Concept Note

Ouémé climate-resilience initiative (OCRI)

Benin | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

21 December 2017
Concept Note

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is seeking high-quality projects or programmes.

The Accredited Entity is encouraged to submit a concept note, in consultation with the National Designated Authority, to present a project or programme idea and receive early feedback and recommendation.

Project/Programme Title: Ouémé climate-resilience initiative (OCRI)

Country(ies): BENIN

National Designated Authority(ies) (NDA): Pr. Martin Pépin Aina, General Director for Environment and Climate, Ministry of the Living Environment and Sustainable Development

Accredited Entity(ies) (AE): Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Date of first submission/version number: [2017-12-20] [V.1]

Date of current submission/version number: [YYYY-MM-DD] [V.0]
### A. Project / Programme Information (max. 1 page)

#### A.1. Project or programme
- ☒ Project
- ☐ Programme

#### A.2. Public or private sector
- ☒ Public sector
- ☐ Private sector

#### A.3. Is the CN submitted in response to an RFP?
- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

If yes, specify the RFP:

#### A.4. Confidentiality
- ☐ Confidential
- ☒ Not confidential

#### A.5. Indicate the result areas for the project/programme

**Mitigation**: Reduced emissions from:
- ☐ Energy access and power generation
- ☐ Low emission transport
- ☐ Buildings, cities and industries and appliances
- ☒ Forestry and land use

**Adaptation**: Increased resilience of:
- ☒ Most vulnerable people and communities
- ☒ Health and well-being, and food and water security
- ☐ Infrastructure and built environment
- ☒ Ecosystem and ecosystem services

#### A.6. Estimated mitigation impact (tCO2eq over lifespan)
- 730,000 tCO2 eq over 20 years

#### A.7. Estimated adaptation impact (number of direct beneficiaries and percent of population)
- 100,000 Direct and 530,000 indirect bénéficiaires

#### A.8. Indicative total project cost (GCF + co-finance)
- Amount: USD 50 Millions

#### A.9. Indicative GCF funding requested
- Amount: USD _38 Millions

#### A.10. Mark the type of financial instrument requested for the GCF funding
- ☒ Grant
- ☐ Reimbursable grant
- ☐ Guarantees
- ☐ Equity
- ☐ Subordinated loan
- ☐ Senior Loan
- ☐ Other: specify___________________

#### A.11. Estimated duration of project/ programme:
- a) disbursement period:
- b) repayment period, if applicable:

#### A.12. Estimated project/ Programme lifespan
- 5 years

#### A.13. Is funding from the Project Preparation Facility requested?
- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No

Other support received ☐ If so, by who:

#### A.14. ESS category
- ☒ A or I-1
- ☐ B or I-2
- ☐ C or I-3

#### A.15. Is the CN aligned with your accreditation standard?
- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

#### A.16. Has the CN been shared with the NDA?
- Yes ☒ No ☐

#### A.17. AMA signed (if submitted by AE)
- Yes ☒ No ☐

If no, specify the status of AMA negotiations and expected date of signing:

#### A.18. Is the CN included in the Entity Work Programme?
- Yes ☒ No ☐

#### A.19. Project/Programme rationale, objectives and approach of programme/project (max 100 words)

Brief summary of the problem statement and climate rationale, objective and selected implementation approach, including the executing entity(ies) and other implementing partners.

The Ouémé watershed in Benin, with an area of 47,218 sq Km, supports the livelihoods of about 6.7 million people mostly smallholder producers dedicated to agriculture, fishing, livestock and forestry production. Impacts of climate change are already visible and remarkable in the watershed as flash floods, droughts and shifting seasons in the last decades have disrupted ecosystems and affected people’s livelihoods threatening their food, land and water security and increasing climate vulnerability of agro-ecosystems and rural communities. The objective of the project is to increase resilience of smallholder farmers across Ouémé watershed through improvement of their productivity and...
implementation of soil, land and water adaptation and mitigation measures, to enable the transition towards sustainable and climate-resilient agro-ecosystems and rural communities. The project will support the establishment of a watershed-based multi-stakeholder platform to promote the adoption and dissemination of adaptation and mitigation activities in line with the Ouémé Master Management Plan and the National Determined Contribution. The platform will strengthen governance and promote public-private partnerships to restore watershed productivity and diversification of livelihoods, with the objective of enhancing farm and landscape climate-resiliency. Capacity development, community-based monitoring and knowledge transfer will ensure the scaling-up, replication and institutionalization of the adaptation and mitigation measures.

B. Project / Programme details (max. 8 pages)

B.1. Context and Baseline (max. 2 pages)

The Republic of Benin is located in the coastal savanna of the Guinea Gulf in Western Africa. It covers an area of 114,763 Km² and has a population of 11,167,000 inhabitants². Benin is a Least Developed Country (LDC) and has been ranked among the poorest countries in the world in the United Nations Human Development Index (167th out of 188) in 2016. Benin is very vulnerable to climate change and climate variability owing to the country’s sensitivity and exposure to climatic hazards and its overall low adaptive capacity, particularly evident in the agricultural sector. Benin ranks 155 out of 181 countries in the ND-GAIN index (2017). The high vulnerability and low readiness scores places Benin in the upper-left quadrant of the ND-GAIN Matrix. Benin is the 19th most vulnerable and the 45th least ready country. Also, Benin is placed 151st out of 182 positions on the CRI Index (CRI Index Score: 136) in 2017. According to Burke, Hsiang, and Miguel (2015)³, there is 100 percent likelihood that climate change will cause Benin losses of more than 50 percent of the GDP per capita by 2100. Benin has both a great need for investment and innovations to improve readiness as well as a great urgency for action.

Agriculture and natural resources in the Ouémé Watershed

The territory of Benin is composed by four main hydrographic zones: Ouémé, Mono, Volta, Niger. The Ouémé river is the largest watercourse in Benin and is the second richest watershed after the Nile. Owing to its importance, the Government of Benin developed the first ever water management plan for Ouémé watershed in 2013 and created the Ouémé Basin Agency in 2015 to be in charge of its implementation. The agricultural sector employs approximately 30 to 70 percent of the watershed population. The major food crops are sorghum, millet, maize, rice, cassava, yam, fonio, and cowpea. Sweet potato and vegetable crops, whilst the major cash crops are seed, cotton and cashew nuts. Cotton is the only small cash crop available to small-scale farmers, constituting 40 percent of the country’s GDP and over 80 percent of export revenues. Agricultural production is mainly rain-fed and subsistence smallholder farming. Irrigation is scattered and limited to small-scale vegetable markets and former state farms. Slash and burn, uncontrolled grazing and transhumance in concurrence with charcoal production deplete natural resources, increase GHG emissions and reduce the resiliency capacity of the entire watershed. The annual loss of forest cover in the basin is estimated at 33,162 ha.

