

EVALUATION REPORT

Final Evaluation - Project:

INTEGRATING CLIMATE CHANGE FINANCE INTO SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Regions:

Africa, Asia and Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean

Beneficiary Countries:

Ecuador, Guatemala, Lao PDR, Mozambique, Niger, Palestine, Rwanda, Senegal and Tanzania

Budget Line:

Environment and Natural Resources Thematic Programme (ENRTP)

Project Reference:

EuropeAid/DCI-ENV/2008/168964/TPS

Implemented by:

The Global Mechanism of the UNCCD

Funded by:

European Commission - Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development

Original implementation period:

48 months from January 2010 to December 2013

Implementation period including no-cost extension:

81 months from January 2010 to September 2016

Actual Implementation period:

55 months from February 2010 to October 2014

Evaluation period:

May to September 2016

Evaluator:

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List of Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AfDB	African Development Bank
AFOLU	agriculture, forestry and other land uses
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CC	Climate Change
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CES	Country Engagement Strategy
CIF	Climate Investment Fund
CLIF	Climate and Land Investment Facilitation Mechanism
CLIP	Climate and Land Investment Information Platform
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
COP	Conference of Parties
CSIF	TerrAfrica Country Strategic investment Framework
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DFID	Dept. for International Development of the Government of the United Kingdom
DIFS	Designing Integrated Financing Strategies
EAC	East Africa Community
EC	European Commission
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EQA	Environmental Quality Authority (Palestine)
ER	Project Expected Results
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FLR	Forest Landscape Restoration
GC	Global Change
GIZ	<i>Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit</i> (German Cooperation)
GM	Global Mechanism
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFS	Integrated Financing Strategy
IIF	Integrated Investment Framework
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements

NAP	National Action Programme
NAPA	National Adaptation Programmes of Action
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NORAD	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
PPCR	Pilot Programme on Climate Resilience (Mozambique)
RAC	Rapid Assessment of Capacity Development
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
ROM	Results Oriented Monitoring
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
SO	Project Specific Outcomes
SPCR	Strategic Programme for Climate Resilience (Mozambique)
UN	United Nations
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nation Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WB	World Bank
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

Brief Project Overview

The Project "Integrating Climate Change Finance into Sustainable Land Management Investment Strategies" (hereinafter referred to as the Project) was an initiative of the Global Mechanism (GM) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) financed by the European Commission (EC).

Rationale

The Project originated from the acknowledgment that climate change (CC), land degradation and desertification are inter-connected; consequently, design and implementation of remedial interventions should follow a synergistic approach. Sustainable Land Management (SLM) entails synergies against CC, land degradation and desertification. Investments in SLM must logically be part of CC adaptation and mitigation strategies, especially in the agriculture, forestry and other land uses (AFOLU) sectors.

The Project assisted governments of nine countries to recognize the inter-linkages between CC adaptation, mitigation and land degradation, to develop appropriate strategies to use available financial resources at global level, and ultimately to reduce vulnerability and enhance both resilience against CC as well as food and water security of rural populations. The Project reflected the increasing importance of a synergistic implementation of the three Rio Conventions – the UNCCD, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CDB) - and the positive role of SLM in such an approach. In doing that, the Project sought to address country priorities for designing and/or implementing national level strategies to address climatic variability, particularly in the agriculture sector, based on inherent linkages between land degradation and its impacts on adaptive capacities of rural populations.

The Project aligned with the Ten Year Strategic Plan and Framework to enhance the implementation of the UNCCD (2008-2018), which provides guidance to country Parties on how to promote action issues into international and national priority development frameworks and supports the development of synergistic approaches to better address the complementarities of the major Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). Based on this, country Parties are called upon to take measures, amongst others, related to integrating National Action Programmes (NAPs), land degradation issues and SLM into national development planning and relevant sector and investment plans and policies and to identifying innovative financing mechanisms, including from financing mechanisms for CC adaptation and mitigation.

Countries

The Project was implemented in nine countries:

- Niger, Senegal, Rwanda, Tanzania and Mozambique in Africa;
- Palestine and Lao PDR in Asia, and
- Ecuador and Guatemala in Latin America.

Project Objective

The Project's objective was to ensure sustained adequate investment flows in SLM for benefiting the rural livelihoods of populations living in fragile and/or degraded landscapes, through increasing co-financing from CC financing mechanisms.

Specific Outcomes (SO)

The Project sought to achieve three specific objectives/outcomes, namely:

1. To efficiently include CC finance into national processes leading to investment frameworks that support SLM;
2. To build capacities to identify, formulate and implement financially feasible mitigation and adaptation projects in the AFOLU sectors to benefit SLM and UNCCD implementation; and
3. To make available expertise and knowledge on the applicability of current and/or emerging adaptation and mitigation financing mechanisms in developing countries to support the international UNCCD and UNFCCC policy dialogue.

Project Expected Results (ER)

The Project included eight expected results, five at country level and three at global or regional level:

Expected Results at Country Level

- Result 1.1: The linkages between land degradation and climate change are adequately reflected in national level strategies related to rural development
- Result 1.2: Climate change financial mechanisms fully integrated into participating countries' UNCCD/SLM integrated financing strategy (IFS), or other similar approaches
- Result 1.3: International, local and private sector stakeholders recognise the need and benefits of investing in mitigation and adaptation measures in the agricultural and land use sector
- Result 2.2: National initiatives launched for the strengthening of national level capacities to access existing and/or emerging climate change financing mechanisms to support projects in the agricultural and land use sectors
- Result 2.3: Improved framework conditions in place for the development of an appropriate regulatory and technical framework for climate change projects in the agricultural and land use sectors

Expected Results at Global or Regional Level

- Result 2.1: A Climate and Land Investment Facilitation Mechanism (CLIF) established to promote national level mitigation and adaptation activities in the agricultural, rural and land use sectors
- Result 3.1: The Climate and Land Investment Information Platform (CLIP) is established with up-to-date information on investment options for the agriculture, rural and land use sector in view of the post 2012 climate regime
- Result 3.2: South to south exchanges are promoted amongst the regions on ways and means to better access climate change financing under the framework of IFS.

Project Implementation Modalities

Implementation of the project occurred within the framework of the Country Engagement Strategy (CES) of the GM and was tailored to the national context in each country. For this reason, the IFS and the Integrated Investment Framework (IIF), or similar processes, offered logical vehicles for implementation. The IFS and the IIF or the TerrAfrica Country Strategic Investment Framework (CSIF) for SLM became the default strategies/frameworks into which climate change finance was integrated. This approach ensured the project was not implemented in isolation; rather it helped in adding value to existing or ongoing SLM-related initiatives.

Evaluation Scope and Objectives

The evaluation covers the whole duration of the project "Integrating Climate Change Finance into Sustainable Land Management Strategies" (hereinafter referred to as the Project) from its start date, January 2010 until the end date of activities, September 2014. The evaluation assesses the overall Project performance as the level of achievement of the results.

The main objectives of the evaluation are to provide the relevant external co-operation services of the EU, the GM, the partner governments and other UNCCD Parties and stakeholders with:

- An overall independent assessment of the past performance of the Project, paying particularly attention to the results of the project against its objectives; and
- Key lessons and recommendations in order to improve current and future action.

The analysis and findings related to the evaluation questions (project design, relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability) constitute the bulk of information and necessary knowledge to draw conclusions and suggestions in relation to the evaluation objectives.

The six evaluation questions are as follows:

- **Project design**

How well was the Project designed: were the outcomes (specific objective for each project component) responsive to the identified needs? Was the Project design flexible enough to accommodate changes to activities or approaches when needed?

- **Relevance**

How relevant was the Project concept: did it respond to stated priorities and needs concerning SLM? Did it correspond with the UNCCD objectives? Did it correspond with national priorities at country level?

- **Effectiveness**

How effective was the Project: was there notable progress toward the Project outcomes/ were they achieved? Were the expected results achieved at country and global levels? Were there unexpected results?

Were the processes or risks that could affect the results delivery identified at the outset? Did the identified processes or risks influence the Project? Were there other processes or factors that influenced results delivery? What were the response measures used in the Project implementation?

Which effects in terms of capacity building has the Project contributed to?

- **Efficiency**

How cost-efficient was the Project: was the budget realistic for achieving the planned results? How well was the operational work planning and implementation conducted? Did the Project benefit from partnerships?

How well was the Project monitored: how regularly was the output delivery monitored? To what extent were implementation challenges identified and addressed, including through a revised Project concept or implementation plan where needed?

How efficiently was the Project coordinated and managed: were the key stakeholders adequately informed of the project plans and progress? Were the planned coordination and consultation mechanisms used?

- **Impact**

Is there an indication or evidence of progress toward the general objective of the Project? Have the effects of the Project made a difference beyond the general objective?

- **Sustainability**

How sustainable are the Project outcomes: to what extent were the country level stakeholders consulted on the outcomes/results at the outset of the Project? Is there an indication or evidence of the usefulness of the country level Project outcomes/results after the completion of the Project activities? Have the global level results (notably the online platform) been used?

In annex A, the detailed terms of reference of the evaluation are reported.

Evaluation Methodology, Focus and Limitations

The evaluation carried out with a participatory methodology represents a synthesis of facts, opinions and points of view collected by the evaluator. It draws its findings through the triangulation of the information obtained from the different information sources, which also represent the means of verification.

The evaluation took place from May to September 2016. Five countries (Lao PDR, Niger, Palestine, Rwanda and Senegal) were visited by the evaluator. The evaluator held online meetings with two additional countries (Ecuador and Guatemala). Officials in two countries (Mozambique and Tanzania) were not reachable during the evaluation period.

The Evaluator used the following tools to gather the necessary data and information presented in this report:

- Interviews;
- Review of relevant Project documents/reports; and
- Evaluation workshops (in Lao PDR and Senegal).

The evaluation recognizes that the Project was largely about policy support and capacity development. Project beneficiaries (mainly national officials) were involved in the evaluation process and the use of the acquired knowledge was clarified, notably as the process of transferring the new capacity at individual and institutional level to benefit broader purposes of linking CC financing with SLM.

The evaluation exercise was divided into three phases:

- **Inception phase (from 25/05 to 17/06/2016)**
The evaluation exercise was structured by the Evaluator with the support of relevant staff at the UNCCD Secretariat in Bonn. An inception report was delivered by the Evaluator to the UNCCD Evaluation Office including the agreed evaluation methodology and a mission calendar for the six countries.
- **Data collection phase (from 20/06 to 27/08/2016)**
Desk activities and missions took place. Missions were coordinated by the UNCCD Evaluation Office in Bonn and were conducted in the following countries:
 - Palestine (from 16 to 23/07/2016)
 - Rwanda (from 25 to 28/07/2016)
 - Senegal (from 31/07 to 07/08/2016)
 - Niger (from 07 to 13/08/2016)
 - Lao PDR (from 21 to 26/08/2016)
- **Synthesis and dissemination phase (from 28/08/2016 to 22/09/2016)**
A report summarizing the evaluation findings was formulated by the Evaluator and discussed with relevant GM officers in Bonn in order for the Evaluator to gather suggestions and, if deemed necessary, to incorporate them into the Evaluation Report.

During the evaluation exercise the Evaluator held interviews with various stakeholders who either participated in or were aware of the Project and/or the development context in the Project countries.

The Evaluator consulted a variety of documents and reports. A full list of the documents and reports consulted is presented in annex B.

A number of constraints affected the conduction of the evaluation, including the following:

- Project activities started in 2010 and ended in October 2014. It took feats of memory to involved stakeholders to recall events that dated up to 6 years back in time;
- Not all relevant stakeholders could be reached during the evaluation period: only limited contacts were made with stakeholders in Ecuador, Guatemala, Mozambique and Tanzania; and only one of the Project Managers of the two who alternated in managing the project was reachable during the evaluation period;
- The Evaluator did not have timely access to all Project documents. Some Project documents and reports were not available due to archiving issues deriving from the 2014 GM move from Rome to Bonn, and some others were provided only during or after the country missions, limiting the preparation of the missions;
- There were many challenges in conducting RAC (Rapid Assessment of Capacity Development) in Lao PDR, Niger, Palestine and Senegal, which affected the quality of available information and feedback particularly in Niger (for details see country annexes F, H, I and K).

During the whole evaluation period the Evaluator was in contact with the Evaluation Coordinator at UNCCD who supported him in doing the necessary arrangements for the evaluation exercise.

Evaluation Findings

The key findings of the evaluation relate to the six evaluation questions to which the present exercise attempted to give pertinent and reasoned answers. (for details see country annexes D,E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L)

Project design

How well was the Project designed: were the outcomes (specific objective for each Project component) responsive to the identified needs? Was the Project design flexible enough to accommodate changes to activities or approaches when needed?

The Project design includes features related to:

- Capacity building;
- Provision of expert advice;
- Support to implementation; and
- Facilitation of experience/expertise exchange between different stakeholders.

These features are typical of technical cooperation support projects that aim at improving the quality of aid effectiveness in the long term.

Expected results are linked to the achievement of the Project outcomes, and activities are logically sequenced to achieving many of the expected results.

The strategy underpinning the Project had features of robustness and realism, and the relevant risks and assumptions were clearly identified in the Project logframe.

The outcomes and the general objective of the Project were conceptually related to each other; however, the objective was not achievable during the implementation of the Project. The objective was formulated in such a way as if the Project would directly lead to investment flows for SLM. This was not the case; the Project was just to lay the groundwork (policy support and capacity development) to pave the way for increased investments in UNCCD implementation at global and country level. Furthermore, the general objective lacked indicators.

The design entailed a rather straightforward implementation of activities and the capacity to adapt to different circumstances was ensured during Project implementation.

Certain critical design elements were identified during the evaluation exercise:

- Indicators of achievement for SO1, ER1.1 and ER1.2 are identical although formulated in different manners;
- ER1.3, ER2.2 and ER2.3 express the same concept: different national stakeholders are aware (through workshops and trainings) of and consulted during the process of IFS and project proposal formulation;
- ER2.1 stands alone as it expresses a clear achievement of the Project, i.e. the establishment of a CLIF;
- SO1 and SO2 consequently turn to be the outcomes of these results; and
- SO3 and related expected results remain unchanged.

Note:

The above mentioned critical elements make the reading of the Project Completion Report difficult. The report at hand presents the findings per each evaluation question according to reformulated outcomes and results. It is the opinion of the Evaluator that due to the reformulation the Evaluation Report is better populated with meaningful contents and easier for reading. The reformulated outcomes and results are:

<p>SO1 (derived from the original SO1, ER1.1 and ER1.2)</p> <p>CC-related financing is included into national processes leading to investment frameworks supporting SLM</p> <p>Indicator SO1 - Number of national governments that include CC-related financing into national processes supporting SLM with the endorsement of IFS or similar strategies, including CC financial mechanisms</p> <p>Target: 9 (i.e. all Project countries)</p>
<p>SO2 (original SO2)</p> <p>Build capacities to identify, formulate and implement financially feasible mitigation and adaptation projects in the agricultural, rural and land use sectors to benefit SLM & UNCCD implementation</p> <p>Indicator SO2 - Number of project proposals on climate change in the agricultural, rural and land use sectors formulated and submitted for funding</p> <p>Target: 18</p>
<p>ER1-SO1/2 (derived from the original ER1.3, ER2.2 and ER2.3)</p> <p>National activities launched for strengthening of national capacities in the agricultural, rural and land use sectors and national consultative processes in place to discuss proposed methodologies and recommendations to develop appropriate regulatory and technical frameworks for climate change</p> <p>Indicator ER1-SO1/2 - Increase of number of stakeholders actively participating in the IFS process</p> <p>Target: 9 (i.e. all Project countries), At least 1 new international and 5 new national key stakeholders per country are involved in the process</p>
<p>ER2-SO2 – (original ER2.1)</p> <p>A CLIF established to promote national level mitigation and adaptation activities in the agricultural, rural and land use sectors</p> <p>Indicator ER1-SO2 - National governments participating in the EC/CC project and other key stakeholders endorse the CLIF concept proposed by the GM</p> <p>Target: 1 CLIF concept established</p>
<p>SO3 (original SO3)</p> <p>Make available expertise and knowledge on the applicability of current and/or emerging adaptation and mitigation financing mechanisms in developing countries to support the international UNCCD and UNFCCC policy dialogue</p> <p>Indicator SO3 - Number of GM contributions to joint UNCCD and UNFCCC activities</p> <p>Target: 3</p>
<p>ER1-SO3 (original ER3.1)</p> <p>The CLIP is established with up to date information on investment options in the agricultural, rural and land use sectors in view of the post 2012 climate regime</p> <p>Indicator ER1-SO3 - Increase in number of financing opportunities included in the platform</p> <p>Target: 1 CLIP is established</p>
<p>ER2-SO3 (original ER3.2)</p> <p>South-south exchanges are promoted amongst the regions on ways and means to better access CC financing for SLM</p> <p>Indicator ER2-SO3 - Countries contributing to and participating in South to South exchanges</p> <p>Target: 20</p>

It is important to note that the reformulation of Project outcomes and results includes all the original elements, including achievement targets, which are significant in terms of accountability.

Relevance

How relevant was the Project concept: did it respond to stated priorities and needs concerning SLM? Did it correspond with the UNCCD objectives? Did it correspond with national priorities at country level?

The Project recognized CC as a serious global threat; having emerged as one of the most important issues facing the international community, demanding an urgent global response. It underlined the importance of helping the poorest people in the rural areas by mitigating the negative impact of climate change and land degradation on livelihoods in affected areas.

The Project perceived land degradation, deforestation, climate variability and poverty as cause-and-effect phenomena for which major efforts need to be made to mobilize resources in an efficient and synergistic manner. It considered that SLM has an increasingly important role in CC

mitigation and adaptation, to which the GM could contribute by supporting countries to strategically align the issues of SLM and rehabilitation of degraded natural resources with those of CC adaptation and mitigation.

Relevance to UNCCD

The Project undoubtedly aligned with priorities concerning SLM and corresponded with the UNCCD objectives. It is aligned specifically with points 5 and 19 of the Decision 3 of the Conference of Parties 8 (Decision 3/COP.8) on the Ten Year Strategic Plan and Framework:

Point 5 *“urges affected developing country Parties and any other affected country Party in the framework of its Regional Implementation Annex, to align their action programmes and other relevant implementation activities related to the Convention with The Strategy, inter alia, by addressing the outcomes under the five operational objectives.”*

Point 19 *“urges the GM to promote actions leading to the mobilization of international and national resources needed by affected countries Parties to enhance the implementation of the Convention through The Strategy, maintaining a geographical balance so that countries with less capacity can also benefit from these new and additional international and national resources.”*

Specifically, four operational objectives of the Ten Year Strategic Plan and Framework were addressed by the Project:

Operational objective 1 - Advocacy, awareness raising and education

“To actively influence relevant international, national and local processes and actors in adequately addressing desertification/land degradation and drought-related issues.”

