculture, firewood collection or even increased urbanisation. Germany proposes, in parallel with the implementation of nature-based measures, alternative livelihoods to deforestation should be provided, complemented by awareness-raising activities to sensitise the population to

the impact of extreme weather events on degraded landscapes. To design and implement these complementary measures, women and youth groups should be actively involved as key stakeholders and agents of change

- In component 3.1, the proposal recommends a gradual approach to sanitation, focusing on institutional capacity building and service delivery. Germany appreciates the efforts to include sanitation in the project proposal, in particular faecal sludge management. However, as a first step before considering capacity building of the sector, Germany requests an assessment of the sanitation situation in the Greater Conakry area using the Shit Flow Diagram (SFD), a tool supported by Germany and other key partners (including the World Bank) since 2014 and has become a reference tool in the sector (adopted by more than 300 cities). This baseline assessment will help identify gaps in service delivery and encourage authorities to take ownership of their supervisory and monitoring role. The proposed formalisation process should then address the needs identified in the SFD assessment, and capacity building for sanitation workers (e.g., pit cleaners, masons, truck drivers) should adopt a gender-sensitive approach to promote the empowerment of women and youth in this emerging sector.

9. Lao PDR: Enhancing integrated watershed management and climate resilience for vulnerable communities in the Nam-Poui, Nam-Poun, Nam-Lay and Nam-Houng basins in Lao PDR (GEF ID 11573); GEF Agency: WWF-US; GEF project financing: \$6,772,477 (LDCF); Cofinancing: \$1,614,636.

✓ **Germany Comments**

Germany approves the following PIF in the work program but requests that the following comments are taken into account:

Germany requests that the following requirements are taken into account during the design of the final project proposal:

- Germany welcomes the community-based bottom-up and the integrated water resource management (IWRM) approach of the project design. Within component 2: “IWRM implementation”, it should be highlighted that NbS addresses climate change concerns through the numerous services provided by ecosystems in term of adaptation (water management, flood risk reduction, adaptation to disaster risks, support to livelihoods resilience) and mitigation (carbon storage), especially when looking at the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). So far NbS has only be mentioned in relation to adaptation, for example on p. 25f.
- Component 2 promotes small-scale grey infrastructure, here Germany recommends being more concise about the planned measures/solutions and how they contribute to the project objective and can be combined with NbS.
- In relation to Component 1 and Component 2, Germany recommends working with a broader network of stakeholders, involving public and private finance actors, which can tap into different sources of capital for the endeavoured solutions and also touch the topic of

climate risk insurance that can improve disaster risk management for the small-scale farmers.

- Germany emphasizes the need to include the Mekong River Commission (MRC) as one key stakeholder/cooperation partner. The inter-governmental organisation as a central stakeholder is working for sustainable development of the Mekong River Basin and is a platform for regional cooperation and transboundary water management. Additionally, MRC is also working to address flood and drought risks, early warning systems and nature-based solutions in region. An intensified exchange of knowledge and data, as well as identifying synergies is recommended. So far MRC is only listed as a potential key stakeholder on p. 17, but is not mentioned in the consultations nor as an important partner for South-South cooperation and knowledge management.
- Germany welcomes including womens groups at the community-level stakeholders. Germany recommends mainstreaming the gender-sensitive approach better in the proposal and to recognize women as important players in both climate protection and adaptation to climate change and to include them in local, national and cross-border governance processes in integrated water management.

10. Sao Tome and Principe: Enhance the adaptative capacity to floods and water security in Sao Tome and Principe (GEF ID 11544); GEF Agency: UNDP; GEF project financing: \$5,329,452 (LDCF); Co-financing: \$24,197,990.