Climate hazards and impacts in the Ouémé Watershed

Climate models project an increase in the mean annual maximum temperature for the whole country, ranging from slight (1–1.5°C) to substantial (2.5–3.0°C) changes relative to 2000. The mean annual temperature is projected to increase by 1.0 to 3.0°C by the 2060s, and 1.5 to 5.1°C by the 2090s. In addition, sea level rise due to climate change is expected to intensify, with potential significant impacts in terms of coastal erosion, floods, and storm waves. It is worth noting that income and population density is higher in coastal areas (between 250 and 1000 p/km² – 50 percent of the population) than in other parts of Benin (from 0 to 250 p/km²). Climate change modelling projections for the Ouémé watershed point indicate a rise in mean daily temperatures, accompanied by a reduction of the mean monthly flows of the river. This reduction will be observed both in the dry and in the rainy seasons, probably resulting in a diminution in economic activity and a decrease in water availability in the Ouémé catchment, as well as a likely increase in frequency of extreme events such as drought and flash floods. In Ouémé, recurrent episodes of drought have been registered from the 1970s to the 1990s. During the last twenty years alternate episodes of droughts, heavy rains and shifting agricultural seasons have been identified as the major climatic

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³ GAIN index summarizes a country’s vulnerability to climate change and other global challenges in combination with readiness to improve resilience. http://index.gain.org/country/benin
⁴ https://germanwatch.org/en/download/16411.pdf The Global Climate Risk Index 2017 analyses to what extent countries have been affected by the impacts of weather-related loss events (storms, floods, heat waves etc.)
⁶ 1 GAIN index summarizes a country’s vulnerability to climate change and other global challenges in combination with readiness to improve resilience. http://index.gain.org/country/benin
⁷ https://germanwatch.org/en/download/16411.pdf The Global Climate Risk Index 2017 analyses to what extent countries have been affected by the impacts of weather-related loss events (storms, floods, heat waves etc.)
¹⁰ Jalloh et al. (2013) West African Agriculture and Climate Change, A Comprehensive Analysis, IFPRI
risks in the upper and middle part of the watershed (PANA, 2008). In the lower valley, the same risks are amplified by recurrent floods (Aguégué, Adjohoun), degradation of riverbanks, overflow or reduction of water flow, water scarcity, and early drying up of rivers.

The projected impacts of climate hazards observed in the upper and middle valleys are likely to reduce the food crop yields from 3 to 18 percent in 2050 (Lawin et al., 2015). With regards to the central and the southern parts of the country (covering the most productive zone of maize), the MIROC model reveals yield reductions between 5–25 percent. The CSIRO model predicts an even greater reduction in maize yields, exceeding 25 percent. Climate models also project a decline of meat and milk productivity, the reduction of soil fertility and soil losses, the potential increase of crops and animal pests and diseases, the loss of biodiversity, food insecurity and malnutrition and the displacement of entire rural communities.

Adaptation and mitigation needs

Agriculture is a key economic sector for Benin: 70 percent of the population is active in agriculture and accounts for 32.6 percent of the country's GDP. The Benin Strategic Plan for the Relaunch of the Agricultural Sector (2010-2015) indicates that climate vulnerability is caused by a number of factors such as the rain-fed production system, the basic organization of farming and farm units and the poor application of inputs and good agricultural practices.

In order to address the projected impacts of climate change and variability, the Government of Benin has identified in the NDC (July 2017) a series of actions to increase the population resilience to climate change and reduce GHG emissions by 21.4 percent by 2030, particularly focusing on a 20 percent reduction for the agriculture sector which actually contributes by 45.9 percent of the total country's emissions. The priority actions identified include: strengthening early warning and climate information, improving access to water and water conservation, protecting the coast from sea level rise and increasing climate change resilience of rural communities via better land use, soil and water management and sustainable intensification of agricultural production. Mitigation actions include improved landscape management, afforestation/reforestation activities and promotion of low carbon agriculture. In the National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA), improved agricultural production systems and climate-related pests and disease protection have also been identified as sectorial priorities.

Baselines will be further assessed as part of the feasibility assessment and will address the following questions among others: What is the water use and governance regime? Are there water allocations? Are there conflicts over water use in upstream and downstream areas? Should environmental flows be secured? Are there multiple uses of water and issue related to water availability/scarcity/access in the entire catchment?

In 2015, the Government of Benin produced two other guiding documents concerning sustainable development and climate resiliency: the Low Carbon Intensity and Climate Change Resilience Development Strategy 2016-2025 and the Government Programme of Action (PAG). The Ministry of Agriculture established the main priorities in the Strategic Plan for the relaunch of the Agricultural Sector 2011 – 2015. On page 64 of the PAG, one of the key project focuses on the integrated water management in Ouémé Watershed. The action number 64 of Ouémé includes the integration of adaptation in the communal development plans and capacity development to the local M&E agents.

From the detailed analysis of the PAG, PANA, NDC and PSDSA, the national priorities for the agricultural subsectors are as follows:
- promote water governance and integrated water management as a main priority in Ouémé watershed (aligned with the thematic focus of the project and the approach to mainstream livelihoods and ecosystems resilience);
- reduce the vulnerability of natural and human systems to water stress, floods and degradation of water quality (related to strengthening early warning systems and provide climate information);
- promote intensive forest and ecosystem restoration with incentives throughout the national territory (included in the project as part of the soil and water management practices to improve climate-resiliency of ecosystems);
- strengthen the ability to adapt to climate change in all socio-economic sectors, ensuring income generating activities (related to the sustainable and climate resilient livelihoods component of the project);
- promote appropriate resilient and climate-resilient agricultural production systems for food and nutrition security (Climate Smart Agriculture) as outlined above;
- promote the sustainable management of state and communal forests (aligned with integrated water management and protection of vulnerable water sources); and
- reduce the vulnerability of communities to the degradation of forest ecosystems (aligned with governance platform and implementation of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction plans).