Operational objective 2 - Policy framework

“To support the creation of enabling environments for promoting solutions to combat desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought.”

Operational objective 4 - Capacity-building

“To identify and address capacity-building needs to prevent and reverse desertification/land degradation and mitigate the effects of drought.”

Operational objective 5 - Financing and technology transfer

“To mobilize and improve the targeting and coordination of national, bilateral and multilateral financial and technological resources in order to increase their impact and effectiveness.”

Relevance to national governments

Difficult access to financing for CC supporting SLM has been reported by all national officials and representatives of international organizations interviewed during the evaluation exercise.

The Project had four main features (capacity building; provision of expert advice; support to implementation; facilitation of experience/expertise exchange between different stakeholders), and each of them presented a high degree of relevance responding to actual needs at country level. Indeed, in each country these features were deemed of importance by most of the stakeholders met during the evaluation exercise.

The degree of relevance does not differ substantially within the nine countries involved in the Project. In all countries the fact of having available a strategy dealing with financing for CC supporting SLM was considered unequivocally a fundamental step to support rural livelihoods of populations living in fragile and/or degraded landscapes.

Effectiveness

How effective was the project: was there notable progress toward the project outcomes/ were they achieved? Were the expected results achieved at country and global levels? Were there unexpected results?

Were the processes or risks that could affect the results delivery identified at the outset? Did the identified processes or risks influence the project? Were there other processes or factors that influenced results delivery? What were the response measures used in the project implementation?

Which effects in terms of capacity building has the project contributed to?

ER1-SO1/2 (derived from the original ER1.3, ER2.2 and ER2.3)

National activities launched for strengthening of national capacities in the agricultural, rural and land use sectors and national consultative processes in place to discuss proposed methodologies and recommendations to develop appropriate regulatory and technical frameworks for climate change.

Indicator ER1-SO1/2 - Increase of number of stakeholders actively participating in the IFS process

Target: 9(i.e. all Project countries), At least 1 new international and 5 new national key stakeholders per country are involved in the process

ER1-SO1/2 was achieved in all countries.

The CES of the GM stipulated a consultative approach to formulating the IFS in each country and, as a consequence, the process was inherently a multi-stakeholder process. The approach involved a wide range of stakeholders, i.e. government officials, local civil society organizations, international non-governmental organizations (International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), World Wildlife Fund (WWF)), United Nations Agencies (United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)), regional and international development banks (World Bank (WB), Africa Development Bank (AfDB), Asia Development Bank(ADB)), bilateral development partners (Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), Department for International Development of the Government of the United Kingdom (DFID), EC), and sub-regional organizations(Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East Africa Community(EAC), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Southern African Development Community (SADC), New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)).

A national assessment of the linkages between land degradation and CC, carried out by consultants in all countries (with the exception of Guatemala), represented the Project's launching activity which was followed by a series of meetings and workshops held at different levels (national, regional and international) with the engagement and participation of a variety of national and international stakeholders.

The national assessment covered the following topics:

- Analysis of the linkages between land degradation and CC;
- Identification of the most relevant policies and programmes, with a view to better position SLM and CC synergies; and
- An analysis of current investment flows to climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in the AFOLU sectors.

The assessment reports were presented to and discussed with stakeholders in national capacity building workshops organized by the GM in each country.

The Project was formally launched in each country with a national workshop entitled "Defining Integrated Financing Strategies (DIFS)". The workshop focused on strengthening national capacities to increase finance for SLM, including CC financing.

At country level, UNCCD Focal Point Focal Points, relevant ministries, GM Programme Coordinators and ad-hoc hired international and national consultants (or NGOs) led the process and roadmaps to develop project proposals.

SO1 (derived from the original SO1, ER1.1 and ER1.2)

CC-related financing is included into national processes leading to investment frameworks supporting SLM

Indicator SO1 – Number of national governments that include CC-related financing into national processes supporting SLM with the endorsement of IFS or similar strategies, including CC financial mechanisms

Target – 9 (i.e. all Project countries)

SO1 was achieved.

Each government included CC-related financing into national processes supporting SLM:

- Ecuador - IFS, (including microfinance strategy) formulation processes

- Guatemala - Rural development policy, CC policy and law
- LAO PDR - REDD+, IFAD sub-regional capacity enhancement forum
- Mozambique - PPCR, IFS/IIF formulation
- Niger - TerrAfrica CSIF process
- Senegal - TerrAfrica CSIF process (including Aid for Trade modalities)
- Tanzania - IFS /IIF processes (including Aid for Trade modalities)

In Palestine and Rwanda, the Project initiated an original process.

The Project was implemented in a participatory way and all activities were implemented through a consultative process involving a wide range of stakeholders.

An integrated financing strategy (IFS) was validated in each country, with the exception of Mozambique:

- Ecuador - Microfinance strategy
- Guatemala - IFS of Guatemala (developed but not validated)
- LAO PDR - "Guidebook on Climate Change Financing to Support Sustainable Land Management (SLM) in Lao PDR "
- Niger - *Cadre Stratégique d'Investissement du Niger en matière de Gestion Durable des Terres*
- Palestine - The National Strategy, Action Programme and Integrated Financing Strategy to Combat Desertification in the Occupied Palestinian Territory"
- Rwanda - *Stratégie de Financement Intégrée pour la Gestion Durable des Terres au Rwanda*
- Senegal - *Cadre National d'Investissement Stratégique pour la Gestion Durable des Terres*
- Tanzania – IIF/IFS for Sustainable Land management in Tanzania

Each IFS or similar strategy built on the findings of the national level assessment of the linkages between land degradation and CC which was carried out in all countries with the exception of Guatemala (as in Guatemala an IFS strategy was already in place). The implementation of this sub-action led to eight assessment reports that informed the mainstreaming exercise (incorporation of land degradation and CC into national strategies).

ER2-SO2 – (original ER2.1)

A CLIF established to promote national level mitigation and adaptation activities in the agricultural, rural and land use sectors

Indicator ER2-SO2 - National governments participating in the EC/CC project and other key stakeholders endorse the CLIF concept proposed by the GM

Target: 1 CLIF concept established

ER2-SO2 was partially achieved.

The expected result was the establishment of a Climate and Land Information Facility (CLIF) designed to facilitate investments in climate mitigation and adaptation activities in the AFOLU sectors, with a focus on SLM. The CLIF was considered critical to overcoming the challenges of financing international and national climate, land/soil and sustainable development goals.

A feasibility analysis of creating the CLIF was undertaken in 2010 by an international consultancy firm for the GM. The CLIF Feasibility Report was discussed at a workshop in Rome attended by all national Focal Points of the UNCCD and the UNFCCC from the Project countries (with the exception of Ecuador) as well as representatives of selected sub-regional organizations and donor countries including Finland, Denmark and the EC. Participants expressed their appreciation for the CLIF concept presented but observed that the annual operational cost of US\$ 3.0 million was far too high. The workshop recommended exploring cheaper options of operating the facility.

Thereafter, the GM contracted another consultancy firm to review, redesign and rebrand the CLIF, making it less expensive and more attractive to the donor community.

Stakeholders consulted for the new CLIF concept acknowledged the necessity of such a facility but were not willing to support its establishment and operations.

The CLIF concept was endorsed by national governments and stakeholders. Its objectives are aligned with several relevant processes or initiatives currently underway: the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Busan partnership, the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development, the Global Soil Partnership, and the landscape approach to rural development. Nevertheless, no financial support for the facility was found and therefore the ER2-SO2 can be considered only partially achieved.

SO2 (original SO2)

Build capacities to identify, formulate and implement financially feasible mitigation and adaptation projects in the agricultural, rural and land use sectors to benefit SLM & UNCCD implementation

Indicator SO2 - Number of project proposals on climate change in the agricultural, rural and land use sectors formulated and submitted for funding

Target: 18

SO2 was partially achieved.

An international consulting firm, Climatekos, started the process of project proposal writing with a training provided in dedicated workshops to relevant national officials of five countries:

- Officials from Niger and Senegal (together with officials from other West African countries) participated in a workshop held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso in March 2012;
- Officials from Guatemala (together with officials from other Central American countries) participated in a workshop held in Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala in March 2012;
- Officials from Tanzania (together with officials from other South and East African countries) attended a workshop held in Lusaka, Zambia in June 2012; and
- Officials from Palestine (together with officials from other West Asian countries) attended a workshop held in Hammamet, Tunisia in September 2012.

These workshops brought together government officials, representatives of UN agencies, civil society organisations and NGOs.

The objectives of the workshops were to:

- Strengthen national capacities in ensuring sustained adequate investment flows in SLM for benefiting populations living in degraded landscapes through increasing co-financing from CC-related financing mechanisms;
- Strengthen capacities to elaborate and implement national programmes and projects that are financially viable which make the link between land and CC; and
- Put in common knowledge on how to apply actual and emerging financing mechanisms for CC mitigation and adaptation projects.

The workshops represented an opportunity for participants to exchange knowledge and experiences with counterparts from the region.¹⁶ project proposals were formulated in the course of the Project:

- In Ecuador, no projects were formulated
- In Guatemala, three project proposals were developed; however, the titles are not reported in any document the evaluation exercise made use of.
- In Lao PDR three project proposals were formulated with the following titles:
 - "Community Based Watershed Management for Climate Change resilience in Houaphan Province, Laos"

- “Enhancing community resilience to climate change with support to Sustainable Land Management in Luang Prabang Province”
- “Sustainable cropland and forest management in shifting cultivation agro-ecosystems of Lao PDR”
- In Mozambique, one project proposal was formulated with the following title:
 - “Strengthening Access to Climate Finance in Mozambique - Communication, Capacity and Awareness”
- In Niger, two project proposals were formulated with the following titles :
 - “*Projet de Développement de l'Agroforesterie et de Gestion Durable de la Fertilité des Terres*”
 - “*Projet d'Appui à la Lutte Contre la Dégradation des Terres*”
- In Palestine, two projects were formulated with the following titles:
 - “Appropriate use of treated wastewater in agriculture in Jenin Governorate”
 - “Livelihood Support and Income Diversification for Rural Communities in Highly Vulnerable Palestinian Areas”
- In Rwanda, one project was formulated with the following title:
 - “Increased resilience through improved soil erosion control and soil fertility enhancement in Karongi District”
- In Senegal, two projects were formulated with the following titles:
 - “*Projet de restauration des bases productives et de valorisation des terres salées pour la sécurité alimentaire au Sénégal*”
 - “*Projet d'amélioration de la gestion durable des terres pour la résilience des communautés face aux changements climatiques*”
- In Tanzania, two projects were formulated with the following titles:
 - “Promoting Sustainable Land Management in the Dodoma, Singida and Manyara Regions through the Development of an Onions Value Chain”
 - “Promoting Sustainable Land Management in the Dodoma Region through the Development of a Grapes Value Chain”

The level of engagement of stakeholders in project proposal writing activities varied. The evaluation exercise identified three main patterns of engagement:

- In Senegal the level of engagement was very high.

The process was led by the local NGO IUCN Senegal. It was characterized by a high level of participation and eventually led to the formulation of the project “*Projet de restauration des bases productives et de valorisation des terres salées pour la sécurité alimentaire au Sénégal*” which was approved by the Green Climate Fund. The process entailed a deep involvement of national stakeholders. In a first phase, 15 project ideas were formulated, then, following a consultative process, the number was reduced to three. Finally, a small working group finalized two proposals, of which one was submitted to the Green Climate Fund. This approach allowed the inclusion of specific interests of different institutions while ensuring technical robustness and coherence, which ultimately matched with the requirements for funding. It was a detailed process during which the main technical features and institutional interests were included and an occasion to learning by doing for all participants.
- In Palestine the level of engagement was high

The process was led by a local consultant in direct collaboration with the recipient institution of the Project. Three project proposals were formulated. Participants reported it to be a valuable learning by doing exercise.

- In Lao PDR, Rwanda and in Niger the level of engagement was low.

In Lao PDR, Niger and Rwanda the process was led by a consultant who consulted national stakeholders to have the necessary information for writing proposals and getting the final validation for the work done. This process cannot be rewarded as a multi-stakeholder learning exercise and therefore its effect in terms of capacity development can be assumed as limited.

The evaluation exercise could not assess the process of proposal writing and its effect in terms of capacity building in Guatemala, Mozambique and Tanzania.

ER1-SO3 (original ER3.1)

The CLIP is established with up to date information on investment options in the agricultural, rural and land use sectors in view of the post 2012 climate regime

Indicator ER1-SO3 - Increase in number of financing opportunities included in the platform

Target: 1 CLIP is established

ER1-SO3 was achieved.

Instead of establishing a Climate and Land Information Platform (CLIP) the Project opted for joining efforts with another GM initiative identifying funding opportunities and sources for UNCCD/SLM implementation. The Project collaborated with a GM programme funded by the government of Norway to develop the "Finance Info Kit", a website outlining financial sources, mechanisms and funds relevant for CC/SLM. It is intended to be an information kit for country parties, civil society and other partners that are engaged in promoting SLM and may need directions on funding availability.

The kit was populated with information on CC financial resources generated under the Project and is available at <http://www.global-mechanism.org/content/finance-info-kit>. It includes:

- Sources of funding such as development partners, special funds and aid instruments relevant for SLM;
- Financial mechanisms that can be used to channel funds for SLM and provide the necessary incentives for public and private investments in SLM practices;
- Tools for making the case for more and better investments in SLM.

ER2-SO3 (original ER3.2)

South-south exchanges are promoted amongst the regions on ways and means to better access CC financing for SLM

Indicator ER2-SO3 - Countries contributing to and participating in South to South exchanges

Target: 20

ER2-SO3 was partially achieved.

National officials from Lao PDR, Palestine, Ecuador and Guatemala did not participate in any South to South exchanges. However, officials from all African Project countries did participate in an exchange:

- Officials from Mozambique participated in a workshop entitled "Exchange of Experiences and Knowledge on Incentive and Market Based Mechanisms for Sustainable Land Management", organized together with the *Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza* in Costa Rica in March 2011;
- The UNCCD Focal Point and the TerrAfrica/SLM Coordinator from Niger went on a study to Mali from 27 to 31 October 2014 to interact with their Malian counterparts and exchange experiences on how to deal with challenges of coordinating SLM-related activities, strengthening synergies among the three Rio Conventions, and implementing SLM investment frameworks;

- An exchange visit to Senegal was organized for Rwandan officials, however, the evaluation exercise did not find any source of information on this event. The exchange visit is only briefly noted in the final project report;
- Senegal organized a visit to Mali to learn from the implementation of the TerrAfrica Country Strategic Investment Framework (CSIF) on SLM; and
- National officials of Tanzania participated in a knowledge exchange and learning initiative in Lesotho.

SO3 (original SO3)

Make available expertise and knowledge on the applicability of current and/or emerging adaptation and mitigation financing mechanisms in developing countries to support the international UNCCD and UNFCCC policy dialogue

Indicator SO3 - Number of GM contributions to joint UNCCD and UNFCCC activities

Target: 3

SO3 was achieved.

In each country, the Project provided expertise and knowledge on the applicability of current and/or emerging adaptation and mitigation financing mechanisms in developing countries to support the international UNCCD and UNFCCC policy dialogue. The Focal Points of the two conventions worked together and the IFS include financing mechanisms both for climate change adaptation and mitigation projects.

Efficiency

How cost-efficient was the project: was the budget realistic for achieving the planned results? How well was the operational work planning and implementation conducted? Did the project benefit from partnerships?

How well was the project monitored: how regularly was the output delivery monitored? To what extent were implementation challenges identified and addressed, including through a revised project concept or implementation plan where needed?

How efficiently was the project coordinated and managed: were the key stakeholders adequately informed of the project plans and progress? Were the planned coordination and consultation mechanisms used?

The Project achieved most of its expected results within the established budget, which proved to be reasonable and realistic for the completion of activities at country and at global level.

The main bottleneck for implementation was the availability of financial resources as the budget was frozen by IFAD when GM was moved physically, administratively and financially from IFAD to Bonn. Disbursement of Project funds during that period did not happen. This problem was evidently out of the control of the management of the Project. Changes in GM staffing and difficulties at country level also caused delays. Due to these events the Project was extended a few times and its activities were conducted within 55 months.

At country level, activities were sequenced rationally:

- Launching workshops with definition of road maps for Project implementation;
- Conduction of national assessments;
- Informed CC/SLM financing mainstreaming into national policies and frameworks through consultative processes;
- Development of IFS; and
- Support to project proposal development.

The Project was implemented in a participatory way and all activities were carried out through a consultative process involving a variety of stakeholders:

- National Governments
 - UNCCD Focal Points at the Ministries of Environment were the main partner in each country.

- Ministries of Agriculture were an additional important partner in all countries. Other Ministries were involved in the different countries, especially those involved in budgetary issues such as the Ministry of Finance.
- UN Agencies
 - IFAD as the host of the GM at the beginning of the Project.
 - UNDP and FAO were involved in the Project due to the fact that they are institutionally engaged in development and agriculture.
 - UNEP participated in Project activities in some of the countries.
- International Organizations
 - Regional and international development banks (WB, AfDB and ADB)
 - Bilateral development partners (NORAD, EC and DFID)
 - Sub-regional organizations (ECOWAS, COMESA, EAC, ECCAS, SADC and NEPAD)
- NGOs

A number of local and international NGOs participated in the consultative process.
- Private Sector

The involvement of the private sector was rather limited in all countries.

The Project built on existing initiatives in the following countries:

- Ecuador - IFS (including microfinance strategy) formulation processes
- Guatemala - Rural development policy, climate change policy and law
- LAO PDR - REDD+, IFAD sub-regional capacity enhancement forum
- Mozambique - PPCR, IFS/IIF formulation
- Niger - TerrAfrica CSIF process
- Senegal - TerrAfrica CSIF process (including Aid for Trade modalities)
- Tanzania - IFS /IIF processes (including Aide for Trade modalities)

In Palestine and Rwanda instead the Project initiated an original process.

The implementation approach adopted during the implementation allowed a sort of continuous monitoring on the job. Consultants worked closely with many stakeholders; different perspectives could be included in all assessments and documents produced throughout the Project. The different timelines consultants had to respect represented the natural milestones to assess the implementation status of the Project.

Workshops provided occasions for information sharing and an opportunity to validate the work done, in particular the workshop held in Rome in March 2013 during which all UNCCD Focal Points gathered (with the exception of Ecuador).

Activities related to the CLIF and the CLIP (translated into the Finance Info Kit) were smoothly managed as the products were produced by ad-hoc contracted consultancy firms and no constraints were encountered during the implementation.

Moreover, activities related to the establishment of the Finance Info Kit had elements of efficiency as the Project collaborated with another GM programme funded by Norway. On the other hand, CLIF-related activities had an element of inefficiency represented by the foreseen yearly running cost (3 million USD) of the facility. The Project was then forced to contract another consultancy firm to re-shape the facility and make it more attractive for donors, i.e. less expensive.