✓ **Germany Comments**

Germany approves the PIF in the work program but asks that the following comments are taken into account:

Suggestions for improvements to be made during the drafting of the final program proposal:

- Germany points out the lack of attention paid to the causes of deforestation, which, alongside soil erosion as the reason for the increasing flood of the river. There is no detailed description of current activities, e.g., agriculture and the main responsible drivers/stakeholders in the watershed that might be contribution to these risks. There is a lack of concrete proposals for change through nature-based solutions that go beyond a watershed management plan. As it could be difficult for small agricultural businesses, and/or farmers as well as municipalities with a large proportion of low-income settlements to comply with the new regulations and the required changes, Germany recommends a “do-no-harm”-approach to avoid the loss of jobs/livelihoods.
- Germany emphasizes the importance of the active participation of women and youth as key stakeholders in processes of change and not just as groups that are extraordinarily affected and demands that this issue should be included in all parts of the project.

11. Sao Tome and Principe: Development of the transport and coastal protection sector (GEF ID 11552); GEF Agency: World Bank; GEF project financing: \$12,844,037 (LDCF); Co-financing: \$30,000,000.

✓ **Canada Comments**

- The project focuses on resilience to acute shocks (floods and drought) which is very pertinent and important. We would welcome clarity on how this is consistent with the proposed target of improving climate-resilient management of 400 hectares of land. The project could also be informed by a climate vulnerability analysis with greater attention to soil health and land management interventions, in addition to adaptive capacity building to acute high-impact shocks such as floods and droughts.

✓ **Germany Comments**

Germany approves the following PIF in the work program but requests that the following comments are taken into account:

Germany requests that the following requirements are taken into account during the design of the final project proposal:

- Germany appreciates the inclusion of nature-based solutions (NBS) and green-technology and would like to recommend the strengthening of this component in project activities.
- Germany appreciates the focus on road safety and would like to recommend including national communication and advocacy campaigns around the topic apart from the rehabilitation of roads.
- Germany recommends to strengthen the plans to address gender equality and women empowerment including a focus on job creation and livelihood opportunities from direct and indirect effects of road rehabilitation.
- Germany recommends strengthening the focus and linkage of biodiversity protection and nature conservation to climate change protection and future economic growth.
- GIZ on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK) is currently implementing the project ‘Supporting the implementation of NDC’s in the Caribbean – transforming the transport and energy sectors towards low-carbon and climate resilient future’ (2022-2027) which supports the Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM) set ambitious climate targets and move towards electric mobility and renewable energy. Germany recommends seeking an exchange on its approach and the lessons learnt with the project.
- Germany requests that Component 2 provides more details into the development of the National Transport Masterplan, to ensure its participatory and proper gender-mainstreaming and gender disaggregated data collection is conducted in the development of it. Germany recommends seeking an exchange with the GIZ Women Mobilize Women initiative.

- Germany requests that knowledge management is included as an output in all components. This will ensure greater replicability and scalability of the project and pilots.

12. Sierra Leone: Third additional financing to the food systems resilience program (FSRP) (GEF ID 11576); GEF Agency: World Bank; GEF Program Financing: \$18,348,624; Co-financing: \$60,000,000.

✓ **Germany Comments**

Germany approves the following PIF in the work program but requests that the following comments are taken into account:

Germany requests that the following requirements are taken into account during the design of the final project proposal:

- The grant will be processed as Additional Financing (AF) to the West Africa Food System Resilience Program (FRSP) Phase II. The proposed LDCF financing adds a new component to the FSRP to incorporate nature-based solutions (NbS) and climate smart agriculture interventions. While the project rationale is clear, Germany recommends including an individual theory of change (ToC) for the proposed project to illustrate the expected pathways for achieving the four outcomes which are indicated by the project. The ToC currently displayed seems to reflect the entire FRSP. Moreover, the linkages between barriers listed and the respective activities to address them should be illustrated.
- The additional component includes three activities which promote the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity of terrestrial landscape resources. The proposal would benefit from a clearer differentiation between Activity 1 (Promoting participatory integrated landscape management) and Activity 2 (Technical assistance and capacity building). Currently, both activities are described to improve research for NbS and to provide technical and financial assistance for the development of NbS implementation plans.
- Activity 3 foresees financial incentives to convince farmers to adopt NbS practices. While we agree that without economic incentives an adoption of NbS by farmers is less likely, the sustainability of such an approach is questionable as state authorities cannot be expected to continue this approach because of the high indebtedness and low revenue generation in Sierra Leone. How will the program ensure sustainability if the state is not willing to provide such incentives in the future?
- The PIF states that the parent project's PIU will be tasked with the coordination and management of the proposed AF resources. For reasons of transparency, Germany recommends including criteria for the selection of target areas in the final proposal.
- The environmental risk rating of FRSP Phase II is classified as substantial. Since the relevance of potential risks listed, inter alia soil degradation, surface and ground water contamination and pesticide poisoning, varies depending on the FRSP component, Germany recommends tailoring the risk assessment to the proposed LDCF funds' usage.

13. Somalia: Building urban resilience to climate change and transitioning to green economy in Somalia (GEF ID 11564); GEF Agency: UNDP; GEF project financing: \$11,606,626 (LDCF); Co-financing: \$37,300,000.

✓ **Germany Comments**

Germany approves the following PIF in the work program but requests that the following comments are taken into account:

Germany requests that the following requirements are taken into account during the design of the final project proposal:

- Germany considers that the project would benefit from a clearer and more detailed rationale to ensure that the proposed solutions effectively address the identified problems. It is essential to establish explicit linkages between the barriers being addressed and the proposed activities. Germany recommends to clearly articulate this in both the Theory of Change and the outputs narrative.
- Germany requests to revise the risk assessment by including an explanation of the extent to which each category poses a risk to project implementation and to ensure alignment with the corresponding mitigation measures. Additionally, it would be beneficial to map the risks of competing initiatives and insufficient capacity, considering the numerous ongoing efforts in similar areas (e.g., WB, GCF, GEF, SJF).
- Germany recommends establishing and enforcing safeguards to prevent human-induced degradation and to discourage settlement in hazard-prone areas in areas of intervention.

✓ **Norway & Denmark Comments**

- With a focus on nature-based solutions and entrepreneurship through MSME development in urban areas, the project is of relevance to the Danish strategic engagement in Somalia as well as an opportunity to foster closer collaboration between similar Danish-supported initiatives and this LDCF project. In particular, as the project will coordinate with the GCF-funded project 'Multi-country Project Advancing Early Warnings for All (EW4All) and we would like to request that UNDP reaches out to the Danish Mission in Mogadishu to ensure coordination with Denmark's support to EW4All through WMO where Somalia is one of five target countries.

14. Tanzania: Sustainable land management and improved community resilience in dryland areas and livestock migratory hotspots of Tanzania (GEF ID 11489); GEF Agency: FAO; GEF Project financing: \$8,019,178 (LDCF); Co-financing: \$27,000,000.

✓ **Canada Comments**

- The project can be strengthened through participatory planning by involving local communities in the decision-making process to ensure their needs and knowledge are integrated into the project, including the review process of legal and regulatory frameworks of the Environmental Management Act. This approach will ensure community input and ownership, enhancing the project's success. Fostering collaboration among government

agencies, NGOs, and community organizations will also streamline efforts and enable resource sharing. The project's success will depend on the economic viability of livestock herds and therefore must include specific livestock health, vaccination and veterinary care activities, and One Health considerations

✓ **Germany Comments**

Germany approves the PIF in the work program but asks that the following comments are taken into account:

Suggestions for improvements to be made during the drafting of the final program proposal:

- Germany recommends ensuring consistency in the terminology used throughout the description of the project to enhance clarity. For example, the terms "drylands," "semi-arid areas," and "livestock migratory hotspots" are used interchangeably but require clarification of their specific context.
- While the project includes participatory monitoring and evaluation as an outcome, we ask for more details on the specific methodologies, indicators, and tools to be used for monitoring and evaluation.