Smallholder farmers have little or no incentive to adopt climate-resilient soil, land and water management practices. The project contributes to overcome most of the barriers to the adoption of adaptation and mitigation activities as described below:

**Regulatory:** the Water Management Master Plan for Ouémé (SDAGE in french), published in 2013 is the first water governance policy developed in Benin that includes also adaptation and mitigation measures. Despite Government's

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efforts, their implementation and scaling up across the watershed remain a big challenge in the current socio-economic context.

Mechanisms for improved governance and monitoring of the adaptation and mitigation priorities needs to be integrated in sustainable land and water management.

Technological: Despite its national importance as a water resource, the Ouémé watershed is poorly managed, resulting in low productivity. Water conservation infrastructure is also limited. Moreover, there is a lack of anti-erusive treatment of watersheds and areas exposed to erosion, particularly with regards to diversion bays and river banks endangered by fluvial erosion and flooding (Projet d'Appui aux Infrastructures Agricole dans la Vallée de Ouémé/PAIA-VO, 2013). Irrigation schemes are rare and limited to few small-scale perimeters. Charcoal production methods are unsustainable without proper woodland management or even existence of energy woodlots or provision of alternative energy sources. Slash and burn practices for agriculture and livestock production threat the depletion of natural ecosystems and compete with the search of energy sources. Agroforestry systems are not integrated in the production systems, which are therefore limited to growing food crops in small family farms with low inputs and low productivity. Early warning systems are limited to an irregular network of hydro-meteorological stations and climate information does not flow to smallholder producers.

Financial: Overall, Benin has struggled to mobilize adequate responses and allocate specific resources for the implementation of climate change policies, strategies and plans. Over 99 percent of Benin's limited financial resources are based on tax and customs revenues, industrial revenues, funds granted to Benin in the form of loans or donations. The port of Cotonou supplies 95 percent of these resources and therefore almost the entire economy of Benin. The country has a small scale economy for the primary and in minor measure for secondary and tertiary sectors. The structure of the rural economy in Ouémé does not provide incentives to the private sector to invest in solid value chains/agribusiness schemes. Small-scale farmers and livestock producers are not enabled and are not in a condition to innovate their respective production systems for a number of reasons, including the absence of rural credit and/or insurance schemes, low farm productivity, poor crop diversification and access to agricultural markets. Moreover, the lack of credit or insurance schemes and the fragmented value chain structure impedes the development of a competitive and sustainable agricultural sector.

Institutional: Despite the establishment of the Ouémé Basin Agency, the watershed coordination mechanisms are weak as the implementation of the management plan, in particular the planned climate adaptation and environmental measures. Currently, governance is almost limited to inter-municipal or civil society initiatives including international cooperation projects. The Ouémé Basin Agency is in charge of protecting natural resources, surveying environmental activities, enforcing laws and procedures, yet its establishment is quite recent and its operationalization is still ongoing. Technical assistance for the provision of sustainable land and water management practices is provided by the decentralized offices of line ministries, although resource limitations hinder an effective implementation.

B.2. Project / Programme description (max. 3 pages)

The Ouémé Climate-Resilient Initiative (OCRI) will enhance the climate-resilience and productivity of the vulnerable agro-ecosystems of Ouémé watershed while concurrently improving food and water security and the sustainable livelihoods of rural communities. In addition, the adaptation of result areas, the plantation of wooded species, the establishment of agro-forestry systems and soil conservation practices will generate mitigation co-benefits via carbon sequestration over 20 years (NDC, July, 2017). A watershed-based multi-stakeholder governance platform will be established to support the implementation of climate-resilient soil, land and water management measures and streamline adaptation and mitigation, along the lines of the Ouémé Master Plan. OCRI will reduce climate vulnerability, scale up climate-resilient and productive agro-ecosystems and institutionalize adaptation and mitigation measures at watershed, communal and community levels.

The project will target the most vulnerable agro-ecological areas in the Ouémé watershed, with a focus on the middle and upper portion. The selection of the specific sub-basins will be carried out during the feasibility study phase by utilizing a vulnerability matrix aligned with the NAPA and NDC. Criteria used for the selection of the areas will include: climate change impacts and vulnerability, government priorities, revenues, investments and livelihoods, population density, number of interventions, synergies and scale-up potential, agricultural productivity, water sources protection, readiness of communities, potential environmental and social impacts, capacity of communes and local organizations. Over time, the activities will directly benefit approximately 100 000 people living in the Mid and upper Ouémé Basin and indirectly over 530 000 people, 51 percent of which are women. The governance platform will benefit a population of 6.7 million (over 67 percent of Benin's total population).

The development objective of the project is to enhance the resilience of rural communities and improve land, water and food security by scaling up sustainable soil and water management and reducing climate vulnerability of Ouémé Watershed’s agro-ecosystems.

The specific objectives are the following:

- to streamline adaptation and mitigation measures in line with the Ouémé Master Plan through a watershed-based multi-stakeholder governance platform;
- to increase climate change resilience and productivity of vulnerable agro-ecosystems and farmer communities through sustainable soil, land and water management practices;
- to facilitate knowledge dissemination and capitalization of climate change adaptation and mitigation practices and technologies in line with national priorities and international commitments;
The main project components and axes of intervention are presented below:

**C1. Establishment of a watershed-based multi-stakeholder governance platform to streamline the application and institutionalization of climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.**

**Outcome:** A regional multi-stakeholder governance platform for climate-resilient soil, land and water management of Ouémé watershed has been established.

The multi-stakeholder governance platform will integrate and support the implementation of adaptation and mitigation measures considering the Ouémé Master Plan, the NDC and other strategic documents. The Ouémé Basin Agency, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Living Environment, local municipalities and community leaders among other key actors will be directly involved in the planning, decision-making and monitoring process. Partnerships will be established for ongoing initiatives including GEF/LDCF projects, Omidelta project led by SNV, Communauté Forestière du Moyen Oueme (Coformo) on restoration, AfDB with the Project PAPVIRE -ABC (projet d’appui à la production vivrière et de renforcement de la résilience dans les départements Alibori, Borgou et Collins), etc. Other partner initiatives and players will be identified at the inception phase as well as the specific approaches and tools that will be adopted in a participatory manner. The grant will be utilized as seed money to leverage the establishment of the governance platform.