In June 2012, an external Results-Oriented Monitoring (ROM) mission assessed the implementation status of the Project. The GM was given a set of recommendations to put in place in order to

enhance its performance. The recommendations were addressed in a management response and followed accordingly.

Impact

Is there an indication or evidence of progress toward the general objective of the project? Have the effects of the project made a difference beyond the general objective?

The Project undoubtedly represented a valuable and necessary step forward in the implementation of the Convention. It provided guidance to country Parties on how to position land degradation issues in priority development frameworks and promoted the development of synergistic implementation approaches to better address the complementarities of the major Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).

In Senegal, the process of writing project proposals was led by IUCN Senegal. It was characterized by a high level of participation and eventually led to the formulation of the project "*Projet de restauration des bases productives et de valorisation des terres salées pour la sécurité alimentaire au Sénégal*" which was approved by the Green Climate Fund with a USD 7.6 million budget. It represents factual evidence of progress towards the general objective of the Project "to ensure sustained adequate investment flows in sustainable land management (SLM) for benefiting the rural livelihoods of populations living in fragile and/or degraded landscapes, through increasing co-financing from climate change financing mechanisms".

It is important to highlight that to-date, the Green Climate Fund has mobilized over 10 billion USD to finance activities on climate change adaptation and mitigation, and that the *Centre de Suivi Ecologique du Sénégal*, an independent technical institution belonging to the *Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable du Sénégal*, is the first African institution to be accredited to the Fund. This is regarded as a great achievement of the Project.

In Palestine, "The National Strategy, Action Plan and Integrated Financial Strategy to Combat Desertification in the Occupied Palestinian Territory" can be considered as an impact providing the foundations for future work in the field of CC and SLM. This is significant in terms of institutional strengthening, as the institutional arrangements to implement the strategy are operative.

At country level, the formulation of the IFS and their inclusion into national processes leading to investment frameworks supporting SLM represents per se an impact. It is assumed that the capacity of such an impact to produce additional effects differs in each country. However, the Project undoubtedly promoted a discussion at country level leading to a better understanding by relevant national stakeholders of governments, NGOs and the private sector for the inter-connections between CC, land degradation and desertification and the need to address them with synergistic approaches and through the implementation of coherent strategies.

Sustainability

How sustainable are the project outcomes: to what extent were the country level stakeholders consulted on the outcomes/results at the outset of the project? Is there an indication or evidence of the usefulness of the country level project outcomes/results after the completion of the project activities? Have the global level results (notably the online platform) been used?

At country level, the formulation of the IFS and their inclusion into national processes, leading to investment frameworks supporting SLM, represents per se an element of sustainability. It forms the groundwork for future interventions.

The evaluation exercise identified three main elements of sustainability:

- Extent of active participation of stakeholders

Where the active participation of stakeholders was ensured and they did not play the mere role of an information source for consultants, the sustainability can be considered high. A certain degree of ownership and awareness of all participants was achieved.

- Participation of a local organization as a consultant in the Project

The success of Senegal was largely due to a strong local organization which had both capacities and interest in the objective of the Project and in generating a project proposal for submission to the Green Climate Fund. CC and SLM are indeed at the core of its institutional mission in both short and long-term perspective, which makes its work fundamentally different from that of local or international consultants.

- Direct involvement of UN agencies

UNDP played a major role in Palestine which is reflected in the development of the “National Strategy, Action Programme and Integrated Financing Strategy to Combat Desertification in the Occupied Palestinian Territory” and the probable funding for the “Project 3: Establishment of Desertification and Drought Data Base and Monitoring System” included in the strategy.

These three elements may compensate for some of the weaknesses which characterized the institutional environment in which the Project was implemented. The major weaknesses are the following:

- Lack of participation and continuous interest/commitment at country level

Providing information is, in certain cases, regarded as participation for a variety of reasons of which the most important ones are political. The setting in which local institutions act as information providers and international organizations and consultants as implementers does not promote local ownership, even if it “involves” local institutions in the project. This is a common issue in development work in general, and a difficult one to address, as it derives from a complex mix of international and national practices, working cultures and attitudes.

- Lack of incentives

In the Project countries visited during the evaluation period the budget available at national level is very limited to implement projects in the field. Therefore, CC/SLM projects are usually initiated and promoted by international organizations and/or at a very high level. Public officials, who do the actual work when implementing the projects, do not have incentives to be actively involved in the project proposal writing and in submitting them.

In a report by the United Nation Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) published in 2009 a previous platform called FIELD (Financial Information Engine on Land Degradation), which was availed through the GM website, was cited as one of the systems considered as an example of “best practice” when it comes to information systems on climate change finance in the UN system.

The Finance Info Kit, created by the Project, follows the same approach. It is a directory outlining financial sources, mechanisms and funds relevant for SLM, as land degradation and desertification are widely recognized as major problems affecting the lives of people, especially of rural populations living in developing countries. SLM is acknowledged as an approach to promote adaptation and mitigation measures against climate change.

However, its usefulness and consequent level of sustainability is not supported by evidences of its use. Between August 2015 and August 2016 the website counted 116 contacts with an average contact time of 30 seconds. The contacts were from 35 countries, in particular from:

- 14 countries in Europe;
- 9 countries in Asia and Pacific;
- 5 countries in Latin America;
- 5 countries in Africa; and
- 2 countries in North America.

Only 3 countries involved in the Project (Lao PDR, Senegal and Ecuador) visited the website. Moreover, 21 out of 35 countries can be considered as donor countries (including China and India). The online platform of the Finance Info Kit was therewith not much consulted by its main target group, national officials, NGO workers, and private sector representatives of developing countries.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Project was undoubtedly relevant; the necessity for developing countries to access these funds is of paramount importance to advance in the implementation of the Ten Year UNCCD Strategic Plan.

At the time the Project was drafted, in 2008-2009, CC and land degradation were considered as two phenomena in international cooperation. Their substantive interlinkages were recognized, but the policy approaches, conceptual tools and particularly the sources and mechanisms for financing to address CC and land degradation were largely apart.

The situation is drastically different now, as per 2016, AFOLU sector is an integral dimension of the negotiations and actions concerning CC. It is recognized as a major source of global greenhouse emissions, and on the other hand as a crucial carbon "sink", which the signatories of the UN Framework Convention on CC have agreed to conserve and enhance. Maintenance of land productivity and restoring degraded land is among the key means in many developing countries' national climate commitments, particularly as tools for adaptation and resilience-building. In CC financing, the Green Climate Fund and the Adaptation Fund support action that combines SLM with CC adaptation and mitigation actions.

In this context, the Project on climate change seems to have been ahead of its time: the political recognition of the land-climate nexus and related financial opportunities were yet to emerge, and in some participating countries the Project must have been among the first steps to bring the two together.

The Project at country level included the following activities which were rationally sequenced and implemented:

- Launching workshops with definition of road maps for Project implementation;
- Conduction of national assessments;
- Informed CC/SLM financing mainstreaming into national policies and frameworks through consultative processes;
- Development of IFS; and
- Support to project proposal development.

Consultants (or NGOs) worked closely with many stakeholders; different perspectives could be included in all assessments and documents produced throughout the Project. The main conclusions the evaluation exercise draws relate to this participatory and inclusive approach:

- Level of participation
The level of participation of national stakeholders revealed to be crucial for the overall performance at country level. In Senegal and Palestine, where an active participation was guaranteed, the level of ownership for the products of the Project (namely the Strategies) is higher than in other countries visited by the Evaluator.
- Local NGOs vs consultants
Collaboration with local NGOs revealed to be more fruitful than the collaboration with consultants. Senegal is the only country that submitted and got the approval of a project developed during the implementation of the Project. Indeed, NGOs have a strong interest to follow the development of a project proposal to its end, i.e. its approval. Project acquisition is one of their core activities for which they may also have some allocated funds. Furthermore, NGOs are recognized as partners by other stakeholders, while consultants are usually seen only as service providers.

At global level, the Project developed two products:

- The CLIF concept

The first version was very expensive to be established and the second did not get the support for its actual establishment, even though the necessity for such a facility was largely acknowledged by consulted stakeholders.

- Finance Info Kit

The website of the Finance Info Kit had very little contacts from developing countries in the past year.

The impact and sustainability of the two products are not very much significant.

Six main recommendations/lessons learnt can be drawn from the evaluation exercise:

1. Accessing the existing funds devoted to CC/SLM is difficult. **Putting emphasis on developing capacities should remain at the core of any project.**
2. Mainstreaming technical concepts (such as SLM, mitigation and adaptation measures) into broad national audiences and policy frameworks entails a great consultation effort. In order to enhance mainstreaming efforts, **collaboration with international initiatives should be envisaged right from the onset of a project.**
3. Public officials do not have incentives to be actively involved in the writing of project proposals and in submitting them. Local NGOs, which form an integral part of the institutional landscape of the development sector in developing countries, are instead very much interested in these activities seen as a funding opportunity. They may, in principle, compensate the lack of incentives of public officials and act as catalysts of beneficial processes, and in this regard well exceed the support that can be provided by any consultant. Therefore, when possible, **local NGOs should be preferred to consultants as partners.**
4. Capacities of public officials should not only be enhanced in project proposal writing but rather **capacities should be strengthened for the overall project acquisition process**, including negotiations with donors and financing mechanisms. Following a tangible goal (getting the project approved) may make the learning process more effective.
5. In countries such as Lao PDR the **translation of documents/reports into local language** is essential as English language skills are very low and constitute a barrier for the dissemination of English documents to stakeholders.
6. It is a good practise to identify the marketability and/or fundability of products such as the CLIF from the beginning of its creation. The cost is a feature of the product as much as its content.

The experiences made through the Project in Senegal regarding the project proposal writing process reflect the recommendations one, two and three and can be regarded as **a possible business model for GM to engage in projects in developing countries. Following this model would mean to:**

- **Pursue the institutional objective of UNCCD – while GM would “cover” various types and sources of funding, it would do so from the specific perspective of supporting sustainable land management;**
- **Enable country Parties to understand better existing opportunities and to get accredited to international funds and financial mechanisms;**
- **With suitable partners, build on and strengthen the capacity development process at country level for the benefit of all stakeholders involved (public officials, NGOs, CSOs, etc.).**

Furthermore, by following this model, the implementation of GM projects, which usually do not hold a high budget, could result more attractive for national officials involved as they could see the actual economic benefits for their country. A project implemented following this business model approach would be considered as **a seed capital project** leading to greater benefits which could be enjoyed in the future.

Annexes:

Annex A - ToR of the Evaluation

Annex B- List of Consulted Documentation

Annex C – Ecuador

Annex D – Guatemala

Annex E – Lao PDR

Annex F – Mozambique

Annex G – Niger

Annex H – Palestine

Annex I – Rwanda

Annex J – Senegal

Annex K – Tanzania

Annex A – Terms of Reference of the Project Evaluation

Consultancy reference: CCD/16/EDM/21

Evaluation of "Integrating Climate Change Finance into Sustainable Land Management Investment Strategies" Region Countries in 3 regions: Africa, Asia and Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean

Beneficiary Countries:

- Africa: Mozambique, Niger, Senegal, Rwanda, Tanzania
- Asia and Pacific: Lao PDR and Palestine
- Latin America and the Caribbean: Ecuador and Guatemala

Project reference

Europe Aid/DCI-EV/2008/168964/TPS

Evaluation mandate

The European Union places high importance to a systematic and timely evaluation of projects that it is involved in. The focus of evaluations is on the assessment of achievements, the quality and the results of interventions. Evaluations should provide an understanding of the cause and effects links between activities and results. They should serve decision-making, learning and management purposes.

The Global Mechanism (GM) of the UNCCD, in cooperation with nine partner countries and a regional organisation¹, has been implementing the project "Integrating Climate Change Finance into Sustainable Land Management Investment Strategies". The project grant agreement, amounting to 2,3 million euros, was signed by the European Union (EU) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) on behalf of the GM in December 2009. The implementation period was set to 48 months, from 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2013, and was later on extended to 81 months, until 30 September 2016.

The GM has requested the EU of permission to utilise leftover project funding to carry out a terminal project evaluation. Following the transfer of the accountability and legal representation of the GM from IFAD to the UNCCD secretariat, the GM applies the UNCCD approach to results-based management, including the UNCCD guidelines for project monitoring and evaluation, to the project and its evaluation. These guidelines are in line with the approach set by the EU on the evaluation methods for external assistance / project and programme evaluation. The evaluation will take particularly into account the legal basis for the EU financing, i.e. the Development Cooperation Instrument (Regulation (EC) No 1905/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation).

Background

Climate change (CC) is a serious global threat, which demands an urgent global response. Preventing dangerous climate change is a strategic priority for the EU. This is reflected in the ambitious greenhouse gas emission cuts and adaptation strategies within the EU, as well as in substantial support to other nations and regions to do likewise.

Land degradation, deforestation, climate variability and poverty are interlinked with complex cause-and-effect relations. Agricultural, rural and land use sectors are critical for CC mitigation, as these sectors represent major sources of CO₂ emissions. They are crucial also for adaptation efforts, as they are main livelihood providers for the world's poorest people, 75% of which lives in the rural areas and are dependent on agriculture and forestry. However, sustainable land management is not significantly reflected in the targeting and use of CC financing. An important reason behind this is the lack of capacity and resources of SLM practitioners to produce SLM projects that qualify for CC financing.

The objective of the project "Integrating Climate Change Finance into Sustainable Land Management Investment Strategies" was to ensure sustained adequate investment flows in sustainable land management (SLM) for benefiting the rural livelihoods of populations living in fragile and/or degraded landscapes, through increasing co-financing from climate change financing mechanisms by meeting the following aims:

1. Efficiently include climate change related financing into national processes leading to investment frameworks supporting SLM.
2. Build capacities to identify, formulate and implement financially feasible mitigation and adaptation projects in the agricultural, rural and land use sectors to benefit SLM and UNCCD implementation.
3. Make available expertise and knowledge on the applicability of current and/or emerging adaptation and mitigation financing mechanisms in developing countries to support the international UNCCD and United Nations Framework Convention on CC (UNFCCC) policy dialogue.

The project wanted to target a broad selection of stakeholders: government officials, national focal points, representatives of local communities, civil society and private sector as well as scientific communities.

It was implemented through process-oriented interventions geared toward the integration of climate change financing into the integrated financing strategies (IFSs) that are prepared for SLM and the UNCCD implementation. The IFS is a guiding framework for locating and developing a mix of financial resources to fund SLM programs and projects. It supports the identification and development of internal, external and innovative funding as well as the recognition of policy, fiscal, legal, institutional and other possible barriers to resource mobilization. This project was to use the IFS as the context for addressing national level strategies on climatic variability, particularly in the agricultural sector, to strategically align them with SLM issues.

Participating countries were to have an active role in implementing the project, and the project activities were to be adapted to national characteristics and stakeholder capacity and preferences. Related regional cooperation platforms, notably TerrAfrica, partners and international organisations were to be informed of and involved in the project.

Evaluation Objectives and Main Users

This evaluation is intended to assess the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency and, as feasible, impact and sustainability of the project. It identifies and documents lessons learned and makes recommendations that project partners and stakeholders might use to improve the design and implementation of other related projects and programs.

The main objectives of the evaluation are to provide the relevant external co-operation services of the EU, the GM, the partner governments and other UNCCD Parties and stakeholders with:

- An overall independent assessment of the past performance of the "Integrating Climate Change Finance into Sustainable Land Management Investment Strategies" project, paying particularly attention to the results of the project against its objectives; and
- Key lessons and recommendations in order to improve current and future action.

The evaluation will support the partner countries to further develop their mobilisation of CC funding to address SLM by clarifying whether the achievement of the intended impact of this project has started. This level of achievement will indicate the usefulness of the activities that were included in the project, and thereby promote the replication and strengthening of successes and assist in not repeating problems in future efforts. Such information will be useful beyond the partner countries; also other countries and their development partners that seek to improve the linkage between CC financing and SLM can benefit from it.

The evaluation will contribute to the priority-setting and planning of the upcoming GM work programmes, as the GM will use the evaluation findings to further develop and target its services. It will also be an input to the considerations of the next steps in the UNCCD process in a more general sense, for improving national programming for the UNCCD implementation and developing practical synergies between SLM and addressing CC. It would also assist the GM in gauging the usefulness of its approach for reaching scale and magnitude of investments for reaching the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) targets of land degradation neutrality and soil productivity.

Issues to be Studied / Evaluation Question

The evaluation will assess the project using the OECD/ DAC evaluation criteria, namely: relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact. It will be conducted with an understanding of the complexity of the dynamics that result in a new capacity generated – capacity development is seen as a continuous process that is partially influenced by the project, while other factors external to the project also have a (often significant) role. The evaluation will assess the level of capacity development as a stage in a learning process involving both individual and organizational perspectives, in addition to measuring performance toward the project outcomes.

The evaluation criteria are translated into specific evaluation questions, which will be finalised during the first phase of the evaluation. The indicative evaluation questions are the following:

1. How relevant was the project concept: did it respond to stated priorities and needs concerning SLM? Did it correspond with the UNCCD objectives?
2. How well was the project designed: were the outcomes (specific objective for each project component) responsive to the identified needs? Was the project design flexible enough to accommodate changes to activities or approaches when needed?
3. How effective was the project: was there notable progress toward the project outcomes/ were they achieved? Were the expected results achieved at country and global levels? Were there unexpected results?
4. Is there an indication or evidence of progress toward the general objective of the project? Have the effects of the project made a difference beyond the general objective?
5. Were the processes or risks that could affect the results delivery identified at the outset? Did the identified processes or risks influence the project? Were there other processes or factors that influenced results delivery? What were the response measures used in the project implementation?
6. How cost-efficient was the project: was the budget realistic for achieving the planned results? How well was the operational work planning and implementation conducted? Did the project benefit from partnerships?
7. How well was the project monitored: how regularly was the output delivery monitored? To what extent were implementation challenges identified and addressed, including through a revised project concept or implementation plan where needed?
8. How efficiently was the project coordinated and managed: were the key stakeholders adequately informed of the project plans and progress? Were the planned coordination and consultation mechanisms used?
9. How sustainable are the project outcomes: to what extent were the country level stakeholders consulted on the outcomes/results at the outset of the project? Is there an indication or evidence of the usefulness of the country level project outcomes/results after the completion of the project activities? Have the global level results (notably the online platform) been used?

Methodology, Tools and main Deliverables

The evaluation process will consist of three main phases, which will be for inception, data collection, and synthesis & dissemination of findings. The main deliverables of each phase are presented below.

Evaluation phase	Methodological focus	Deliverables
Inception	Structuring the evaluation	Inception report
Data collection	Desk studies Interviews and a field mission Compilation of data, first analysis	Desk report including a summary of emerging outcomes
Synthesis and dissemination	Synthesis and analysis of the data Preparation of conclusions and recommendations Exchange with stakeholders Finalization of the report Publication of the report	Evaluation report Summary / presentation of main findings and recommended action

The evaluation process will start by a briefing with the UNCCD evaluation office (EO) and the GM in Bonn, on the basis of which the evaluator will prepare the inception report. This report will contain

- An analysis of the project intervention logic
- The final versions of the evaluation questions and related means of verification
- The approach and methodology for the overall assessment of the project and for answering each evaluation question
- The work plan and schedule for completing the evaluation.

The data collection will include a systematic analysis of relevant documents as well as direct feedback from project stakeholders in the nine participating countries. The evaluator will arrange for interviews and a stakeholder meeting in the participating countries, which may be carried out by the evaluator or by a local consultant, depending on the country and the project site. The country level contacts will aim to provide data for assessing the capacity outputs and outcomes, their causal links and the links with the programme inputs and the enabling factors.

In four out of the nine participating countries (Senegal, Niger, Lao PDR and Palestine), this will be conducted as an in-depth review by using the Rapid Assessment of Capacity Development (RAC) methodology. RAC is a tool developed for the European Commission Technical Support to assess the impact of capacity development that a project funded by the European Union generates at individual and/or organisational level. It understands capacity development as a continuous learning process, in which the EU-funded project acts to strengthen acquired knowledge and/or introduce new knowledge.

RAC is about collection of data that is designed to meet the challenges usually faced in assessing capacity development. It gives to the evaluated stakeholder the possibility of being an active part of the evaluation and provides him/her with immediate feedback on the progress made. It also allows the project manager and team to better visualize the objectives and the utility of the results of the project.

For this project, RAC will involve consideration of capacity outputs (value of various learning sources, and personal/organizational learning experience) and capacity outcomes (individual/organisational use of the acquired capacity outside the project sphere). As feasible, it will also involve an analysis of capacity outputs - capacity outcomes correlation: which specific capacity outputs are used for the development of specific capacity outcomes.

In Senegal, Niger, Lao PDR and Palestine, RAC will be implemented for selected capacity building activities. It will involve the clarification of intended capacity development aims of the selected activities, identification of key local stakeholders, preparation of a RAC questionnaire, and organisation of the interviews and consultative meetings. In the four countries, a national expert will be recruited to support the RAC assessment, including the in-depth interviews. These interviews will target max 15 people, involving both project participants and external stakeholders.

Their findings will be systematically analysed and classified, according to the various capacity outputs and outcomes, and concrete examples will be highlighted as a complement to the analysed material. The interview findings will be integrated into the evaluation report and reflected against the other findings.

The synthesis phase will be devoted to the preparation of the final report. The evaluator will present in a single document the findings, conclusions and recommendations. The draft final report will be presented to the EO and the GM to discuss the draft findings, conclusions and recommendations. On the basis of comments and feedback expressed by the EO and the GM, the evaluator may further develop the report. While potential quality issues, factual errors or methodological problems should be corrected, comments linked to diverging judgements may be either accepted or rejected. In the latter instance, the evaluator should explain the reasons in writing.

The final report and/or its summary will be published through the UNCCD/GM communication channels, and the recommended action will be considered in internal UNCCD/GM meetings. As feasible, the findings will be presented also at the sessions of the UNCCD Conference of the Parties or its subsidiary bodies.

All reports will be in English and submitted in electronic version (Word document).

Annex B – The list of documents and reports consulted

- Project document (December 2009)
- Annex 1 to project document – Description of the Action
- Project Completion Report – Volume 1 Synthesis Report (December 2014)
- Project Completion Report – Volume 2 Country Reports (December 2014)
- Project Completion Report – Volume 3 Selected Technical Reports (December 2014)
- Decision 3/COP.8 The UNCCD Ten Year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention
- ROM Monitoring related documents (2012)
- Feasibility Study on the Design of a Climate and Land Investment Facility (June 2010)
- Climate Land Investment Facility (CLIF) – Consultation Paper (January 2014)

Ecuador

- Project Completion Report – Volume 2 – Countries Report, Ecuador Section (December 2014)
- *Plan de trabajo para la implementación de la última fase del proyecto GM-EC de cambio climático y degradación de tierras en el Ecuador (Julio 2014)*
- *Síntesis de las conclusiones y recomendaciones formuladas en el taller Nacional en el Marco del Proyecto “Mecanismos de financiamiento para el Manejo Sostenible de la Tierra (MST) y adaptación al Cambio Climático” (Septiembre 2014)*
- *Sinergias entre Degradación de la Tierra y Cambio Climático en los Paisajes Agrarios del Ecuador (Septiembre 2014)*
- *Mapeo y análisis de los Mecanismos de financiamiento e incentivos para el Manejo Sostenible de la Tierra, MST y adaptación al Cambio Climático. (Octubre 2014)*

Guatemala

- Project Completion Report – Volume 2 – Countries Report, Guatemala Section (December 2014)
- *Módulos de entrenamiento en el uso de los mecanismos de financiación para combatir el cambio climático para apoyar inversiones en MST y contribuir a la implementación de CNULD. Un manual para asistentes al taller de Cambio Climático – GUATEMALA. Marzo 2012.*
- *“Integrating Climate Change Finance into Sustainable Land Management Investment Strategies in Guatemala”. Concept note on how to structure south-south exchanges, in support of national level initiatives to access climate change finance for UNCCD implementation. October 2014*

Lao PDR

- Project Completion Report – Volume 2 – Countries Report, Lao PDR Section (December 2014)
- National Assessment Part I Climate Financing - Guidebook on Climate Change Financing to Support Sustainable Land Management (SLM) in Lao PDR (June 2014)
- National Assessment Part II Cade Studies - Guidebook on Climate Change Financing to Support Sustainable Land Management (SLM) in Lao PDR (June 2014)

- National Assessment Part III Policy Review - Guidebook on Climate Change Financing to Support Sustainable Land Management (SLM) in Lao PDR (June 2014)
- Project proposal "Enhancing community resilience to climate change with support to Sustainable Land Management in Luang Prabang Province"
- Project proposal "Community Based Watershed Management for Climate Change resilience in Houaphan Province, Laos"
- Project proposal "Sustainable land management for resilient ecosystem services in Huaphan Province, Lao PDR"
- Overview of Climate Change Financing Mechanisms in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam (July 2011)
- Agriculture Strategy to the Year 2020, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao People's Democratic Republic (October 2013)

Mozambique

- Project Completion Report – Volume 2 – Countries Report, Mozambique Section - December 2014

Niger

- Project Completion Report – Volume 2 – Countries Report, Niger Section (December 2014)
- *Cadre Stratégique de la Gestion Durable des Terres (CS/GDT) au Niger et son Plan d'Investissement 2015-2029*
- *Etude d'Investigation en vue de la Mobilisation des Financements dans la Gestion Durable des Terres au Niger*
- *Rapport du Voyage d'Etude et de Partage d'Expérience au Mali sur l'Alignement du PAN/LCD-GRN à la Stratégie Décennale de la Convention des Nations Unies sur la Lutte contre la Désertification (CNULCD) et la Synergie des Trois Conventions post Rio – Mali, du 25 Octobre au 3 Novembre 2014*
- *Chronogramme activités Projet GDT-CC*
- *Installation de Groupes Techniques sur la Gestion Durable de Terres – Rapport de Mission – Septembre 2014*
- *Rapport d'Etude sur la réalisation d'un Mapping des Projets et Programmes de Lutte Contre la Désertification et Gestion Durable des Terres au Niger, Octobre 2014.*
- *Rapport d'étude sur la synergie des Conventions de Rio au Niger et l'amélioration du cadre d'action de leur mise en œuvre, Février 2013.*
- *Rapport de l'Atelier de Formation des Structures de Medias et des Organisations de la Societe Civile sur la Désertification et la Gestion Durable des Terres au Niger*
- *Rapport de planification stratégique et de validation des études sur la synergie des trois Conventions de Rio et sur l'investigation en vue de la mobilisation de financements pour la gestion durable des terres au Niger, 7-9 mai 2013, Mai 2013.*

Palestine

- Project Completion Report – Volume 2 – Countries Report, Palestine Section (December 2014)
- The National Strategy, Action Programme and Integrated Financing Strategy to Combat Desertification in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (July 2012)
- Integrating Climate Change Finance into Sustainable Land Management Investment Strategies in Palestine - Assessment Report (August 2013)
- Project Proposal: Appropriate use of treated wastewater in agriculture in Jenin Governorate

- Project Proposal: Livelihood Support and Income Diversification for Rural Communities in Highly Vulnerable Areas in Palestine

Rwanda

- Project Completion Report – Volume 2 – Countries Report, Rwanda Section (December 2014)
- *Strategie de Financement Integree pour la Gestion Durable des Terres au Rwanda (December 2010)*
- Rwanda Country Mapping (June 2011)
- Validation Workshop of the “Integrated Financing Strategy for Sustainable Land Management (SLM) and Country Mapping on Integrating Climate Change Finance into SLM Investment Strategies in Rwanda”

Senegal

- Project Completion Report – Volume 2 – Countries Report, Senegal Section - December 2014
- *Etude Stratégique de la Mobilisation des Sources Potentielles de Financement de la Gestion Durable des Terres au Sénégal – Rapport Final – Novembre 2014*
- *Protocole Mécanisme Mondial/UICN-Sénégal – Rapport Technique*
- *Plan d'Action National de Lutte contre la Désertification et de Gestion Durables des Terres - Version provisoire Juin 2014*
- *Projet Mécanisme mondial/UICN-Sénégal – Projets prioritaires intégrés GDT*
- *Cadre National d'Investissement Stratégique pour la Gestion Durable des Terres – Septembre 2014*

Tanzania

- Project Completion Report – Volume 2 – Countries Report, Tanzania Section - December 2014
- Proceedings of the validation workshop for the formulation of integrated finance strategy for sustainable land management - 15–18 November, 2011
- Sustainable land management and climate change finance in Tanzania. National-level assessment report – October 2010

Annex C – Project Evaluation – Focus on Ecuador

Evaluation Methodology and Limitations

The Evaluator used the following tools to gather the necessary data and information presented in this annex:

- Online interviews
- Review of relevant project documents

The documents consulted to evaluate the Project in Ecuador included the following:

1	Project Completion Report – Volume 2 – Countries Report, Ecuador Section
2	Plan de trabajo para la implementación de la última fase del proyecto GM-EC de cambio climático y degradación de tierras en el Ecuador (Julio 2014)
3	Síntesis de las conclusiones y recomendaciones formuladas en el taller Nacional en el Marco del Proyecto “Mecanismos de financiamiento para el Manejo Sostenible de la Tierra (MST) y adaptación al Cambio Climático” (Septiembre 2014)
4	Sinergias entre Degradación de la Tierra y Cambio Climático en los Paisajes Agrarios del Ecuador (Septiembre 2014)
5	Mapeo y análisis de los Mecanismos de financiamiento e incentivos para el Manejo Sostenible de la Tierra y adaptación al Cambio Climático. (Octubre 2014)

Many people involved in the Project were not reachable during the evaluation period mainly due to changes that occurred at ministerial level. National officers who worked for the Government of Ecuador during the implementation of the Project have changed employer and could not be located. Therefore, the information gathered through the interviews was not fully adequate to collect solid evidence on Project performance. Nevertheless, it provided credible indications to inform this annex.

Findings

Relevance

CC and SLM are considered a national priority in the country.

At the *Ministerio del Ambiente* there is a *Subsecretaría de Cambio Climático* dedicated to CC with two different departments dedicating their work to CC mitigation and adaptation, the *Dirección Nacional de Mitigación al Cambio Climático* and the *Dirección Nacional de Adaptación al Cambio Climático*.

Effectiveness

ER1–SO1/2 (derived from the original ER1.3, ER2.2 and ER2.3)

National activities launched for strengthening of national capacities in the agricultural, rural and land use sectors and national consultative processes in place to discuss proposed methodologies and recommendations to develop appropriate regulatory and technical framework for climate change

ER1–SO1/2 in Ecuador was achieved.

The *Ministerio del Ambiente* established a dialogue with decentralized institutions about financing schemes for SLM and CC. The Project focused on contributing to strengthening national capacities through a series of workshops organized in the framework of the design of the microfinance strategy and the elaboration of “*Mapeo y análisis de los Mecanismos de financiamiento e incentivos para el Manejo Sostenible de la Tierra, MST y adaptación al Cambio Climático*” (mapping and analysis of financing mechanisms and incentives for SLM and CC adaptation) also through a national workshop on SLM, CC and financing mechanisms.

At decentralized level, three workshops were held in the three regions of Ecuador (Coast, Amazon and Sierra) gathering a total of 100 participants from decentralized authorities: Autonomous Decentralized Governments (GADs), *Consejos Provinciales*, *Municipios*, *Juntas Parroquiales*, NGOs, producer associations, and the private sector. The workshops focused on generating dialogue about land degradation, CC and the need to promote financing mechanisms and investments.

A national capacity building workshop on SLM, CC and financing mechanisms was organized on September 30, 2014. The *Ministerio del Ambiente* led the workshop with the support of the GM and Ecopar, a local NGO:

A series of presentations on existing financing schemes were held, including the following:

- National Sustainable Livestock Incentive Programme (*Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería, Acuacultura y Pesca*)
- Fiscal incentive scheme for rural lands (National Tax Secretariat)
- *Fondo Nacional de Agua*
- The National Financing Programme for Protected Areas (UNDP – *Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería, Acuacultura y Pesca*)
- Certification Programme for Sustainable Tourism (Rainforest Alliance)
- Regional Network of Environmental Funds (The Nature Conservancy)
- Incentive Schemes for the Management of the Paramo Ecosystem and the REDD+ project in Tungurahua (GIZ, *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit*)
- *Fondo Ambiental Nacional (FAN)*
- *Fondo Ecuatoriano Populorum Progressium (FEPP)*

The national workshop was attended by representatives of several sectors including governmental and non-governmental institutions and international cooperation agencies (such as UNDP and the Ecuadorian-Italian Debt Swap Fund). During the workshop, experts from national financing mechanisms and incentive programmes shared their experience with participants. The objective of the workshop was to inform about the different existing schemes for financing SLM/CC practices and to share potential ideas with decentralized authorities to design financing mechanisms aiming at contributing to SLM/CC.

SO1 (derived from the original SO1, ER1.1 and ER1.2)

CC related financing are included into national processes leading to investment frameworks supporting SLM

SO1 in Ecuador was achieved.

The "Microfinance Strategy for SLM and CC Adaptation" was adopted as IFS.

During 2011-2012 the Project contributed to the design of an innovative financing mechanism focusing on microfinance for combating land degradation and promoting climate change adaptation. The "Microfinance Strategy for SLM and CC Adaptation" was elaborated within the national governmental microfinance programme. The main idea was to establish a mechanism mobilizing resources from the microfinance sector for the implementation of SLM practices at farmers' level. A strategy was designed based on the context of both the microfinance and environmental sectors and their respective institutional frameworks.

The strategy is based on public – private partnerships needed at different levels such as for funding credit lines at mainly national and subnational levels and for establishing an operation at subnational levels.

A study entitled "Synergies between land degradation and CC in agriculture and livestock systems" was produced by the Project. It describes the linkages between land degradation and CC in rural areas of Ecuador, highlighting the importance of SLM practises as a CC adaptation measure and therefore the need to mobilize resources for SLM in the framework of CC programmes and budgets.

A mapping of national innovative financing mechanisms mobilizing resources from CC finance and other national and international sources for SLM practices was conducted at national level. The analysis was carried out by the national NGO Ecopar in August 2014 and included a series of workshops at subnational level, organized to raise information regarding local financing mechanisms.

Through the mapping the most promising areas or sectors in which to develop feasible CC projects benefiting SLM/UNCCD implementation were identified and stakeholders and potential implementation partners for SLM/CC projects determined.

The mapping includes specific recommendations for improving institutional setting, investment frameworks and coordination among institutions in order to strengthen the mobilization of resources for synergies between land degradation and CC through financing mechanisms such as environmental or watershed funds, certification schemes, and national sustainable livestock incentive programmes.

The mapping will moreover serve the Government of Ecuador to identify potential investment mechanisms that are already put in place and could be strengthened through CC co-financing.

SO2 (original SO2)

Build capacities to identify, formulate and implement financially feasible mitigation and adaptation projects in the agricultural, rural and land use sectors to benefit SLM & UNCCD implementation

SO2 in Ecuador was not achieved.

Project proposals for SLM (to be submitted to potential donors for funding from CC financing sources) were not formulated due to several reasons:

- Previous GM efforts of developing project proposals for the carbon market within the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) were undertaken with the consulting firm EcoSecurities without any tangible result. The development of project proposals needs dedicated support in terms of time and human resources. If the funds were not obtained, expectations could have remained unfulfilled again.
- The national REDD+ strategy was under formulation and no support for stand-alone REDD+ projects was provided by the *Ministerio del Ambiente* until the strategy was fully designed.

ER2-SO3 (original ER3.2)

South-south exchanges are promoted amongst the regions on ways and means to better access CC financing for SLM

ER2-SO3 in Ecuador was not achieved.

No south-south exchange occurred during the implementation of the Project.

SO3 (original SO3)

Make available expertise and knowledge on the applicability of current and/or emerging adaptation and mitigation financing mechanisms in developing countries to support the international UNCCD and UNFCCC policy dialogue

SO3 in Ecuador was partially achieved.

Ecuador received much support on capacity building in the framework of CC, however, the issue of synergies between CC and SLM remained unexplored. The Project was an opportunity to emphasize the synergies aiming at the integration of SLM in the overall CC process.

Efficiency

No major elements of inefficiency were identified during the evaluation exercise.

The fact that project proposals were not formulated is due to a decision based on previous experiences and therewith cannot be regarded as inefficiency.

No south-south exchange took place during the implementation of the Project. The evaluation exercise could not identify why no south-south exchange was promoted.

Impact

Synergies between land degradation and CC were highlighted and integrated in the institutional planning and programming of the *Ministerio del Ambiente*. The Project promoted the concept of SLM being a CC adaptation measure. The integration of such a synergistic approach is now undertaken in the day-to-day planning of the CC programmes of the *Ministerio del Ambiente* in order to promote further investments in SLM, namely in national CC programming and budgeting. This concept was acknowledged by the government and the national UNCCD focal point resulting in UNCCD being officially integrated in the *Sub-secretaría de Cambio Climático del Ministerio del Ambiente*. Up to this point all UNCCD-related issues were managed under the *Departamento de Ecosistemas Frágiles* which has little political importance. SLM is now an issue addressed in conjunction with governmental CC-related policies, programmes, projects and budget lines promoted and implemented by the *Sub-secretaría de Cambio Climático del Ministerio del Ambiente*. This change can be rewarded as an indirect impact of the Project.

Sustainability

The implementation of the Project was characterized by a high level of ownership by the government of Ecuador.