Co-financing will be made available by the various participants to allow the operationalization and functioning during and after the project. Watershed planning studies will contribute to zoning and modelling the development of a management and surveillance systems for the watershed. Streamline climate resilient measures focused on soil, land, water and food security will be the main focus of the platform’s work. Climate change adaptation measures will be integrated in the existing or newly produced communal development plans in alignment with the watershed management plan. Capacity assessment and capacity development will be included under this component.

Activities will include:
- identification of actors, initiatives and counterparts in coordination with the Ouémé Basin Agency and executing ministries (co-financed);
- creation of the multi-stakeholder governance platform and establishment of steering committee (mostly co-funded);
- set-up and consolidation of public-private partnerships to restore and enhance watershed productivity and climate-resiliency (co-financed);
- review of the communal development plans and integration of climate-resilience measures and risk mapping;
- definition of work plans for the implementation of climate-resilient measures;
- development of community-based monitoring and evaluation mechanisms;
- capacity assessment and capacity-building plans for platform’s actors to facilitate the integration of tools and practices in policies and support the knowledge dissemination component;

**C2. Targeted application of climate-resilient soil, land and water management practices to enhance food and water security, increase productivity of agro-ecosystems and diversify climate-resilient livelihoods.**

**Outcome:** Climate-resilient measures and practices are applied, replicated and disseminated in the project areas and smallholder farmers improve their livelihoods.

The climate models forecast an increase of temperature, rainfall variability and shifting seasons by 2050 (NDC, 2017). Climate change modelling projections for the Ouémé watershed point to a rise in mean daily temperatures, accompanied by a reduction of the mean monthly flows of the river and higher rainfall variability. The project will implement measures to improve water access and availability via integrated soil, land and water management, in order to restore watershed productivity and provide sustainable livelihoods to smallholders. A solid monitoring system will be established to map out the improved soil, land and water management systems in comparison with the baseline scenario. Agroforestry and more productive and diversified agro-ecosystems will be integrated in the production of food and cash crops. Sustainable farm management and the adoption and dissemination of climate-smart agricultural practices will be scaled-up to enhance resilience and promote sustainable livelihoods of family farmers. Farmer field schools (FFSs) will be used as the main innovative approach to test, validate and disseminate climate-resilient management practices and technologies with smallholder producers. Through FFSs, climate-resilient agro-ecosystems will be replicated and disseminated across the watershed. In order to address technological and institutional barriers among others, the platform will support the appropriation, capitalization and institutionalization of the climate-resilient practices and technologies, facilitating knowledge dissemination and South-South Cooperation. The core early warning system intervention will focus on developing forecast products and system integration based on the meteorological network and data supplemented by the project weather stations in connection with the Global Information on Early Warning System (GIEWS) managed by FAO. Properly functioning early warning systems in the targeted area will contribute to the sustainability of the activities by increasing the resilience of the investment. The ongoing feasibility assessment is defining the specific activities, sites and targets for selected vulnerable municipalities and sub-basins.

Activities include:
- upstream tree planting, forest restoration and promotion of sustainable use of forest products to protect land and water sources /water recharge;
- mobilization of surface water (construction of small reservoirs, water tanks and water cisterns), shallow borehole with pumping systems;
- rehabilitation and construction of small-scale water irrigation systems to promote market garden and rice, crops etc.
- rehabilitation of water ponds and wetland areas for agricultural production;
- establishment of FFSs and selection of community leaders to facilitate the identification, testing, validation and replication of the selected soil and water conservation techniques;
- implementation of low emission/climate-resilient agriculture with focus on conservation agriculture, agroforestry, production of drought-tolerant, short cycle crop varieties, agroecology systems for soil and water conservation;
- awareness-raising, training and technical assistance to farmer organisations and community leaders on integrated soil and water management;
- support research & development in the production of climate-resilient native crop varieties;
- implementation of early warning through automatic/manual weather stations and climate information systems in connection with the GIEWS;
- set-up of a fee collection mechanism for maintenance of water infrastructures.

**Outcome:** institutions and local organizations improve their capacity to scale-up and disseminate climate-resilient measures and innovative approaches and practices for sustainable soil, land and water management.

The governance platform will include a knowledge management and communication for development mechanism to facilitate the access and dissemination of relevant information in support to a communal development plan. Early warning systems and climate information diffusion will be integrated in the adaptation measures of the communal development plans and aligned with the Master Plan for Ouémé Watershed.

Activities will include:
- design, implementation and institutionalization of a knowledge dissemination and communication strategy;
- identification, documentation, capitalization and dissemination of lessons learnt and good practices and approaches, including traditional sustainable practices and local knowledge;
- promotion of exchange visits and South-South Cooperation concerning sustainable soil, land and water management;
- utilization of rural communication services integrating appropriate media/tools (from radio to ICT);
- strengthening community-based monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to test and validate climate-resilient agricultural practices;
- scaling up existing GEF adaptation initiatives, including agro-hydro data collection and data analysis, to strengthen early warning system.

C4. Project management and coordination with counterparts, stakeholders and implementing partners.
**Outcome:** the project is efficiently managed and delivers the expected results and utilizes the financial resources as planned.

A solid implementation and coordination arrangement will be established. The project steering committee will liaise on a regular basis with the larger watershed governance platform and will support a variety of secretarial functions. Activities will include:
- recruitment of project personnel and signature of a letter of agreement with executing partners;
- establishment of a project management unit and project steering committee;
- concertation on work plan, targets, financial and technical reporting mechanisms;
- set-up of the monitoring and evaluation system in connection with the community based and platform monitoring systems.

**Theory of change rationale:** Agriculture and food security in the Ouémé Watershed are the most exposed and vulnerable sectors to climate change and climate variability. These sectors particularly affect smallholder farmers and rural communities. Furthermore, the current socioeconomic and development context of Ouémé watershed is leading towards the steady depletion of natural resources (soil and water in particular). Expansion of agricultural land and population growth associated with weak planning, surveillance and unsustainable production practices cause water scarcity, fertility and productivity reduction, displacement of the local communities, high food insecurity and malnutrition, the loss of rural livelihoods and harm to the green and social infrastructure. The project area faces increasing water scarcity and lower agricultural productivity with climate change, resulting in up to 40 percent reduction of surface water as well as a drop in crop yields of up to 25 percent. In order to respond to this threat, the project directly supports activities to promote the adoption of practices regarding soil and water conservation and land restoration, as well as investments in small-scale rural water infrastructure to develop productive agro-ecosystems in a changing climate. However, these investments are currently not taking place owing to scarce national and local government resources. Owing to the public goods nature of these investments and the absence of revenue, the private sector is not engaged in supporting these investments and smallholder farmers do not have access to credit to finance on farm investments. Barriers to access to credit include low level of assets, poor understanding of climate risks in the financial sector and underdeveloped rural finance services. At farm level, farmers do not have access to technical know-how, climate-resilient seed varieties and extension services. In particular, extension services suffer as a result of coordination problems between national and local governments, lack of professionalization of extension agents and strong decentralized services.

The project will ensure that a climate resilient pathway is adopted by addressing the barriers systematically to promote long term change.
The Ouémé climate-resilient initiative will develop and scale-up the adaptive and productive capacity of agro-ecosystems and rural communities across the river catchment. The project will also play a role in reducing vulnerability bottlenecks, combining disaster risk management with climate change adaptation as part of the development plans. This will result in the establishment of a sustainable and productive soil, food and water management system. In particular, the project will set the enabling condition and support the enabling environment to address multiple challenges and priorities. The multi-stakeholder platform will consolidate a participatory governance mechanism for the implementation and dissemination of adaptation and mitigation measures in support of the implementation of the Ouémé Master Plan and the NDC strategy. The governance mechanism will blend the conditions to leverage responsible and sustainable investments across the watershed. This platform will attract other partners, either public or private, to become involved in the business model and value chain development for sustainable food and agriculture production through future complementary investments. The second component will focus on the restoration of the watershed’s green infrastructure and productivity by tackling the vulnerable sub-basins and agro-ecosystems. The objective will be to improve productivity and build resilience through diversification and innovation mimicking nature. Adaptive capacity will be developed and strengthened through innovative community approaches such as FFSs, community-based adaptation plans, improved production systems, public-private partnerships, sustainable value chains, climate-insurance and credit schemes/resilience mechanisms.

The model will leverage the dissemination of climate-resilient practices and technologies through FFSs and will lead farmers to generate productive and sustainable farming models. FFSs will be at the center of innovation and experimentation to define and shape the most adapted practices to sustainably intensify agricultural production. Technical assistance, knowledge dissemination adaptation and sustainable production will be streamlined from farm to landscape levels via capacity development. Restoration will be carried out in a phased approach to include the sustainable intensification of production and enable the development of value chains. Soil, water and land management will increase soil fertility, soil organic carbon and carbon sequestration, whereas water sources will be protected and water supply increased. Risks and vulnerabilities will be reduced through appropriate early warning and climate information systems combined with the implementation of risk reduction/mitigation measures. Rehabilitation and construction of water infrastructure (including irrigation systems, small-scale water supply and storage systems) will improve farm productivity and allow a more diversified production, enhancing household incomes. Knowledge capitalized and disseminated will foster replication and scaling up of climate-resilient agro-ecosystems across the watershed. The monitoring and evaluation of progress will be embedded at community level via the selection of local facilitators who will be empowered to conduct local monitoring and keep track of the restoration and adoption of the technological package. FAO will grant access to several information sources and a database to share knowledge products on good practices. Scaling up will be carried out through partnerships with potential partners and initiatives led by IFAD, ICRAF and AFD among others, whereas the governance platform will facilitate institutionalization. Gender and social protection safeguards will be integrated via the increased participation of women and vulnerable in livelihoods activities.

FAO is the leading International Organization for food security and sustainable agriculture in Benin. FAO plays a role of technical support to the Government of Benin principally via the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Environment. Great emphasis is devoted to the institutional policy and planning development process and the promotion of partnerships. FAO has supported the Government of Benin for the identification, design and formulation of strategies, investment plans, programs and projects in various areas including: food and nutrition security, the sustainable development of animal, fish and plant products, natural resource management and the environmental conservation and NRM.

The project will be implemented by FAO and executed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MALF) and the Ministry of the Living Environment and Sustainable Development through the decentralized structures at the level of the watershed. The Ouémé Basin Agency will be directly involved in project management. The lead executing agency will be defined at the formulation of the funding proposal.

A project coordination, management and monitoring unit will be established and housed in the Ministry of Agriculture or Ministry of Environment; a steering committee will be in charge of planning, monitoring and evaluation and exit strategy follow up. A solid team of FAO experts will support project implementation. Monitoring and evaluation activities will be carried out in close coordination with the Steering Committee members and community-based partners. Also, local management units will be established in the various project locations and based in the national counterparts’ offices. A number of activities will be entrusted via letters of agreement (LOA) to NGOs or specialized structures with the necessary expertise, in line with FAO procedures.

A detailed timetable will be drawn up at the time of project formulation and an annual work plan will be submitted to the SC for endorsement. Permits, licenses and exemptions will be obtained in accordance with the regulations in force and the agreements signed between the Government of Benin and FAO. Overall, projects supported by the UN are exempt from taxes in Benin.

**Overview of key financial and operational risks and planned mitigation measures**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Likelihood and Impact (1 to 5)</th>
<th>Mitigation measures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weak participation</td>
<td>Institutional, community</td>
<td>P: 3 I: 5</td>
<td>Governance mechanism, steering committee, monitoring mechanism</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
): The project will support the restoration of the watershed productivity and green infrastructure by tackling the main barriers for enhancing agro-ecosystem productivity and ensuring sustainable livelihoods. Land use and sustainable management, uncontrolled grazing and transhumance, agricultural expansion, unsustainable farming practices, the lack of an organized value chain for a variety of agricultural and forestry related products and credit access are all barriers that smallholder farmers and rural communities face to reduce climate vulnerability, improve agricultural production and protect their livelihoods as part of a climate-resiliency strategy across Ouémé Basin. The project will address these barriers and leverage investments to streamline adaptation and mitigation measures and restore the watershed productivity.

This project aims to foster a change in the ecosystems management by enhancing resilience and provide food and water security and sustainable livelihoods to local communities. The introduction of on-off farm adaptation measures will reduce the pressure over natural resources, improving the diversity and complexity of the ecosystems. The project will establish improved integrated and productive agricultural systems, facilitating adaptation to changing climate via the adoption of suitable practices and technologies.