Even though many staff changes occurred at the *Ministerio del Ambiente* people are still aware of the "Microfinance Strategy for SLM and CC Adaptation" which was elaborated within the national governmental microfinance programme through a consultative process. This represents a strong element of sustainability. An SLM credit line created within the "Microfinance Strategy for SLM and CC Adaptation" may provide resources - stemming from the national public budget - in the near future to implement the national economic inclusion policy of the actual government along with other credit lines such as for small entrepreneurs' rural housing, and enterprises for youth. The credit line includes activities to be developed to establish silvo-pastoralist systems and to promote crop diversification in vulnerable areas, under a framework of food sovereignty.

Conclusions and Recommendations – Focus on Ecuador

No conclusions or recommendations are made specifically on Ecuador.

Annex D – Project Evaluation – Focus on Guatemala

Evaluation Methodology and Limitations

The Evaluator used the following tools to gather the necessary data and information presented in this annex:

- Online interviews
- Review of relevant project documents

The documents consulted to evaluate the Project in Guatemala included the following:

1	Project Completion Report – Volume 2 – Countries Report, Guatemala Section
2	Módulos de entrenamiento en el uso de los mecanismos de financiación para combatir el cambio climático para apoyar inversiones en MST y contribuir a la implementación de CNULD. Un manual para asistentes al taller de Cambio Climático – GUATEMALA. Marzo 2012.
3	“Integrating Climate Change Finance into Sustainable Land Management Investment Strategies in Guatemala”. Concept note on how to structure south-south exchanges, in support of national level initiatives to access climate change finance for UNCCD implementation. October 2014

Many people involved in the Project were not reachable during the evaluation period, mainly due to changes that occurred at ministerial level. National officials who worked for the Government of Guatemala during the implementation of the Project have changed employer and could not be located. Therefore, the information received through interviews was not fully adequate to collect solid evidence on the Project's performance. Nevertheless, it provided credible indications to inform this annex.

Findings

Relevance

CC and SLM are considered a national priority in the country.

During the implementation of the Project, the national Government was developing the Rural Development Policy, the Climate Change Policy and the Climate Change Law which reflect the high political importance given to CC.

Effectiveness

ER1–SO1/2 (derived from the original ER1.3, ER2.2 and ER2.3)

National activities launched for strengthening of national capacities in the agricultural, rural and land use sectors and national consultative processes in place to discuss proposed methodologies and recommendations to develop appropriate regulatory and technical framework for climate change

ER1–SO1/2 in Guatemala was achieved.

The Project supported three processes that led to the formulation of the Rural Development Policy, the Climate Change Policy and the Climate Change Law in order to ensure the mainstreaming of SLM and CC-related issues.

SO1 (derived from the original SO1, ER1.1 and ER1.2)

CC related financing are included into national processes leading to investment frameworks supporting SLM

SO1 in Guatemala was not achieved.

The IFS was developed. It aimed at mobilizing financial resources from international cooperation to combat desertification at country level; at mobilizing financial resources from the national budget to combat desertification and drought as well as to prevent land degradation at country level; and at promoting awareness at different social levels regarding the conservation of natural ecosystems and environmental services. However, the IFS did not get political approval and validation.

The most relevant tool so far has been the Climate Change Law which includes innovative mechanisms to finance mitigation and adaptation measures and SLM. The financial mechanisms included in the Climate Change Law are listed below:

- The National Fund for Climate Change which is expected to be approved by the Guatemalan Government by 2016, with part of the national budget provided through the Ministry of Finance.
- The creation of carbon markets. It is estimated that the protected areas of Guatemala have a potential of capturing 33 million tons of carbon that in a lapse of 30 years will generate the equivalent of USD 131 million.

SO2 (original SO2)

Build capacities to identify, formulate and implement financially feasible mitigation and adaptation projects in the agricultural, rural and land use sectors to benefit SLM & UNCCD implementation

SO2 in Guatemala was achieved.

Three project proposals were developed whose titles are not reported in any document provided to the Evaluator.

ER2-SO3 (original ER3.2)

South-south exchanges are promoted amongst the regions on ways and means to better access CC financing for SLM

ER2-SO3 in Guatemala was not achieved.

No south-south exchange occurred during the implementation of the Project.

SO3 (original SO3)

Make available expertise and knowledge on the applicability of current and/or emerging adaptation and mitigation financing mechanisms in developing countries to support the international UNCCD and UNFCCC policy dialogue

SO3 in Guatemala was not achieved.

The UNCCD and UNFCCC policy dialogue characterized the whole implementation of the Project.

Efficiency

The Project implementation in Guatemala was affected by two factors which could not be tackled by Project management. The physical transfer of GM from Rome/IFAD to Bonn/UNCCD and the drastic changes of authorities in government institutions hampered the overall implementation of the Project in Guatemala.

Impact

The longer-term impact of the Project was primarily in its influence to the the Rural Development Policy, the Climate Change Policy and the Climate Change Law. However, the extent to which these developments can be attributed to the Project is difficult to credibly measure.

Sustainability

Similarly to impact, the elements of sustainability in Guatemala are linked to the follow-up to the Rural Development Policy, the Climate Change Policy and the Climate Change Law and not well measurable.

Conclusions and Recommendations – Focus on Guatemala

No conclusions or recommendations are made specifically on Guatemala.

Annex E – Project Evaluation – Focus on Lao PDR

Evaluation Methodology and Limitations

The Evaluation mission in Lao PDR was facilitated by the Local Consultant, Mr. Ilari Sohlo, and took place from 21/08 to 26/08/2016, with five full working days spent by the Evaluator in the country.

The Evaluator used the following tools to gather the necessary data and information presented in this annex:

- Interviews

People met during the evaluation exercise either participated in or were aware of the Project or were involved in the development sector in Lao PDR.

The level of English language skills of government officers in the country is often low. As a consequence, the questions that were posed during the evaluation exercise were articulated in a simple way and the answers provided did not offer much detail.

Unfortunately some key persons involved in the Project implementation could not be reached, while their contribution could have enriched the evaluation exercise.

- Review of relevant project documents

The documents consulted to evaluate the Project in Lao PDR include the following:

1	Project Completion Report – Volume 2 – Countries Report, Lao PDR Section (December 2014)
2	National Assessment Part I Climate Financing - Guidebook on Climate Change Financing to Support Sustainable Land Management (SLM) in Lao PDR (June 2014)
3	National Assessment Part II Case Studies - Guidebook on Climate Change Financing to Support Sustainable Land Management (SLM) in Lao PDR (June 2014)
4	National Assessment Part III Policy Review - Guidebook on Climate Change Financing to Support Sustainable Land Management (SLM) in Lao PDR (June 2014)
5	Project proposal "Enhancing community resilience to climate change with support to Sustainable Land Management in Luang Prabang Province"
6	Project proposal "Community Based Watershed Management for Climate Change resilience in Houaphan Province, Laos"
7	Project proposal "Sustainable land management for resilient ecosystem services in Huaphan Province, Lao PDR"
8	Overview of Climate Change Financing Mechanisms in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam (July 2011)
9	Agriculture Strategy to the Year 2020, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao People's Democratic Republic (October 2013)

- An evaluation workshop with 11 participants.

The evaluation workshop was conducted during the mission in Lao PDR. The correlation exercise between capacity development outputs and outcomes, which characterizes the Rapid methodology, did not succeed due to the following two main reasons:

- Only 5 questionnaires were prepared by the Local Consultant instead of the 12 requested by the methodology. As a result, the workshop counted with 10 capacity development outputs and 29 outcomes (not enough to carry out a proper correlation exercise); and
- Answers to the questionnaires were not as the methodology requires. The questionnaires were distributed by the Local Consultant by email and a quality check of the answers was not possible. The RAC methodology indeed foresees an interview between the consultant and the interviewee so that answers can be relevant and meaningful.

The workshop was conducted and a correlation exercise between capacity development outputs and outcomes was carried out. The exercise provided some good insights to evaluate the capacity development dimension of the Project, but they cannot be considered as comprehensive as an application of the full RAC methodology would have provided.

Findings

Relevance

Lao PDR is a UNCCD Country Party since 1999 and SLM is consequently a political priority at country level.

Effectiveness

ER1–SO1/2 (derived from the original ER1.3, ER2.2 and ER2.3)

National activities launched for strengthening of national capacities in the agricultural, rural and land use sectors and national consultative processes in place to discuss proposed methodologies and recommendations to develop appropriate regulatory and technical framework for climate change

ER1–SO1/2 in Lao PDR was achieved.

A roadmap for implementation of project activities in Lao PDR was developed at the beginning based on past actions of the GM in the country.

In November 2012 an international consultant was engaged to lead the collaboration of the GM with Government and deliver outputs related to national level assessments, project proposal development, and stakeholder consultations. In addition, a national consultant was provided by the Government as in-kind contribution to the Project and was thereafter hired by the GM for a short period starting in June 2013. The team of consultants collaborated in implementing activities in close coordination with the GM's Asia Pacific programme.

In April 2013 a ministerial stakeholder consultation and project feasibility workshop was conducted by GM staff in the city of Luang Prabang. Six Lao Institutions, namely Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Lao Women's Union, Luang Prabang Agriculture College, and Souphanouvong University attended. The specific objectives of the workshop were:

- Building capacities to identify, formulate and implement financially feasible mitigation and adaptation projects;
- Making available expertise and knowledge on the applicability of current and/or emerging adaptation and mitigation financing mechanisms in Lao PDR to support the international UNCCD and UNFCCC policy dialogue;
- Gaining feedback from stakeholders on the feasibility of the three project ideas linking CC and SLM developed as part of the initiative.

In May 2014 a national workshop with the following objectives was organized:

- Presenting resource mobilization strategies for CC projects that are nationally relevant and have potential for synergistic implementation of the three Rio Conventions;
- Presenting case studies that have potential for funding and are relevant to the Lao context/policies;
- Dialoguing and updating on mainstreaming climate change into national processes / legal frameworks under development;
- Summarizing the Project key activities and final steps;
- Presenting the draft national CC financing assessment, key outcomes and recommendations;
- Presenting project proposals;
- Getting the Government's validation of all.

SO1 (derived from the original SO1, ER1.1 and ER1.2)

CC related financing are included into national processes leading to investment frameworks supporting SLM

SO1 in Lao PDR was achieved.

The Project included CC-related financing into REDD+, IFAD sub-regional capacity enhancement forum, and national processes dealing with the National Land Policy, the Land Law, the Water Law, the Environmental Law, the Agriculture Law, the Climate Change Action Plan, and the Technology Needs Assessment for Adaptation and Technology Needs Assessment for Mitigation that were submitted to UNFCCC.

In parallel with these processes, the Project developed the "Guidebook on Climate Change Financing to Support Sustainable Land Management (SLM) in Lao PDR".

The "Guidebook on Climate Change Financing to Support Sustainable Land Management (SLM) in Lao PDR" is divided into three parts:

- National Assessment Part I Climate Financing
The first part presents information on applicability of sources of financing as funding windows to be used to mobilize resources for SLM.
- National Assessment Part II Case Studies
The second part identifies best practices for climate financing and SLM/UNCCD implementation that have the potential to be scaled up, based on case studies from abroad as well as practices identified in previous decades of work in the agriculture, land use, forestry and rural development sectors in Lao PDR.
- National Assessment Part III Policy Review
The third part analyses the enabling policy framework as it relates to mobilizing climate financing and environmental sustainability, including SLM, and identifies the technical and financial linkages of climate change with DLDD and how these linkages are reflected in the policy framework.

The assessment specifically includes the following elements:

- Analysis of the linkages between land degradation and climate change based on existing documentation and negotiations with Lao government counterparts and other stakeholders;
- Identification and co-development of the most relevant policies, legal frameworks and strategies (of national and international partners operating in the country) to create the enabling base for SLM and CC synergies.
- Analysis of the current investment flows to climate change mitigation and adaptation projects in the AFOLU sector.
- Analysis and proposal of means to overcome barriers and challenges for the development of SLM/UNCCD relevant climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives in the agriculture, forestry, rural development and land use sectors.
- Identification of the most promising areas or sectors in which to develop feasible CC projects benefiting SLM/UNCCD implementation.
- Identification of stakeholders and potential implementation partners for climate change projects and programmes in the AFOLU sector.

Copies of the Guidebook were shared with key policy makers and other stakeholders of Laoian Ministries as well as with key development partners who were consulted in the course of the process, including FAO, UNDP and GIZ.

SO2 (original SO2)**Build capacities to identify, formulate and implement financially feasible mitigation and adaptation projects in the agricultural, rural and land use sectors to benefit SLM & UNCCD implementation**

SO2 in Lao PDR was achieved.

Project proposals were identified and formulated based on negotiations and proposal writing trainings which were practiced by the consultant in small focal group meetings and one-on-one sessions with relevant national officers at MAF. The following proposals were developed:

- Community Based Watershed Management for Climate Change resilience in Houaphan Province, Laos
- Enhancing community resilience to climate change with support to Sustainable Land Management in Luang Prabang Province
- Sustainable cropland and forest management in shifting cultivation agro-ecosystems of Lao PDR

The three project proposals were aligned with government priorities as well as the mandates of the UNCCD/GM. They incorporate the assessment made as preliminary step for the development of the "Guidebook on Climate Change Financing to Support Sustainable Land Management (SLM) in Lao PDR" as the baseline scenario.

ER2-SO3 (original ER3.2)**South-south exchanges are promoted amongst the regions on ways and means to better access CC financing for SLM**

ER2-SO3 in Lao PDR was not achieved.

It was envisaged that a South-to-South visit of Lao Government officials to one of the other project countries (Rwanda or Tanzania) would take place. Indeed, the Project created an interest within the Lao Government to visit Rwanda, being a similar land-locked mountainous country with comparable SLM/CC issues. This activity, however, did not materialize due to misunderstandings and delays with regards to Project funds and implementation experienced during the GM's transfer from Rome to Bonn.

SO3 (original SO3)**Make available expertise and knowledge on the applicability of current and/or emerging adaptation and mitigation financing mechanisms in developing countries to support the international UNCCD and UNFCCC policy dialogue**

SO3 in Lao PDR was achieved.

The Project liaised with the UNCCD and UNFCCC focal points and developed briefs on new and emerging funding sources (such as bilateral, UN, multilateral sources). In the spirit of "learning by doing" the project identified CC finance funding sources from various funds such as the International Climate Initiative and the International Climate Fund, as well as lobbied for bilateral resource mobilization for SLM/CC with the Governments of Australia, Finland, Germany, the UK, and USAID, as well as multilateral collaboration with for instance the Forest Investment Program of the World Bank.

Efficiency

The three volumes of the "Guidebook on Climate Change Financing to Support Sustainable Land Management (SLM) in Lao PDR" were not translated into Lao. No funds were allocated for the translation. Due to the low level of English language skills of public officers in governmental institutions in Lao PDR, the lack of a Lao version of the Guidebook constitutes an element of inefficiency. In all likelihood the Guidebook did not and will not have many readers due to this constraint.

The South-to-South visit of Lao Government officials to Rwanda or Tanzania did not materialize. This occurrence is as well an element of inefficiency but it cannot be attributed to Project implementation. It was beyond of the control of Project management and as such the evaluation exercise does not considered it as an element of inefficiency.

Impact

The main Project target institutions, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and Ministry of Agriculture and Forest, have very limited national financial resources available to work independently and rely massively on external support to implement most of their work. As a result, capacities are very low and capacity development needs are generally recognized as very high by all international stakeholders that operate in Lao PDR. The Project contributed to their development but the extent of its contribution cannot be precisely assessed; it is just a small incremental step that adds to the existing capacities.

The evaluation workshop held on August 25 2016 provided some insights about which capacities were mainly affected by the Project. The conclusions of the workshop should be considered as qualitative and merely show which were the main contributions of the Project to institutional capacities in Lao PDR. However, they do not weigh their enhancement. Workshop participants identified three main contributions of the Project in terms of capacity development:

- Institutional attention to CC in Lao PDR has increased;
- Programmes are better aligned to donors and international treaties; and
- At ministerial level there is a better coordination with parliament, civil society, and other entities.

The various documents produced in the course of the Project represent its main impact. They constitute an important support for policy makers in the country. All documents are only available in English and were not translated into Lao; therefore, international organizations should be considered their main public audience, as English language skills are very low in the country.

The project proposal "Sustainable cropland and forest management in shifting cultivation agro-ecosystems of Lao PDR" developed by the Project is currently under consideration by FAO to be turned into a Green Climate Fund proposal.

The impact of the Project can be considered as good if the level of local capacities and institutional settings are taken into consideration. Indeed, the evaluation exercise noted that development projects in Lao PDR usually have to reconsider their ambitions in terms of feasible achievements during their implementation.

Sustainability

Project sustainability in Lao PDR is negatively affected by two categories of factors:

- Institution-related factors

CC and SLM as well as increase in agricultural production are at the top of the political agenda. The two areas, however, are not always compatible. In the "Agriculture Strategy to the Year 2020, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao People's Democratic Republic" (October 2013) there is no mention of CC and SLM. Sustainable agricultural production is mentioned but remains a vague concept throughout the whole document.

The institutional organization of ministries in Lao PDR is changing rather fast. Institutional arrangements within the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and between different ministries are also changing. As a consequence, the institutional memory at government level is often weak.

- Project-related factors

Documentation produced in the course of the Project was not translated into Lao language. English skills of national officers are often very low, limiting wider use of the documentation.

Conclusions and recommendations

The evaluation exercise identified the lack of translation of the “Guidebook on Climate Change Financing to Support Sustainable Land Management (SLM) in Lao PDR” into Lao language as the main constraint to achieve a better impact and ensure a higher degree of sustainability. Other main factors, the political agenda and institutional settings, are beyond the reach of a project.

The main recommendations for future interventions of the UNCCD GM in the country are:

- Consultants should continuously collaborate with and backstop target institutions, accompanying and explaining step by step the activities they are called to carry out. Capacity development is indeed at the core of the UNCCD implementation in the country.
- Documentation should be translated into Lao language to enhance ownership of the initiatives and ultimately have a better impact and ensure sustainability.

Annex F – Project Evaluation – Focus on Mozambique

Evaluation Methodology and Limitations

The Evaluator utilized the following report to inform the evaluation of activities carried out in Mozambique:

1	Project Completion Report – Volume 2 – Countries Report, Mozambique Section
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The evaluation of the Project in Mozambique is based on a reasoned reading of the Project Completion Report. The evaluation could not add to the information available in the report; instead, it re-organizes its contents to identify pertinent elements for answering the evaluation questions.

Findings

Relevance

Mozambique is a UNCCD country Party since 1999 and SLM is consequently a political priority at country level.

Effectiveness

ER1-SO1/2 (derived from the original ER1.3, ER2.2 and ER2.3)

National activities launched for strengthening of national capacities in the agricultural, rural and land use sectors and national consultative processes in place to discuss proposed methodologies and recommendations to develop appropriate regulatory and technical framework for climate change

ER1-SO1/2 in Mozambique was achieved.

The GM provided technical inputs and contributions to the Ministry for the Coordination of Environmental Affairs during the conceptual stages of the Strategic Programme for Climate Resilience (SPCR) which focused on interlinkages between SLM and CC. The SPCR was developed within the Climate Investment Funds (CIF) of the WB with the goal to mainstream CC issues in national development programmes and strategies. The GM's contribution sought to position the issues of land and water, which is reflected in the document. The GM is recognized as a key partner in the development of the SPCR. The latter was approved by the CIF Pilot Programme on Climate Resilience (PPCR) Sub-Committee Meeting in June 2011 in Cape Town with a programme budget of USD 102 million.

SO1 (derived from the original SO1, ER1.1 and ER1.2)

CC related financing is included into national processes leading to investment frameworks supporting SLM

SO1 in Mozambique was not achieved.

The basis for the work done by the Project was a set of studies on CC and land-related sectors, CC and SLM, financial flows for CC, legislation and institutional response, CC-related activities, key challenges and opportunities. These studies were all assembled in a document entitled "Analytical Work of the Present Situation: Gaps, Strengths and Opportunities for integrating land and water into climate change investments".

As part of the Project and with the assistance of the GM, SLM-relevant activities were integrated into the following country level processes:

- Mainstreaming of SLM-relevant climate change issues in planning processes at national, provincial and local levels.
- Mainstreaming of SLM and climate change into REDD National Strategy; and
- Approval of the Sustainable land & water resources management project (PPCR) by the AfDB.

However, no IFS was developed and validated during the implementation of the Project.

SO2 (original SO2)**Build capacities to identify, formulate and implement financially feasible mitigation and adaptation projects in the agricultural, rural and land use sectors to benefit SLM & UNCCD implementation**

SO2 in Mozambique was achieved.

At the sub-regional capacity building workshop entitled "Strengthening National Capacities to Increase Finance and Investments into Sustainable Land Management and Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Opportunities from Climate Change Financing" held in Lusaka, Zambia for Southern Africa countries, Government officials from Mozambique participated.

The participants worked on the formulation of country-specific project profiles/ideas that link SLM and adaptation to CC. The project ideas were to be further developed upon participants' return and were to be used to draw a plan of action the countries would follow.

Consultations were held throughout the course of the year 2014 with Government officials, represented by the Ministry for the Coordination of Environmental Affairs, the EC, and other stakeholders such as the climate change unit coordination of the National Council for Sustainable Development. The result of these consultations was a brief project idea entitled "Strengthening Access to Climate Finance in Mozambique - Communication, Capacity and Awareness".

ER2-SO3 (original ER3.2)**South-south exchanges are promoted amongst the regions on ways and means to better access CC financing for SLM**

ER2-SO3 in Mozambique was achieved.

Officers from Mozambique attended the training "Exchange of Experiences and Knowledge on Incentive and Market Based Mechanisms for Sustainable Land Management" in Costa Rica. They were trained in integrating Incentive and Market Based Mechanisms (IMBM) and in applying tools to promote biodiversity and climate change mitigation to enhance policy coherence and synergies with the UNFCCC and the CBD:

SO3 (original SO3)**Make available expertise and knowledge on the applicability of current and/or emerging adaptation and mitigation financing mechanisms in developing countries to support the international UNCCD and UNFCCC policy dialogue**

SO3 in Mozambique was achieved.

Making available expertise and knowledge on the applicability of current and/or emerging adaptation and mitigation financing mechanisms in developing countries was the core of the Project implementation in Mozambique. The UNCCD and UNFCCC dialogue was at the center of the work done throughout the entire Project.

Efficiency

The Project's achievements revealed that the Project faced many difficulties in Mozambique even though these could not be identified during the evaluation exercise.

The evaluation exercise therefore recognizes that the choice to support three existing country processes was appropriate, assuming that the initiation of an original process could have generated even more complications.

Impact

The Project did not result in its main expected outcome, the formulation of an IFS. However, the Project supported the drafting of the National REDD Strategy and collaborated with the AfDB to

mainstream land and water issues into the approved sustainable land and water resources management project of the PPCR.

Sustainability

The sustainability of the Project activities in Mozambique was indirect, through the National REDD Strategy and in follow-up to the collaboration with AfDB.

Conclusions and Recommendations – Focus on Mozambique

No conclusions or recommendations are made specifically on Mozambique.

Annex G – Project Evaluation – Focus on Niger

Evaluation Methodology and Limitations

The Evaluation mission in Niger was facilitated by the Local Consultant, Mr. Boureima Boubacar, and took place from 07/08 to 13/08/2016, with five full working days spent by the Evaluator in the country.

The Evaluator used the following tools to gather the necessary data and information presented in this annex:

- Interviews

People met during the evaluation exercise either participated in or were aware of the Project or were involved in the development sector in Niger.

Unfortunately, certain key persons involved in the implementation could not be reached while their contribution could have enriched the evaluation exercise.

- Review of relevant project documents

The documents consulted to evaluate the Project in Niger include the following:

1	Project Completion Report – Volume 2 – Countries Report, Niger Section
2	<i>Cadre Stratégique de la Gestion Durable des Terres (CS/GDT) au Niger et son Plan d'Investissement 2015-2029</i>
3	<i>Etude d'Investigation en vue de la Mobilisation des Financements dans la Gestion Durable des Terres au Niger</i>
4	<i>Rapport du Voyage d'Etude et de Partage d'Expérience au Mali sur l'Alignement du PAN/LCD-GRN à la Stratégie Décennale de la Convention des Nations Unies sur la Lutte contre la Désertification (CNULCD) et la Synergie des Trois Conventions post Rio – Mali, du 25 Octobre au 3 Novembre 2014</i>
5	<i>Chronogramme activités Projet GDT-CC</i>
6	<i>Installation de Groupes Techniques sur la Gestion Durable de Terres – Rapport de Mission – Septembre 2014</i>
7	<i>Rapport d'Etude sur la réalisation d'un Mapping des Projets et Programmes de Lutte Contre la Désertification et Gestion Durable des Terres au Niger, Octobre 2014.</i>
8	<i>Rapport d'étude sur la synergie des Conventions de Rio au Niger et l'amélioration du cadre d'action de leur mise en œuvre, Février 2013.</i>
9	<i>Rapport de l'Atelier de Formation des Structures de Medias et des Organisations de la Societe Civile sur la Désertification et la Gestion Durable des Terres au Niger</i>
10	<i>Rapport de planification stratégique et de validation des études sur la synergie des trois Conventions de Rio et sur l'investigation en vue de la mobilisation de financements pour la gestion durable des terres au Niger, 7-9 mai 2013, Mai 2013.</i>

Note to the evaluation methodology in Niger

The evaluation methodology in Niger was planned to include a RAC exercise. However, the Local Consultant was not able to contact the key persons involved in the Project and therefore did not carry out the required in-depth interviews. Without the information from the interviews, the RAC methodology could not be followed. As a consequence, the programme for the Evaluator's in-country mission consisted only of regular interviews. .

Findings

Relevance

SLM is a high political priority. Niger is a founding partner of the *Comité permanent inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel (CILSS)* created in 1973, including 12 other countries (Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Togo, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Senegal, and Cape Verde), and is a Party to the UNCCD.

The formulation of the "*Cadre Stratégique d'Investissement du Niger en matière de Gestion Durable des Terres*" CS/GDT, led by the *Ministère de l'Environnement du Développement Durable*, with the inclusion of the IFS, was acknowledged by all stakeholders met during the evaluation mission as an important step to move towards the achievement of SDG 15.3; and ultimately to an improved situation in terms of food security at country level.

Some of the persons met explicitly mentioned the *Ministère de l'Agriculture et de l'Elevage* would be the most competent and better equipped institution to deal with SLM and desertification and intervene at field level. The international organizations are also mainly engaged in programmes dealing with agriculture, CC, SLM and food security. The interconnections between food security and desertification are ultimately the core of the political interest at country level.

Effectiveness

ER1-SO1/2 (derived from the original ER1.3, ER2.2 and ER2.3)

National activities launched for strengthening of national capacities in the agricultural, rural and land use sectors and national consultative processes in place to discuss proposed methodologies and recommendations to develop appropriate regulatory and technical framework for climate change

ER1-SO1/2 in Niger was achieved.

The GM supported the consultative SLM process through assistance to the national SLM Working Group led by the national UNCCD and SLM Focal Point at the *Ministère de l'Environnement du Développement Durable*. The process also led to the alignment of the *Plan d'Action National / Lutte Contre la Désertification – Gestion de Ressources Naturelles (PAN-LCD/GRN)* and the mainstreaming of UNCCD-related issues into the *Programme de Développement Economique et Sociale 2012-2015* and the *3N initiative "les Nigériens Nourrissent les Nigériens"*.

National stakeholders took part in two sub-regional capacity enhancement initiatives, including:

- A consultation workshop called "Designing Integrated Financing Strategies clinic", jointly organized with UNDP in January 2010, to discuss achievements obtained and bottlenecks identified during the process of elaborating the IFS and IIF for SLM held in Senegal; and
- A sub-regional West Africa CC finance capacity building workshop. The workshop was organized by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), hosted by the Government of Burkina Faso and supported by FAO, UNDP and the GM. The workshop enabled participants from 10 countries to assess and identify CC-related adaptation and mitigation mechanisms for SLM.

The two workshops followed an initiative which took place in 2009, before the Project was launched: a capacity enhancement workshop on "Designing Integrated Financing Strategies (DIFS)" organized by the GM for West African countries in June 2009, held in Burkina Faso.

A study on the synergies of the three Rio Conventions in Niger and the improvement of the framework of action for their implementation was carried out in February 2013.

The study explored the possibilities of implementing the Rio Conventions in a more synergistic manner and highlighted the opportunities of the UNCCD to better coordinate its activities with the other two conventions, since they have access to additional specific funding mechanisms. The main recommendations were:

- To improve monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the three Conventions by defining common indicators and clarifying the national action framework of each Convention;

- To complete the establishment of decentralized entities of the *Conseil National pour l'Environnement et le Développement Durable (CNEDD)* at district and commune level;
- To implement the communication strategy by developing targeted messages for different stakeholder groups to better rationalize the allocation of financial resources; and
- To increase efforts for capacity building at all levels.

Consultation workshops for regional stakeholders were organized by the *Secretariat Executif du Conseil National pour l'Environnement et le Développement Durable (SE/CNEDD)* in September 2014 in eight Nigerien regions to endorse the preliminary draft of the revised PAN/LCD-GRN.

The national SLM Working Group supported the establishment of 7 regional SLM Working Groups with the aim of coordinating SLM activities at regional level.

Finally, a training workshop for media groups and civil society organizations was held in October 2014 in Niamey with support of the Project. The objective of the training was to strengthen capacities of civil society organizations (CSOs) and journalists to better understand and disseminate information on Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (DLDD) and the interconnections between land degradation, CC and the loss of biodiversity.

SO1 (derived from the original SO1, ER1.1 and ER1.2)

CC related financing are included into national processes leading to investment frameworks supporting SLM

SO1 in Niger was achieved.

In the context of the TerrAfrica Initiative the "*Cadre Stratégique d'Investissement du Niger en matière de Gestion Durable des Terres*" CS/GDT was formulated and validated in 2014.

CS/GDT was strengthened through its mainstreaming into the National Agricultural Investment Programme (NAIP) developed under the framework of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), ensuring that about 60% of all investments relate to SLM.

The CS/GDT aims at:

- Mobilizing financial resources for SLM.
- Promoting SLM practices in Niger to re-establish and strengthen the productivity of natural resources;
- Strengthening the institutional, technical and financial capacities of all SLM stakeholders.

GM also supported the elaboration of the Pilot Project for Climate Resilience (PPCR) in Niger. This initiative was led by the World Bank (WB), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and focused on the assessment and mapping of CC risks, the spatial distribution of vulnerable zones, sectors and groups, and the importance of sustainable land and water management in policies aiming to reduce the vulnerability of poor people in Niger to CC.

Furthermore, the Project funded the elaboration of the IFS entitled "*Etude d'Investigation en vue de la mobilisation des financements dans la GDT au Niger*". The study identified the potential for funding SLM/CC projects from CC financing mechanisms, especially in the field of adaptation. Other financial mechanisms analyzed included environmental taxes, agricultural insurance schemes and microfinance. The study fed into the CS/GDT that was validated in May 2013.

The GM promoted the mainstreaming of the CS/GDT into the 3N initiative programme, in particular into its component 4 on "Sustainable management of natural resources". The 3N initiative was adopted in April 2012 and complemented the efforts of the Government to implement an integrated policy against land degradation and food insecurity.

SO2 (original SO2)

Build capacities to identify, formulate and implement financially feasible mitigation and adaptation projects in the agricultural, rural and land use sectors to benefit SLM & UNCCD implementation

SO2 in Niger was formally achieved.

In order to support the implementation of the CS/GDT, the Project facilitated the elaboration of two project proposals focusing on the promotion of agroforestry systems and the fight against DLDD:

- *Projet de Développement de l'Agroforesterie et de Gestion Durable de la Fertilité des Terres (PDA/GDT);*
- *Projet d'Appui à la Lutte Contre la Dégradation des Terres (PAGDT).*

The process to produce the main documents, including the project proposals, of the Project was led by a consultant who involved the other stakeholders through a consultative process. Their participation was not active; stakeholders were mainly involved as a source of information to get the necessary inputs for the documents to be formulated rather than partners. They also participated in the validation workshop. The real effect of the Project in terms of capacity building was therefore limited.

Nevertheless, some steps toward a better comprehension of CC and ways forward to implement the UNCCD and UNFCCC were clearly taken. The Project improved the ability of national ministries to better network to achieve consensual results. There is no tangible evidence on other capacity gains at institutional level.

ER2-SO3 (original ER3.2)

South-south exchanges are promoted amongst the regions on ways and means to better access CC financing for SLM

ER2-SO3 in Niger was achieved.

The UNCCD Focal Point and the TerrAfrica/SLM Coordinator went on a study to Mali from 27 to 31 October 2014 to interact with the Malian counterparts and exchange experiences on how to deal with challenges of coordinating SLM-related activities, strengthening synergies among the three Rio Conventions, and implementing SLM investment frameworks.

SO3 (original SO3)

Make available expertise and knowledge on the applicability of current and/or emerging adaptation and mitigation financing mechanisms in developing countries to support the international UNCCD and UNFCCC policy dialogue

SO3 in Niger was achieved.

A study on the synergies of the three Rio Conventions in Niger and the improvement of the framework of action for their implementation was carried out in February 2013. The study fed the CS/GDT.

It is important to note that at national level the three Rio Conventions are represented in the same institution, *Secrétariat Exécutif, Conseil National de l'Environnement pour un Développement Durable (SE/CNEDD)*, whose Secretary is the National Focal Point for all three Conventions. The institution works under the *Cabinet du Premier Ministre*.

Efficiency

The Project evaluation mission did not identify any significant elements of inefficiency. All outputs were achieved. The approach adopted during the implementation allowed linear sequenced monitoring activities, the deliverables of consultants' assignments constituted the natural milestones to verify the status of Project implementation.

Impact

The two proposals written during the implementation of the Project were submitted to the “*Forum de Concertation Etat – Partenaires Techniques et Financiers (PTF) pour le financement de la GDT au Niger*” organized by the TerrAfrica Initiative in May 2015. They were not selected for funding by the participating donors. As a consequence, the Project in Niger did not contribute, in the short term, to its general objective “to ensure sustained adequate investment flows in sustainable land management (SLM) for benefiting the rural livelihoods of populations living in fragile and/or degraded landscapes, through increasing co-financing from climate change financing mechanisms”.

However, its longer-term influence is in the formulation of the CS/GDT, adopted by the national Government in November 2014. It serves as the reference document for SLM/CC-related issues and is largely known by national and international stakeholders. The CS/GDT will be used for monitoring and evaluation purposes of all SLM/CC programmes in Niger.

Sustainability

The provision of policy and expert advice led to the development of the IFS and its incorporation in the CS/GDT, the official reference document for all SLM-related matters, adopted at national level by all organizations (national and international), whose representatives have been met during the evaluation mission. It generates the main impact of the Project as well as its sustainability.

The European Union Delegation in Niamey, in the frame of its initiative “*Alliance mondiale contre le changement climatique*”, is funding an 11 million euro programme “*Projet d'Appui à la Résilience Climatique pour un Développement Agricole Durable*”, recognizing the importance of the CS/GDT as a reference for SLM/CC activities. In fact, reference to the CS/GDT was made in the call for proposal through which projects of NGOs were funded. These projects will be implemented by 5 different international NGOs at field level. The EUD programme also includes institutional support to Nigerien institutions, especially to the *Ministère du Environnement et Développement Durable*.

At operational level, regional SLM Working Groups have been established. Their establishment is a step forward towards a better monitoring for SLM/CC activities at field level. Their actual capacity could not be assessed during the in-country mission.

Conclusions and recommendations – Focus on Niger

The evaluation exercise has identified two main elements that negatively affected the Project:

- The lack of active inclusion of different national institutions in the formulation of relevant documents and policies. The consultants consulted them mainly as a source of information;
- The *Ministère de l'Agriculture et de l'Elevage* was not involved in the formulation of the two project proposals written in the frame of the Project.

The main recommendations for future interventions of the GM in the country are:

- Further capacity development is needed and at the core of the UNCCD implementation. Low capacities are recognized as a weakness by many actors at national level.
- Consultants should work together with the target institutions, accompanying them and explaining step by step the work they are called to carry out.
- The *Ministère de l'Agriculture et de l'Elevage* should be more involved. It is commonly recognized that fighting desertification is a priority for the country and for its rural population. SLM practices are of paramount importance for the food security of farming households and rural communities. A deeper and more fruitful collaboration between the three institutions (*Cabinet du Première Ministre, Secrétariat Exécutif, Conseil National de l'Environnement pour un Développement Durable -Ministère de l'Environnement du Développement Durable - Ministère de l'Agriculture et de l'Elevage*) dealing with SLM/CC should be envisaged in future projects.

Annex H – Project Evaluation – Focus on Palestine

Evaluation Methodology and Limitations

The Evaluation mission in Palestine was facilitated by the Local Consultant, Mrs. Mary Sayej, and took place from 16/07 to 23/07/2016, with five full working days spent by the Evaluator in the country.

The Evaluator used the following tools to gather the necessary data and information presented in this annex:

- Interviews

People met during the evaluation exercise either participated in, were aware of the Project or were involved in the development sector in Palestine.

- Review of relevant project documents.