The project will focus on the three dimensions of sustainability: environmental, economic and social. One of the key enabling factors to streamline sustainability, productivity and climate-resilience will be the multi-stakeholder governance platform. This will support a broad stakeholder participation and shared management over land and natural resources.
The focus on climate-resilient soil and water management practices will leverage the adaptive capacity and land productivity, concurrently reducing climate vulnerabilities of agro-ecosystems and rural communities. Stakeholders will be empowered to better manage soil, land and water resources, restore green infrastructure and improve the watershed productivity through capacity development on the basis of the FAO's Sustainability Approach: (i) individual (smallholder farmers/herdsmen, households); (ii) organizational (municipal governments, regional directorates, relevant ministries, extension agents, communities, NGOs); and (iii) a supportive policy environment (strengthened local institutional capacity, strategic partnerships and alliances with other development actors, national investment plan, implementation of municipal development plans).

The four project components have the potential for replication and scaling up of a proposed climate-resilient model. Integrated soil and water management practices will be applied at farm and sub-basin levels, to enhance adaptive capacity and productivity of agro-ecosystems and improve livelihoods of smallholder producers. This will provide the necessary innovation to implement and replicate climate-resilient and productive agro-ecosystems. Extension and dissemination will build upon the technical services of the Ministry of Agriculture that will be responsible for wide dissemination at the watershed level. Innovative approaches and practices will stimulate the uptake and scaling up through the multi-stakeholder platform that will consolidate a participatory governance mechanism for planning and management of sustainable watershed activities. The platform will also promote knowledge dissemination and leverage partnerships for sustainable value chains and alliances (such as with the International Network of Basin Organizations) to promote cooperation and dissemination of the climate-resilient agro-ecosystems across Ouémé Watershed.

The enabling environment and scaling up conditions will be promoted through the establishment of the governance platform for the entire Ouémé watershed. The steering committee will coordinate the participation of government institutions, civil society, community organizations and private actors with actual or potential involvement in the watershed business and management models. The broad base of participation in the planning and decision-making process concerning climate-resilient soil, land and water management will ensure the large adoption, replication and dissemination of sustainable farming systems models. This will have a cascade effect across the watershed by promoting a phased approach that combines the restoration of watershed productivity and sustainable and climate-resilient livelihoods.

The project will bring about innovative practices and technologies through FFSs and research based experimentation, in order to ensure sustainable production intensification in a changing climate. Numerous low-emission inputs and tools such as drought-tolerant crop varieties, locally adapted food and cash crop species, agroforestry schemes, energy woodlots, conservation farming, multiplication of quality seed and vegetable materials, rainwater collection systems, biopesticides and composting will be implemented as part of the innovative practices and technologies introduced by the project. Capacity development and technical trainings will support their implementation to enhance soil fertility and water conservation, ecosystems restoration and sustainable livelihoods of rural communities via the establishment of climate-resilient productive agro-ecosystems. Furthermore, the management and technical capacities of local community-based organizations will be strengthened with the objective of supporting local smallholder farmers and livestock producers in sustainable livelihood intensification and increased food and water security. The project will leverage partnerships and support by the private sector, thus creating markets of sustainable food products and services generated by Ouémé watershed agro-ecosystems and rural communities. Food products will be traded in major urban areas to create economic incentives and integrated value chain systems. Improved economic viability and gender balance, along with environmental and social sustainability of targeted production systems, will provide a major economic and behavioural incentive to continue investing in the ecosystem management market of sustainable products and landscape restoration across Ouémé watershed. The thorough replication and enhancement of climate-resilient practices will be based on a phased approach, whereby vulnerable sub-basins and/or existing sustainable production models will be prioritized for implementation.

The Ouémé watershed will become a solid model of integrated, productive and climate-resilient landscape management through the combination of public-private partnerships and the support of governance platform. Partnerships and institutional support will ensure appropriation, accountability and continuity of the project model. Similarly, restoration of the watershed and the co-management of natural resources will encourage the development of ecosystem services schemes and promote greater resilience based on a participatory planning and management of the landscape. The platform will function as a knowledge dissemination and scaling-up mechanism. A web-based documentation center will be consolidated, with the purpose of establishing a regional hub of technical documents available to the different user categories linked to FAO's thematic database (such as GIEWS, WOCAT, TECA, AQUASTAT, etc.). Project deliverables will be reported. In addition, a full collection of documents related to climate change adaptation and mitigation, sustainable land and water management will be entered in the virtual database. Users will have access to policies, appropriated practices, approaches, data and tools in a systematized manner via internet. The database will also function as an information-sharing tool for other development programmes in the country, highlighting innovative processes and practices, lessons learnt and positive experiences in facing climate change impacts. Finally, the platform will include a section on community-based and municipal monitoring and evaluation to ensure that all actions are aligned with national and regulatory frameworks and are held accountable with the needs of beneficiaries. This will create enabling conditions for informed planning and decision-making and improve the regulatory, legal and governance environment. The establishment of public-private partnerships encompassing the participation of local communities will improve their access to local and national food markets, concurrently generating enabling conditions to improve the availability of production inputs, training support and access to financial resources (including microcredit schemes).
Sustainable Development: Capacity building, awareness raising and knowledge dissemination regarding the effects of climate change and the promotion of good practices for sustainable land, water and ecosystem management will enable direct beneficiaries and, more broadly, all indirectly beneficiary communities, to sustainably face and adapt to the impacts of climate change on a sustainable basis. Expected benefits of the project will be the following:

A) economic co-benefits: better and diversified livelihoods and production options for smallholder producers will be obtained, as well as the increased production and efficiency of agro-ecosystems, improved food, land and water security. The reduction of agricultural losses and losses will be achieved via climate-resilient practices along the production systems, including compost production and the introduction of processing and transformation alternatives.

B) social co-benefits: increased food and nutrition security, improved women participation and empowerment through better access to key productive assets, income generation and vocational training; participation of women to the governance and decision-making mechanism are envisaged. Social protection will be ensured by facilitating participation of marginalized groups and by providing rural employment and economic opportunities to youths. The sustainable intensification of agricultural production through the application climate-resilient soil and water practices will enhance efficiency along the value chains and reduce the workers’ workload (especially women) to allow ulterior income-generating or household activities. Local communities will have a better access to water for agricultural and livestock production.

The project will strengthen the participation of women and vulnerable categories in livelihood activities. In fact, women in rural areas earn part of their income by collecting and selling ecosystem resources (such as dry manure, cow dung, jute stick and tinder) and spend this income mainly on meeting family food needs and child education. It follows that planting trees and forest restoration activities will benefit women, simultaneously enhancing the provision of ecosystem services and protecting the environment. The project will intensify the provision of ecosystem services for food security (from rural, gender and economic points of view), concurrently contributing to the promotion of a sustainable environment. (SDG 1, 4, 5 and 13)

C) environmental co-benefits: improved water recharge and protection of water sources, improved ecological functions and services and ecosystem biodiversity, enhanced land and water reserves and services and improved microclimate conditions will be achieved, as well as the reduction of soil erosion.

Needs of recipient: As the agricultural sector in Benin is particularly vulnerable, climate change impacts will disproportionately affect the low-income portion of the population which depends on agriculture for its livelihood and which has limited readiness capacity. Adaptive measures such as enhanced crops and improved irrigation are necessary to contrast the expected decrease in agricultural production (up to 18 percent by 2025). Nonetheless, the high percentage of poor to very poor households (36.2 percent of Benin households are below the national poverty line) may limit investments and hinder the adoption of adaptive measures. Small-scale cattle herders, smallholder farmers and fishermen are considered the most vulnerable socioeconomic groups. In particular, the latter two are to some extent interdependent, as herders may depend on farms to feed their cattle (only partially covered by post-harvest grazing). There is also a gender dimension to climate change: a study focusing on dry grains revealed that only 28 percent of surveyed households that are headed by women were able to cover the basic annual needs of their families, compared to 43 percent of male-headed households. The consequences of climatic changes will thus decrease the self-sufficiency of rural households headed by women.

The negative consequences of intense and successive periods of drought and floods could also affect food security: the production of food could diminish by 6 percent by 2025 if no adaptive measures are taken. Also, the consequences of climate change (decline of precipitation) could result in the reduction of available water resources (between 40 and 60 percent), further influencing Benin’s food production. Recurrent cases of population displacements with significant impacts to water infrastructure owing to heavy floods have been registered around most degraded river ecosystems or downstream in coastal areas. Moreover, according to the Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA), the consequences of the degradation and destruction of gallery forests in the Ouémé river basin – caused by charcoal unsustainable timber extraction and extensive fallow-based agricultural practices – is being exacerbated by climate change. This is not only a significant problem for forest-dependent communities, but also for downstream regions, which increasingly suffer from devastating floods during the rainy season.

Given the climate vulnerability of the Ouémé watershed, there is a compelling need for investments targeting climate change adaptation and climate risk reduction as outlined by the NDC, NAPA and sectoral plans. The major needs identified in the PSDSA 2025 include reinforcing the resilience of communities and ecosystems to climate change, as well as improving the food and nutritional security of vulnerable populations. Unfortunately, adequate financial resources are not currently available to address adaptation and mitigation priorities. The Ouémé Master Plan established the development priorities and established the Ouémé Basin Agency, but implementation has not yet started for the same reasons. Due to compelling priorities, Government and international development projects in the watershed prioritize the lower portion, reducing middle and upper Ouémé for economic and sustainable and climate-resilient livelihoods.

Country ownership: The proposed axes of intervention are aligned with the Benin NDC. Specifically, the adaptation measures of the NDC emphasize food and water security via implementation of climate-resilient practices and technologies as proposed by the project. The activities proposed under the project are a national priority and fall within PAG 2016 - 2021, as well as in the Benin NDC, NAPA and PSDSA 2025 and PNIASAN 2017 - 2021-2025. The interest of the project has also been demonstrated by the support of a large number of governmental and non-governmental organizations via projects/programmes on similar pilot initiatives that deserve to be scaled up. The master plan of the Ouémé watershed (SDAGE, 2013), envisages:
- construction of small-scale dams and irrigation schemes for integrated and effective watershed management, along the lines of the implementation of climate-resilient practices promoted through the project;
- agricultural farmland management on the watershed, in adherence with the implementation and replication of practices and the promotion of sustainable livelihoods of climate-resilient agro-sylvo-pastoral ecosystems;
- restoration of agricultural land as planned through the dissemination of integrated land and water practices;
- integration of an adaptation dimension in the development plans and capacity development, aligned with the governance and local support to municipalities.

The project idea has been validated by key stakeholders, including the Ministry of Living Environment and Sustainable Development, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, FNEC, GCF / NDA, and especially local communities. The roles of the various institutions mentioned above in the management and implementation of the project will be discussed and clarified during the project preparation phase.

**Effectiveness and efficiency:** The total project cost is USD 50 million, of which USD 12 million will be co-financed by various governmental and non-governmental initiatives that will be catalyzed and scale-up through the project. The main benefits will be specifically defined during the feasibility studies and baseline assessments, but in principle will be quantified in terms of improved community livelihoods and incomes through climate-resilient agriculture, increased investments generated through the private sector participation and better food and water security.

### C. Indicative financing / Cost information (max. 3 pages)

#### C.1. Financing by components (max ½ page)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Indicative cost (USD)</th>
<th>GCF financing</th>
<th>Co-financing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Amount (USD)</td>
<td>Financial Instrument</td>
<td>Amount (USD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C1 Multi-stakeholder governance platform and capacity development</td>
<td>8 M</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>grant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C2 Climate-resilient soil, land and water management</td>
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<td>22 M</td>
<td>grant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C3 Knowledge dissemination, scale-up and capitalization</td>
<td>6 M</td>
<td>4 M</td>
<td>grant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C4 Project management and coordination</td>
<td>8 M</td>
<td>5 M</td>
<td>grant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Indicative total cost (USD)</strong></td>
<td><strong>50 M</strong></td>
<td><strong>38 M</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### C.2. Justification of GCF funding request (max 1 page)

According to the NDC, the total financial resources that should be mobilized by the Republic of Benin for the implementation of mitigation and adaptation measures under the first CDN in the country globally amounts to approximately USD 11.66 billion. In order to achieve its greenhouse gas mitigation (GHG) ambitions, Benin will need a global financial envelope of about USD 6.06 billion. Specifically, Government will contribute for USD 2.14 billion and the remaining USD 3.92 billion will be mobilized from TFPs between 2021 and 2030. The cost of implementing adaptation programs and projects is estimated at approximately USD 5.6 billion, subdivided in national contribution (unconditional share) in the order of USD 1.441 billion as well as international support (conditional share) of USD 4.154 billion.