The documents consulted to evaluate the Project in Palestine include the following:

1	Project Completion Report – Volume 2 – Countries Report, Palestine Section (December 2014)
2	The National Strategy, Action Programme and Integrated Financing Strategy to Combat Desertification in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (July 2012)
3	Integrating Climate Change Finance into Sustainable Land Management Investment Strategies in Palestine - Assessment Report (August 2013)
4	Project Proposal: Appropriate use of treated wastewater in agriculture in Jenin Governorate
5	Project Proposal: Livelihood Support and Income Diversification for Rural Communities in Highly Vulnerable Areas in Palestine

Note to the evaluation methodology in Palestine

The evaluation methodology in Palestine foresaw to include the RAC exercise but this turned out to be challenging. The local stakeholders, including the local consultant, had understood the project being evaluated to involve only four workshops and project proposal writing, leaving out several other activities that were carried out by UNDP as a partner to the GM. The answers provided to the RAC questionnaires reflected this limited scope, and the collective exchange on the outcomes was eventually set to focus similarly as well.

The resulting information, complemented by clarifications provided by UNDP Palestine and some further interviews, is reflected in the findings of the evaluation in Palestine.

Findings

Relevance

The Project was relevant. In addition to its immediate results, it contributed to increasing interest in Palestine to follow the UNCCD process and to meet the Convention objectives.

Effectiveness

ER1-SO1/2 (derived from the original ER1.3, ER2.2 and ER2.3)

National activities launched for strengthening of national capacities in the agricultural, rural and land use sectors and national consultative processes in place to discuss proposed methodologies and recommendations to develop appropriate regulatory and technical framework for climate change

ER1-SO1/2 in Palestine was achieved.

The Palestinian Authority (PA) requested the support of the GM of the UNCCD to develop and implement a national strategy to address climatic variability, particularly in the AFOLU sector.

Support was provided throughout all the implementation of the Project. The most important steps of this consultative process were:

- Sub-regional CC and SLM training workshop carried out for West Asia in Tunis, Tunisia (September 2012);
- Stakeholder consultation and meetings held in Ramallah (2012);
- Project workshop in Rome, Italy (March 2013);
- Discussions on project ideas and feasibility in Ramallah (July 2013); and
- National workshop in Ramallah, Palestine (June 2014).

During the Project Workshop held in Rome, a country-level work plan was developed for Palestine. Consequently, a consultant was hired and produced the "Assessment Report - Integrating Climate Change Finance into Sustainable Land Management Investment Strategies in Palestine" supported by the UNCCD focal point and in consultation with main stakeholders. The assessment was used as a reference tool throughout the Project implementation.

International and local development sector stakeholders recognized the need and benefits of investing in mitigation and adaptation measures in the AFOLU sector. The main stakeholders included FAO, UNDP, different stakeholders of the Palestinian Authority such as Ministries of Agriculture, Social Affairs, and Finance, Environment Quality Authority, the Palestinian Water Authority, NGOs, CSOs, academia, public and private sector actors at all levels.

The consultative process that led to the formulation of "The National Strategy, Action Plan and Integrated Financial Strategy to Combat Desertification in the Occupied Palestinian Territory" involved these same stakeholders.

SO1 (derived from the original SO1, ER1.1 and ER1.2)

CC related financing are included into national processes leading to investment frameworks supporting SLM

SO1 in Palestine was achieved.

The Project included CC-related financing into the process of the formulation of "The National Strategy, Action Plan and Integrated Financial Strategy to Combat Desertification in the Occupied Palestinian Territory" which is equivalent to the NAP/IFS, being Palestine not a signatory to the UNCCD at the time of Project implementation. It covers the following topics:

- Analysis of the linkages between land degradation and climate change;
- Identification of the most relevant policies and programmes, with a view to better position SLM and CC synergies, among other issues; and
- An analysis of current investment flows to CC mitigation and adaptation measures in the AFOLU sectors.

Another relevant document named "The Overview of Climate Change Financing Mechanisms in Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, the occupied Palestinian Territory, Syria and Yemen" was formulated.

SO2 (original SO2)

Build capacities to identify, formulate and implement financially feasible mitigation and adaptation projects in the agricultural, rural and land use sectors to benefit SLM & UNCCD implementation

SO2 in Palestine was achieved.

Two project proposals linking SLM and CC were formulated through negotiations with relevant Palestinian authorities, other stakeholders, and in close consultation with the GM. They are entitled as follows:

- Appropriate use of treated wastewater in agriculture in Jenin Governorate; and
- Livelihood Support and Income Diversification for Rural Communities in Highly Vulnerable Palestinian Areas.

The proposals were written by Project consultants together with the officials of EQA, the main recipient institution, the Environmental Quality Authority. This hands-on exercise was reported to have a significant effect on the proposal writing skills of those involved.

ER2-SO3 (original ER3.2)**South-south exchanges are promoted amongst the regions on ways and means to better access CC financing for SLM**

ER2-SO3 was not achieved in Palestine.

Political instability made it difficult for Palestinian officials to undertake any exchange visits during Project implementation.

SO3 (original SO3)**Make available expertise and knowledge on the applicability of current and/or emerging adaptation and mitigation financing mechanisms in developing countries to support the international UNCCD and UNFCCC policy dialogue**

SO3 in Palestine was achieved.

The focal points of the three Rio conventions collaborated during the implementation of the Project. They belonged to the same governmental institution, namely EQA.

Efficiency

The Project was managed efficiently. It attained its planned results. The evaluation mission did not highlight any significant element of inefficiency at country level.

Palestinian officials were not able to undertake any exchange visits. This occurrence is beyond the control of the Project management and could not be rewarded as an element of inefficiency.

Impact

The impact of the Project is related to capacity building, institutional strengthening and provision of policy advice.

EQA officials, the main institutional recipient of the intervention, identified the strengthening of their proposal writing skills as the main impact of the Project in terms of capacity development.

"The National Strategy, Action Plan and Integrated Financial Strategy to Combat Desertification in the Occupied Palestinian Territory" provides the foundation for future work on CC and SLM and is likely to lead to tangible results in the years to come.

The impact was significant in terms of institutional strengthening as the institutional arrangements to implement the strategy are operative.

Improvement to investment flows cannot be directly attributed to the Project, as none of the proposals developed through the support of the Project has achieved to attract funding.

Sustainability

The level of sustainability of Project achievements in Palestine can be considered good.

Institutional arrangements are in place, relevant stakeholders are engaged in a continuous dialogue. UNDP is negotiating with the donor community in Palestine to receive funds to move forward with the implementation of the strategy developed through the Project, in particular with the "Project 3: Establishment of Desertification and Drought Data Base and Monitoring System" which is included in the strategy.

Conclusions and recommendations – Focus on Palestine

The development sector in Palestine is characterized by a high degree of consultation amongst national institutions, UN agencies and NGOs, which contributed to the fact that the Project involved a variety of different stakeholders and produced the “The National Strategy, Action Plan and Integrated Financial Strategy to Combat Desertification in the Occupied Palestinian Territory”. The strategy is undoubtedly considered the main reference document to combat desertification and therefore to implement the convention at country level.

The project proposal writing process was acknowledged by relevant officials as a good opportunity to strengthen their capacity. On the other hand, no project proposal has qualified for funding.

The main recommendations for future interventions of the UNCCD GM in the country are:

- Keep involving several stakeholders, being this one of the strengths of the development sector in Palestine;
- Keep working on capacity development. Capacity building should be very focused in order to attain specific improvements as the general level of capacities is recognized to be high;
- Consultants should collaborate with target institutions, accompanying and backstopping them throughout the process they are called to carry out. The accompaniment is needed as to overcome critical phases during the learning process. For example, the two project proposals lacked fine adjustments to meet donor requirements, which were not done, and consequently the proposals did not lead to resources. These fine adjustments played a significant role in discouraging involved stakeholders to move ahead.

Annex I – Project Evaluation – Focus on Rwanda

Evaluation Methodology and Limitations

The Evaluation mission in Rwanda was facilitated by Mr. Bakundukize Dismas, the UNCCD Focal Point, and took place from 25/07 to 28/07/2016, with two full working days spent by the Evaluator in the country.

The Evaluator used the following tools to gather the necessary data and information presented in this annex:

- Interviews
People met during the evaluation exercise either participated in/were aware of the Project or were involved in the development sector in Rwanda.
- Review of relevant project documents

The documents consulted to evaluate the Project in Rwanda include the following:

1	Project Completion Report – Volume 2 – Countries Report, Rwanda Section
2	<i>Strategie de Financement Integree pour la Gestion Durable des Terres au Rwanda</i> (December 2010)
3	Rwanda Country Mapping (June 2011)
4	Validation Workshop of the "Integrated Financing Strategy for Sustainable Land Management (SLM) and Country Mapping on Integrating Climate Change Finance into SLM Investment Strategy in Rwanda"

Findings

Relevance

The Project is relevant. The Project raised interest among local and international stakeholders.

Financing SLM and CC-related activities were part of an international event called "International Knowledge Sharing Workshop – Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) and Global Change (GC), from Policy to Practise" organized by FAO and other international organizations. The event took place during the days the evaluation exercise was carried out in Rwanda and represented a confirmation that SLM/CC are key topics for the country development agenda with SLM being a central concept of FLR.

Effectiveness

ER1-SO1/2 (derived from the original ER1.3, ER2.2 and ER2.3)

National activities launched for strengthening of national capacities in the agricultural, rural and land use sectors and national consultative processes in place to discuss proposed methodologies and recommendations to develop appropriate regulatory and technical framework for climate change

ER1-SO1/2 in Rwanda was achieved.

The Project assessed and strengthened synergies between NAP/UNCCD and the national Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) investment plan as it was in an advanced status.

The following sub-regional capacity building initiatives were supported:

- A consultation workshop ("DIFS clinic"), organized with UNDP in January 2010 to discuss achievements obtained and bottlenecks identified during the process of elaboration of IFS and IIF for SLM;
- A sub-regional workshop on CC finance opportunities for SLM in Central Africa, organized by the Central African Forest Commission (*Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale - COMIFAC*)/Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) with support from the German International Cooperation (*Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit - GIZ*), UNDP, FAO and the GM in Kigali, Rwanda in January 2011; and

- Four meetings of the COMIFAC working group on UNCCD, with GM as co-facilitator, aiming at strengthening a harmonized implementation of the UNCCD in the sub-region.

These initiatives followed an event which took place in May 2009, prior to the launch of the Project: a capacity enhancement workshop on “Designing Integrated Financing Strategies (DIFS)” organized by the GM for Central African countries.

The GM focused its support on the elaboration and implementation of a consolidated national SLM road map. At the beginning this approach on SLM was not in place as the NAP/UNCCD elaboration process was coordinated by the Ministry of Natural Resources while the Ministry of Agriculture was working to develop a stand-alone SLM action plan. With the support of the Project, these two parallel processes were harmonized and both Ministries jointly supported the national SLM policies as defined in the NAP/UNCCD.

The GM further organized national workshops and provincial consultation workshops in the context of the NAP/UNCCD, IFS/SLM and CC/SLM studies to better formulate SLM-related policies, to understand the opportunities for resource mobilization for SLM, including CC finance, and to mainstream SLM into national policy processes.

The draft NAP/UNCCD was already validated by all stakeholders in November 2009, prior to Project implementation, following the DIFS training carried out in May 2009. In the framework of the official adoption of the document by the Government, the GM supported the Ministry of Forestry and Mining to update the validated NAP/UNCCD in order to include the new national institutional context and to initiate the alignment of the NAP/UNCCD to the ten year Strategy. At the time of the evaluation mission this exercise was not yet finalized, however, it is planned to be completed soon through the support of the GEF/United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). In addition, the GM supported a study on the proposed structure and working modalities of a SLM/UNCCD coordination mechanism.

SO1 (derived from the original SO1, ER1.1 and ER1.2)

CC-related financing is included into national processes leading to investment frameworks supporting SLM

SO1 in Rwanda was achieved.

The Project included CC-related financing into the IFS and IIF formulation processes.

The GM supported SLM country assessments within the context of the NAP/UNCCD elaboration process. National assessments were carried out in collaboration with UNDP, on the following three main topics: the status and future policy priorities on land degradation and desertification; the status of financial flows related to SLM; and the CC financing opportunities for SLM.

The assessments showed the obstacles various SLM-related sectors face, including the challenges for coordination among SLM stakeholders, the mainstreaming of tools and mechanisms to combat desertification, land degradation and drought into national development policies and strategies, and the harmonization of the interventions of the sectoral ministries of environment, agriculture and rural development.

The Rwandan NAP/UNCCD identifies four specific objectives divided into 12 priority domains of intervention which materialised from the regional and national dialogue during the elaboration phase.

The four specific objectives are:

- The development of administration and partner capacities to ensure sustainable management and rational use of natural resources;
- The restoration of all areas affected by desertification and land degradation;
- The support to the implementation of existing legislation and preparation of additional laws addressing natural resources management; and
- The identification and implementation of alternative solutions to mitigate degradation of natural resources.

The IFS for SLM “*Stratégie de Financement Intégrée pour la Gestion Durable des Terres au Rwanda*” was validated in May 2011. It includes:

- The analysis of the national context in terms of environmental, political, legal, institutional and financial issues, including a description of the main barriers;
- The definition of the necessary measures for establishing an enabling framework, allowing the institutionalization of a coordination mechanism; the establishment of partnership; and the mainstreaming of the principles of SLM into national and local policies;
- The proposal of measures to be implemented to mobilize funds from domestic, external and innovative sources;
- The formulation of an IFS implementation plan;
- The framework for resource mobilization monitoring and evaluation in the medium- and long-term.

For the mobilization of CC finance for SLM, a study on “Integrating Climate Change Finance into SLM Investment Strategies” was commissioned by the Project and was validated in May 2012. The study report includes:

- The identification of policies and programmes addressing CC and land degradation in Rwanda.
- A mapping of investment flows to CC mitigation and adaptation projects in the AFOLU sectors in Rwanda;
- The identification of specific opportunities and barriers to funding mitigation and adaptation projects in Rwanda;
- The analysis of methods to overcome barriers to implementation of mitigation and adaptation activities.
- The identification of specific roles that the GM can play to help increase Rwanda's access to CC financing.

During the validation workshop participants recommended to create a national task force to better coordinate efforts and initiatives in the area of SLM and CC. The task force was not yet in place during the evaluation mission.

SO2 (original SO2)

Build capacities to identify, formulate and implement financially feasible mitigation and adaptation projects in the agricultural, rural and land use sectors to benefit SLM & UNCCD implementation

SO2 in Rwanda was formally achieved.

The project “Increased resilience through improved soil erosion control and soil fertility enhancement in Karongi District” was formulated in 2014.

The GM also supported the formulation of a CC/SLM 4-year project on “Soil erosion control and soil fertility enhancement in Rwanda” aiming at contributing to food security through SLM while improving rural communities’ livelihoods. It addresses Rwanda's priorities for sustainable development and accelerated growth by combining SLM and CC. The total budget is USD 110,269,000 and the expected outcomes are:

- Soil erosion is controlled on previously degraded land;
- Agricultural productivity and production is enhanced; and
- Farmers' skills and awareness on soil erosion control, soil fertility and entrepreneurship are increased.

The project proposal, which was expected to be funded by the Government of Rwanda with the support of development partners, built on and highlighted success stories related to SLM practises in the country.

Although formally achieved, the level of substantial achievement of the outcome is debatable. The proposal formulation process was led by consultants; national stakeholders were only consulted as source of information. The project proposals were not available for consultation at the time of the evaluation.

ER2-SO3 (original ER3.2)**South-south exchanges are promoted amongst the regions on ways and means to better access CC financing for SLM**

ER2-SO3 was achieved.

An exchange visit to Senegal was organized but the evaluation exercise could not find any source of information on this topic. The exchange visit is only briefly noted in the final project report.

SO3 (original SO3)**Make available expertise and knowledge on the applicability of current and/or emerging adaptation and mitigation financing mechanisms in developing countries to support the international UNCCD and UNFCCC policy dialogue**

A working group on SLM, involving representatives from different Rwandan governmental institutions, supported the elaboration of the IFS. The Focal Points of UNCCD, UNFCCC and CBD collaborated in the working group. Financing mechanisms identified in the IFS "*Stratégie de Financement Intégrée pour la Gestion Durable des Terres au Rwanda*" are relevant for the three Rio conventions.

Efficiency

The Project was managed efficiently. It attained all its planned results.

Impact

The Project in Rwanda was led by national and international consultants, which limited the extent of (lasting) capacity development of national and local stakeholders.

The IFS represented the main framework for generating impact through the Project. However, at the time of the evaluation, the document was available only as hardcopy at the office of the UNCCD Focal Point and therefore its usefulness and impact cannot be considered significant. The softcopy consulted during the evaluation was not the final version, as it contains comments and corrections.

Sustainability

The outcomes of the Project are not sustainable.

The project proposals developed were not submitted to any donor for funding. Moreover, they were not available for consultation at the time of the evaluation.

The IFS is only available as a hardcopy at the office of the UNCCD Focal Point. The fact that nobody has yet transcribed it into an electronic format is self-explanatory both in terms of impact and sustainability of the initiative under evaluation.

Additionally, all other reports/documents developed in the frame of the Project were not available at the time of the evaluation.

The SLM Task Force suggested to be created in the workshop held in May 2012 has not been formed even though a working group on SLM, involving representatives from the Ministry of Environment, the Department of Forestry of the Ministry of Environment, the Rwanda Environment Authority, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Rwanda Agriculture Development Agency, the National Land Centre, and the Ministry of Finance supported the elaboration of the IFS.

Conclusions and recommendations – Focus on Rwanda

In Rwanda, the planned outputs of the Project were delivered but evidence of the achievement of any significant policy or behavioural change or improvement in investment flows (outcomes and general objective) is lacking.

The main recommendations for future interventions of the GM in the country are:

- The IFS should be manually transcribed into an electronic format; and
- Consultants should collaborate with target institutions, accompanying them and clarifying step by step the processes they are called to follow. Capacity development, indeed, is at the core of the UNCCD implementation.

Annex J – Project Evaluation – Focus on Senegal

Evaluation Methodology and Limitations

The Evaluation mission in Senegal was facilitated by the Local Consultant, Mr. Ndiawar Dieng, and took place from 31/07 to 07/08/2016, with five full working days spent by the Evaluator in the country.

The Evaluator used the following tools to gather the necessary data and information presented in this annex:

Interviews

People met during the evaluation exercise either participated in or were aware of the Project or were involved in the development sector in Senegal.

Review of relevant project documents

The documents consulted to evaluate the Project in Senegal include the following:

1	Project Completion Report – Volume 2 – Countries Report, Senegal Section
2	<i>Etude Stratégique de la Mobilisation des Sources Potentielles de Financement de la Gestion Durable des Terres au Sénégal – Rapport Final – Novembre 2014</i>
3	<i>Protocole Mécanisme Mondial/UICN-Sénégal – Rapport Technique</i>
4	<i>Plan d'Action National de Lutte contre la Désertification et de Gestion Durables des Terres - Version provisoire Juin 2014</i>
5	<i>Projet Mécanisme mondial/UICN-Sénégal – Projets prioritaires intégrés GDT</i>
6	<i>Cadre National d'Investissement Stratégique pour la Gestion Durable des Terres – Septembre 2014</i>

- Evaluation workshop

The evaluation methodology in Senegal foresaw to include the RAC exercise but this turned out to be challenging. Instead of conducting the in-depth interviews of Project stakeholders, the local consultant distributed questionnaires to them, which did not result in such accurate and open stakeholder feedback that could have been gained by interviews. Furthermore, in translating the questions in French, the local consultant explicitly related them to Project outcomes instead of outputs.

Only five questionnaires were completed, thus their number, as well as the quality of information provided, was not adequate to conduct a proper RAC workshop by which the correlation of the capacity development outputs with the capacity development outcomes could have been clarified. . Instead, a workshop aiming at finding consensus on the effect of the Project in terms of capacity development was carried out. The paragraph "Effectiveness" reports the findings of the workshop.

Findings

Relevance

SLM is a high political priority. Senegal is engaged in the *Comité permanent inter-Etats de Lutte contre la Sécheresse dans le Sahel (CILSS)* since 1973, including other 12 countries (Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Togo, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Niger, and Cape Verde), and is a Party to the UNCCD.

The formulation of the CNIS/GDT, with the inclusion of the IFS, was acknowledged by all stakeholders met during the evaluation mission as an important step to move towards the achievement of land degradation neutrality, which is one of the targets under the Sustainable Development Goals; and ultimately to a better situation in terms of food security at country level.

Effectiveness

ER1-SO1/2 (derived from the original ER1.3, ER2.2 and ER2.3)

National activities launched for strengthening of national capacities in the agricultural, rural and land use sectors and national consultative processes in place to discuss proposed methodologies and recommendations to develop appropriate regulatory and technical framework for climate change

ER1-SO1/2 in Senegal was achieved.

The Project was implemented in cooperation with the TerrAfrica initiative, coordinated by the *Institut National de Pédologie* with support from the World Bank (WB). A first version of the CNIS/GDT (2012-2026) was elaborated through a TerrAfrica SLM project supported by GEF and the WB but without a strong involvement of stakeholders in the field of environment.

The Project activities were conducted in the framework of the implementation of the UNCCD, in particular through the implementation of the NAP/UNCCD in line with the SNDES and the PSE and its priority action plan 2014-2018. A variety of stakeholders were involved in the IFS process.

A workshop on knowledge exchange and linkages between the NAP/UNCCD and the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) was held on 20 - 21 June 2013 in Thies, Senegal, with the participation of stakeholders from various sectoral ministries, civil society and local communities. The participants recommended to identify synergies and to define the complementarities between the two Conventions, UNFCCC and UNCCD, in order to promote an effective and efficient implementation of the NAP and NAPA.

The GM supported a workshop (4 -05 March 2013) to decide on the main steps for the elaboration of IFS as part of CNIS/GDT, including the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the IFS and the institutional arrangements to be put in place.

Moreover, the GM carried out a national level capacity building initiative in Senegal by supporting the participation of national stakeholders in several sub-regional capacity enhancement initiatives.

The Project contributed to improvement of the framework conditions through the enhanced cooperation among SLM stakeholders, in particular through the establishment of the SLM Working Group, which developed two CC/SLM projects.

In addition, the SLM Working Group also proposed activities to further integrate CC financing into SLM strategies in Senegal, including:

- Support the dynamic implementation of the NAPA.
- Improve communication and cooperation among the different institutional and private stakeholders involved in UNCCD/UNFCCC-related policies.
- Support the establishment of a mechanism favouring the identification of financial resources for mitigation and adaptation projects.

SO1 (derived from the original SO1, ER1.1 and ER1.2)

CC related financing are included into national processes leading to investment frameworks supporting SLM

SO1 in Senegal was achieved.

The Project included CC-related financing into TerrAfrica CSIF process (including Aid for Trade modalities) which led to the formulation of the "*Cadre National d'Investissement Stratégique pour la Gestion Durable des Terres (CNIS/GDT)*", adopted in October 2014. It represents the national strategy incorporating the impact of CC and land degradation. It was based on two products developed by the Project:

- A preliminary assessment of the opportunities to mobilize Aid for Trade finance for SLM, carried out in May 2011. The report assesses the status of Aid for Trade implementation in Senegal, describes the activities supported by the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) in the country,

identifies trade sector priorities related to SLM, and proposes next steps for the mobilization of Aid for Trade finance in Senegal.

- The study “Integrating Climate Change Finance into SLM Investment Strategies - Senegal Country Mapping”, which was carried out in August 2011 by a consultancy company and aimed to map CC financial resource opportunities in support of SLM. The specific objectives of the study were to:
 - Define public policies and programs that address CC and land degradation in Senegal;
 - Map the flow of current investments in CC mitigation and adaptation projects to agriculture, rural areas and land allocation in Senegal;
 - Register opportunities and specific obstacles related to the financing of mitigation and adaptation projects in Senegal;
 - Analyze how the barriers to implementation of mitigation and adaptation activities can be overcome and define the specific responsibilities to be assumed by the Government of Senegal to facilitate access by the country to CC-related funding.

SO2 (original SO2)

Build capacities to identify, formulate and implement financially feasible mitigation and adaptation projects in the agricultural, rural and land use sectors to benefit SLM & UNCCD implementation

SO2 in Senegal was formally achieved.

The SLM Working Group developed two CC/SLM projects aiming at addressing CC through promoting SLM practises:

- *Projet de restauration des bases productives et de valorisation des terres salées pour la sécurité alimentaire au Sénégal*
- *Projet d'amélioration de la GDT pour la résilience des communautés face aux changements climatiques*

The evaluation exercise identified the capacities built/strengthened by the Project. The outcomes of the workshop during which a consensus exercise on capacity development was carried out, are exposed in the five categories of capacity development as defined by the RAC methodology.

Ability to Survive and Act

The *Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable* is now more capable to engage in programmes that have a focus on CC and SLM. The evidence of such improved capacity is given by the elaboration of the national document on Land Degradation Neutrality which was developed in 2015 and presented in Cancun, Mexico in the frame of the UNCCD Land Degradation Neutrality Project.

Ability to Achieve Results

There is no evidence that such ability has been reinforced by the Project.

The collective exercise did not provide actual evidence on how the Project could have affected the capacity of the Ministry to perform better at field level or policy level. However, there was a general agreement that the achievements of the Project, namely the CNIS/SLM and the IFS, constitute a precious element for better institutional performances.

Networking

The participatory approach, which characterized the implementation process of the Project, facilitated the validation of CNIS-GDT by the Government. The overall effect of this approach is that environmental dimensions are/should always be taken into consideration in every ministry.

The *Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable* and the *Ministère de l'Agriculture et de l'Équipement Rural* worked together on the definition of national indicators related to SLM.

Self-renovation

The Project allowed for a capitalization of the good SLM practises developed at national level.

Coherence

There is no claim that this ability has been reinforced by the Project.

The work done by the *Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable* represented an effort of coherence, which ultimately resulted in the alignment of the NAP to the UNCCD 10-year implementation plan.

ER2-SO3 (original ER3.2)

South-south exchanges are promoted amongst the regions on ways and means to better access CC financing for SLM

ER2-SO3 in Senegal was achieved.

Senegal organized a visit to Mali to learn from the implementation of the TerrAfrica Country Strategic Investment Framework (CSIF) on SLM.

SO3 (original SO3)

Make available expertise and knowledge on the applicability of current and/or emerging adaptation and mitigation financing mechanisms in developing countries to support the international UNCCD and UNFCCC policy dialogue

SO3 in Senegal was achieved.

A dialogue between UNCCD and UNFCCC Focal Points took place during the consultative process that led to the formulation of the IFS and the two projects developed by the SLM Working Group.

Efficiency

The Project was implemented with the support of Professor Malick Sane, who contributed as consultant an ad-hoc study for the development of the IFS.

The *Laboratoire de Recherche et de Transformation Economique et Social de la Université Cheick Anta Diop de Dakar*, and IUCN Senegal provided their expertise to the Project (as consultants) and led the Project implementation together with the *Direction de Eaux, Forêts, Chasses et de la Conservation de Sols du Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable*. This approach facilitated a high level of participation of stakeholders at national level and also ensured a high degree of ownership. The process, indeed, was exclusively managed by national stakeholders building on existing capacities.

The activities were monitored by the SLM Working Group which was formed during the implementation of the Project. The Group consisted of stakeholders belonging to different national ministries. Monitoring activities were carried out through the collective action that characterized the process, leading to the formulation of the CNIS/GDT, with the inclusion of the IFS.

Finally, it is important to highlight that activities built on a SLM project supported by the Global Environment Facility and the World Bank in the frame of the TerrAfrica initiative, implemented by the *Institut National de Pedologie du Ministère de l'Agriculture* which has developed the first version of the CNIS/GDT.

Impact

The Project had three major impacts which are in strict relation to the achievement of Project outcomes:

- The formulation of the CNIS/GDT, with the inclusion of the IFS, and the alignment of the NAP to the UNCCD 10-year strategy represent the main impact in terms of policy support. They are the reference documents for SLM at country level; they are endorsed by the Government and

known by the main stakeholders, both national and international. CC and biodiversity issues related to SLM are included in these documents and elements for synergies are highlighted.

- The Project introduced a significant change in the way environmental issues are discussed at governmental level. The CC and SLM concerns have been brought to the attention of other ministries through a participative and inclusive approach. In particular, the *Ministère de l'Economie, des Finances et du Plan* was deeply involved and now takes into account CC/SLM concerns whenever it has to deal with project approvals. This is considered an important achievement of the Project as the Ministry is in charge of the PSE (*Programme Senegal Emergent 2014-18*) and the annual budget allocation (*Allocation Budgétaire Annuel*).
- The "*Projet de restauration des bases productives et de valorisation des terres salées pour la sécurité alimentaire au Sénégal*", written during the implementation of the Project, was approved by the Green Climate Fund. It represents factual evidence of progress towards the general objective of the Project "to ensure sustained adequate investment flows in sustainable land management (SLM) for benefiting the rural livelihoods of populations living in fragile and/or degraded landscapes, through increasing co-financing from climate change financing mechanisms".

FAO, with GEF funds and in partnership with the *Ministère de l'Agriculture et de l'Équipement Rural*, will implement a project supporting the Government of Senegal to implement the CNIS/GDT. The title of the project is "*Intégration de la résilience climatique dans la production agro-pastorale pour la sécurité alimentaire dans les zones Rurales vulnérables à travers l'approche des champs-école paysans*". This FAO-GEF project can be considered an impact of the Project as it is based on the CNIS/GDT, it will contribute to the implementation of the UNCCD at country level, and ultimately aim at benefiting the rural livelihoods of populations living in fragile and/or degraded landscapes.

Sustainability

At national level the main stakeholders have been consulted since the outset of the Project. The lead institution was the *Direction des Eaux et Forêts*. Other institutions played a major role, notably the *Institut Nationale de Pédologie* managing the TerrAfrica SLM project supported by Global Environment Facility and the World Bank. The CNIS/GDT with the formulation of the IFS is widely recognized by main stakeholders, national and international, as reference documents for SLM at country level. The *Ministère de l'Economie, des Finances et du Plan* was involved in its formulation and recognized the value of the CNIS/GDT and its importance for all ministries at country level, with CC and SLM being trans-sectorial issues.

An increase of 5% per year of land extension sustainably managed is a conditionality of the Budget Support (2015 - 2017) of the European Delegation in Dakar to the Government of Senegal through the 11^{ème} *Fond Européen de Développement (FED) - Contrat de Réforme Sectorielle Agriculture Durable et Sécurité Alimentaire*, which is worth 60 million Euro. It represents a further element of sustainability as it represents a clear engagement of the Government towards SLM issues, and ultimately to the UNCCD.

Conclusions and recommendations

The evaluation exercise identified the project proposal writing process as a good practice. The process entailed a deep involvement of national stakeholders. In a first phase, 15 project ideas were formulated, which eventually were reduced to three. Finally, a small working group finalized two proposals of which one was submitted to the Green Climate Fund. This approach allowed the inclusion of specific interests of different institutions while ensuring technical robustness and coherence, which ultimately matched with the requirements for funding. It was a detailed process during which the main technical features and institutional interests were included and an occasion to 'learning by doing' for all participants.

The level of ownership for the products of the Project was very high as the Project followed a real participatory approach during all its implementation.

The main recommendation for future interventions of the UNCCD GM in the country is to follow the same approach as it revealed to be effective and very much appreciated by all stakeholders.

Annex K – Project Evaluation – Focus on Tanzania

Evaluation Methodology and Limitations

The Evaluator utilized the following reports to inform the evaluation of activities carried out in Tanzania:

1	Project Completion Report – Volume 2 – Countries Report, Tanzania Section
2	Proceedings of the validation workshop for the formulation of integrated finance strategy for sustainable land management - 15–18 November, 2011
3	Sustainable land management and climate change finance in Tanzania. National-level assessment report – October 2010

Findings

Relevance

Tanzania is a UNCCD Country Party since 1999 and SLM is consequently a political priority at country level.

Effectiveness

ER1–SO1/2 (derived from the original ER1.3, ER2.2 and ER2.3)

National activities launched for strengthening of national capacities in the agricultural, rural and land use sectors and national consultative processes in place to discuss proposed methodologies and recommendations to develop appropriate regulatory and technical framework for climate change

ER1–SO1/2 in Tanzania was achieved.

The IFS and IIF formulation processes marked the beginning of a national process for strengthening mitigation and adaptation activities and made the process a first in Tanzania.

With co-funding from Denmark, the GM organized two sub-regional capacity building and knowledge exchange workshops on CC finance and SLM for stakeholders from different disciplines:

- In collaboration with the COMESA Secretariat, UNDP and Eco-securities Ltd, the GM organized a sub-regional workshop in Lusaka, Zambia on 4-8 June 2012. Six government officials and civil society representatives from Tanzania participated. The presentations made and discussions highlighted the differences between adaptation and mitigation measures in the AFOLU sectors. Practical exercises designed and facilitated by Eco-securities enabled participants to calculate carbon credits under different mitigation scenarios and distinguished between mitigation and adaptation measures.
- A sub-regional capacity building workshop on NAP alignment was held in Maseru, Lesotho on 12-14 February 2013. The benefits of investing in mitigation and adaptation measures in the AFOLU sectors was discussed and country examples presented in the context of mobilizing finance from climate change sources for UNCCD implementation.

At country level, the DIFS workshop held in Dar es Salaam in May 2010 to introduce the Project to stakeholders discussed different adaptation and mitigation measures. In addition, the two validation workshops held in Bagamoyo (in November 2011 and February 2014) provided another opportunity to exchange knowledge on adaptation and mitigation measures in the AFOLU sectors.

Through these knowledge exchange workshops various stakeholders were made aware of the need and benefits of investing in mitigation and adaptation measures in the AFOLU sectors.

The DIFS workshop paved the way for the elaboration of the IIF and an accompanying IFS through a national consultative process. A road map was agreed upon, roles and responsibilities were assigned and the required analytical/diagnostic work to inform the IIF/IFS formulation was determined. Three workshops were eventually organized at various stages of Project implementation to validate results and facilitate exchange of ideas on priorities and emerging recommendations.

SO1 (derived from the original SO1, ER1.1 and ER1.2)

CC-related financing is included into national processes leading to investment frameworks supporting SLM

SO1 in Tanzania was achieved.

The Project included CC-related financing into the IFS and IIF formulation processes (including Aide for Trade modalities).

The Project supported the elaboration of an IIF and accompanying IFS. The IIF constitutes a road map of prioritized investments needed for the attainment of SLM, CC adaptation and mitigation actions. CC finance is anticipated by the IFS as an innovative financial mechanisms that may be used either as an alternative or complementary to Official Development Assistance (ODA).

The IIF/IFS formulation benefited from a number of diagnostic studies and was validated in a workshop held in Bagamoyo in February 2014. The workshop was attended by a multidisciplinary team of about 35 experts from government (ministries of Agriculture, Finance, Trade and Industry, Vice President Office, etc.), UNDP, non-governmental organization, private sector, and others. Participants emphasized the need for synergistic implementation of the UNFCCC/NAPA and the UNCCD/NAP.

SO2 (original SO2)

Build capacities to identify, formulate and implement financially feasible mitigation and adaptation projects in the agricultural, rural and land use sectors to benefit SLM & UNCCD implementation

SO2 in Tanzania was achieved.

An agreement with the Center for Climate Change Studies of the University of Dar es Salaam enabled a tailor-made short-term training programme for key stakeholders on resource mobilization and the project cycle in October 2014. Participants, including the UNCCD and UNFCCC focal points, received hands-on training on the formulation of innovative projects as a modality for the implementation of the Rio conventions. A total of 20 individuals were trained in resource mobilization project identification and formulation.

Based on the training and the series of validation workshops that took place, participants came up with a number of priority projects, two of which were developed in detail as part of the hands-on training at the University of Dar es Salaam. The projects were named:

- Promoting Sustainable Land Management in the Dodoma, Singida and Manyara Regions through the Development of an Onion Value Chain
- Promoting Sustainable Land Management in the Dodoma Region through the Development of a Grape Value Chain

ER2-SO3 (original ER3.2)

South-south exchanges are promoted amongst the regions on ways and means to better access CC financing for SLM

ER2-SO3 in Tanzania was achieved.

National officials of Tanzania attended a knowledge exchange and learning initiative in Lesotho (February, 2014). The benefits of investing in mitigation and adaptation measures in the AFOLU sectors were discussed and country examples presented in the context of mobilizing finance from CC sources for UNCCD implementation.

SO3 (original SO3)

Make available expertise and knowledge on the applicability of current and/or emerging adaptation and mitigation financing mechanisms in developing countries to support the international UNCCD and UNFCCC policy dialogue

SO3 in Tanzania was achieved.

Making available expertise and knowledge on the applicability of current and/or emerging adaptation and mitigation financing mechanisms in developing countries was the core of Project implementation in Tanzania. The UNCCD and UNFCCC dialogue was at the center of the work done throughout the entire Project.

Efficiency

Efficiency of Project implementation could not be assessed in a comprehensive manner as the quantity of information available during the evaluation exercise was deemed insufficient. However, the utilization of co-funding for the implementation of two sub-regional capacity building and knowledge exchange workshops on CC finance and SLM can be regarded as a good practice in terms of efficiency.

Impact

The project promoted a discussion leading to a better understanding by relevant national stakeholders for the inter-connections between CC, land degradation and desertification, and the need to address them with synergistic approaches and through the implementation of coherent strategies. Furthermore, it contributed to fill up the knowledge gap on the existing climate financial mechanisms at the international level.

Sustainability

The formulation of the IFS forms the groundwork for future interventions. Other elements of sustainability could not be identified during the evaluation exercise.

Conclusions and Recommendations – Focus on Tanzania

No conclusions or recommendations are made specifically on Tanzania.