Benin is ranked among the least developed countries in the world. Resources are scarce and limit investment in adaptation and mitigation measures. In Ouémé watershed the population growth and expansion, unsustainable land and water use and management, land tenure issues, weak governance and surveillance systems all cause the steady degradation of natural stocks and services in changing climate. As a consequence, the depletion of natural resources affects access and availability of soil and water and the livelihoods of local communities. Various initiatives are being implemented in the Ouémé Basin. However, the projects are scattered with small continuity or connectivity. The GCF investment has been identified as a crucial opportunity to sustainably improve the resilience of communities and ecosystems. Through the mapping of existing and new initiatives, the project will support the scale-up of climate resilient initiatives, particularly those funded through the GEF/LDCF adaptation Fund.

There is a large potential for water access and increased agricultural production through improved small-scale irrigation and water catchment systems, however infrastructure is expensive and smallholders cannot afford the construction and maintenance costs. There is also the potential to sustainably improve and diversify agriculture and livestock production through climate-resilient agro-ecosystems, but costs of land restoration associated with economic based activities that normally require credits and loans is out of reach or not accessible to smallholder producers. In addition, they cannot invest in production inputs, water infrastructures, farm improvements and trainings as a result of poor productivity and limited diversification and market access, resulting in reduced farm revenues.

Finally, the offer of microcredit schemes for improved farming production is almost inexistent or only affordable for large procedures. Similarly, service providers offering technical assistance are too expensive for smallholders that are...
dependent on weak institutional support. In addition, the difficult access to markets (other than proximity markets) owing to the lack of quality roads and tracks hinders improvement in the competitiveness of products. The main reason to justify the rationale of the project is that Benin is ranked amongst the poorest countries in the world. In this context, Government is dealing with multiple priorities ranging from food insecurity and malnutrition, poor literacy rates, weak institutional governance, limited economic opportunities and the lack of an active private sector and sustainable sector investments. Government is tackling humanitarian issues before dealing with environmental priorities and this allows the degradation of ecosystems and degradation of natural resources. As Benin is in a position to become more indebted in the near future, the GCF investment in form of a grant is fully justifiable and will provide the opportunities to support the primary sector to cope with climate change impacts and foster sustainable livelihoods and climate resilience. The grant is also required to set the enabling conditions to immediately restore the watershed productivity, build skills and competence for food value chains to facilitate the economic transformation of the agricultural sector and create the foundation for long-term investments. The project however, will stimulate responsible investments in form of loans and credits from other platform partners to leverage the empowerment of qualified economic actors.

C.3. Sustainability and replicability of the project (exit strategy) (max. 1 page)

The governance platform will leverage the technical and financial enabling conditions to ensure that project activities will continue and will be replicated and institutionalized following project finalization. The sustainability of the project will be ensured via the consolidation of technical, organizational and managerial adaptive capacities of smallholder farmers and rural community organizations to increase their incomes through sustainable, productive and diversified sources of livelihoods. Integrated land and water management will improve the productivity of agro-ecosystems and the stocks and flows of natural resources. This will enable farmer and livestock producers to sustainably intensify their productivity and gain better market access. Strengthening organizational and institutional capacities will result in the enhancement of water access and increase the availability of food products, consequently improving food and water security. Value chains will be stronger and more sustainable as a result of the development of public-private partnerships, the canalization of fresh investments from watershed user fees and access to credit and insurance schemes. Economic viability of food value chains will provide incentives to invest in land restoration initiatives and protection of natural resources, particularly water sources. Knowledge transfer and dissemination will empower the communities to increase and diversify their production and livelihoods. After the project, small-scale producers will manage climate resilient agro-ecosystems to sustainably produce food products for a consistent number of households and markets. Sustainable livelihoods and improved organizational capacity will multiply the opportunities to obtain facilitated access to microcredit and insurance schemes and private sector investments as additional elements of sustainability after the end of the project.

The project will also integrate accountability to fully involve every participant in the governance platform. Smallholders will increase their technical and managerial competencies, strengthen their organizational capacities and improve productivity while reducing climate vulnerability in a constantly changing climate. This will facilitate access to loan and credits and catalyze investments from platform actors. Agro-ecosystems will become more climate resilient, more productive and diversified in order to mimic nature and provide fallback strategies to smallholder producers.

Finally, institutional sustainability of project results will be operated via multi-stakeholder collaboration and the establishment of a governance platform at watershed level. Local and national institutions will lead the appropriation and capitalization of processes. At the same time, institutions will play a key role in scaling up investments in adaptation and mitigation measures. National counterparts and line ministries will reinforce sector coordination, favours synergies and reinforce the accountability and participation of local communities in the planning and management process and will take over the lessons learnt and achievements after the project.

C.4 Engagement among the NDA, AE, and/or other relevant stakeholders in the country (max ½ page)

The stakeholder consultation process will continue throughout the project cycle. The process ensures transparent collaboration and easy access to relevant information. It also ensures that the project is fully supported by the Government and inserted in the development priorities. Stakeholder consultations will be carried out at every step of the project cycle, from project identification to completion and adoption of an exit strategy. The NDA is fully supportive of the project, and the project idea has already been presented during a stakeholder workshop with the NDA and the executive entity.

D. Supporting documents submitted (OPTIONAL)

- Map indicating the location of the project/programme
- Diagram of the theory of change
- Financial Model
- Pre-feasibility Study
- Evaluation Report of previous project
### Self-awareness check boxes

Are you aware that the full Funding Proposal and Annexes will require these documents? Yes ☒ No ☐
- Feasibility Study
- Environmental and social impact assessment or environmental and social management framework
- Stakeholder consultations at national and project level implementation including with indigenous people if relevant
- Gender assessment and action plan
- Operations and maintenance plan if relevant
- Loan or grant operation manual as appropriate
- Co-financing commitment letters

Are you aware that a funding proposal from an accredited entity without a signed AMA will be reviewed but not sent to the Board for consideration? Yes ☒ No ☐