

Multi-Country; LDCs in Africa: Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and The Gambia

The Africa Integrated Climate Risk Management Programme: Building the resilience of smallholder farmers to climate change impacts in 7 Sahelian Countries of the Great Green Wall (GGW)”

CLIMATE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND SCREENING CHECKLIST

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1. Objectives

The main objectives of the climate eligibility criteria and screening checklist are to:

- Guide the process of assessing the eligibility of country subprojects from a climate perspective
- Identify the baseline data needed for the seven selected countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, The Gambia) to conduct assessments and detailed due diligence
- Identify any potential issues at an early stage of the programme in each country and targeted regions
- Guide and inform the on-site due diligence process carried out during the implementation phase for all pre-defined subprojects. As part of the eligibility assessment and screening stages of the investment process (subproject selection), a list will be made of the subprojects that do not adequately fulfil the criteria identified below. These projects will not move on to the next stages of the investment process, as defined in the funding proposal. The criteria to be used in the assessment include climate eligibility criteria, criteria for targeted areas and beneficiaries, investment guidelines and environmental and social management safeguards. Subprojects will be analysed to ensure they do not contain elements on the exclusion list.

Each subproject must meet the eligibility criteria to move forward in the investment process in the seven countries. This climate eligibility criteria and screening checklist builds on the IFAD baseline investment methodology that IFAD uses to select subprojects to be financed under baseline investments.

For the purposes of this Annex 2, “**Sub-project**” means each individual sub-project which the relevant Executing Entity shall evaluate and select, in accordance with this Annex 2 and the PIM and which will be financed under Activities 1.1.2, 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.3, 2.1.4, 2.1.5, 2.1.6, 2.1.7, 2.1.8, 2.1.9, 2.1.10, 2.2.1, 2.2.2, 2.2.3, 2.2.5, 2.2.7, 2.2.8 and 2.2.9.

The below General Eligibility Criteria (B) and Screening Checklist (C) apply to all Activities under the Programme where relevant to the Activities and sub-activities, however in the case of Sub-projects (as defined above), the application of these criteria as well as criteria defined in (D) is mandatory.

2. Climate eligibility Process

• Baseline scenario and additionality criteria

All interventions under the Programme’s Activities must go through the investment/screening procedures set out in this Annex.

In line with IFAD-SECAP, an assessment of all subprojects identified in this programme proposal will be carried out in the following stages: i) the assessment of the baseline scenario in targeted areas; ii) the application of additionality criteria; iii) a barrier analysis; iv) an investment analysis; v) mitigation impacts; vi) co-benefits analysis; vii) preliminary climate risk assessment, and viii) verification of activities using the exclusion list. The steps of the process are:

- **Step 1:** Each Host Country’s PMU will conduct the baseline assessments and then based on this information, evaluate the relevant activities according to the steps listed in this Section C.
- **Step 2:** If the activities do not meet the criteria analysed at each stage of the assessment process, it will not be approved for financing under the Programme.
- **Step 3:** If all the criteria are met, then the activities will be approved for implementation by the relevant steering committee and the relevant PMU in each Host Country, *provided that* the final decision with respect to the approval of an activity will be made by the relevant Executing Entity. The relevant Executing Entities will proceed to sign contracts and agreements with the relevant service providers for the implementation of the activity.

3. Baseline scenario

The main assumption is that without the programme, country projects and GCF funds, the following activities described under the selected outputs will not be carried out in the selected areas. The table below identifies the relevant activities

and the assessments that will need to be carried out for each one to establish the baseline scenario prior to programme implementation.

Baseline scenario - without the GCF regional programme	Criteria/evidence
Output 1.1: Increased access to agro-climatic information services and early warning infrastructure to support integrated climate risks management	
1.1.2. Install 560 automatic weather stations and 700 rain gauges; upgrade/rehabilitate 210 existing hydrological stations in the seven countries	1.1.2. Assessment of current CIEWS infrastructure and potential for future investments in the same areas in each country and targeted region
Output 2.1: Best available adaptation/mitigation technologies (forest and land use; renewable energy) adopted and implemented with agricultural insurance schemes	
2.1.1. Establish 500 Agro-Pastoral/Farmer Field Schools (AP/FFS) 2.1.2. Set up 1,000 nurseries to grow select climate-adapted varieties (e.g. heat, submergence, drought and salinity-tolerant, pest resistant)	2.1.1. and 2.12. Assessment and confirmation of the baseline situation (current and historical) regarding the Agro-Pastoral/Farmer Field Schools (AP/FFS) and nurseries in the future locations and any potential future investments planned at the start-up phase; identification of the specific locations in each country and targeted regions
2.1.3. Promote CSA, dune stabilization techniques; restoration of degraded land and sustainable forest management on 200,000 ha 2.1.4. Undertake mechanical/biological management to restore 100,000 ha of pastureland across the 7 countries 2.1.5. Promote sustainable forest management techniques for 40,000 ha of forests 2.1.6. Promote the integration of agroforestry into farming systems on 26,000 ha of selected watersheds. 2.1.7. Support the integration of Assisted Natural Regeneration of trees (ANR) into 70,000 ha of rain-fed production systems 2.1.8. Promote Zaï and half-moon techniques on 60,000 ha	2.1.3, 2.1.4, 2.1.5 and 2.1.8 Assessment of current and historical production techniques (CSA, Zaï, mechanical/biological management, sustainable forest management techniques, agroforestry, ANR) used in the specific locations in each country
2.1.9. Construction and rehabilitation of 175 water points (reservoirs, ponds, wells, boreholes) for farming and along 100,000 km of transhumance pathways 2.1.10 Install 392 mini-grids to power agricultural and livestock value chains and improve households' access to energy	2.1.9 and 2.1.10. Assess and confirm the baseline situation (historical and current) of water points and mini-grids and potential investment planned at the start-up phase and identification of the specific locations in each country and target regions.
Output 2.2. Diversified livelihood through the promotion of income generating activities powered with renewable energy (executing entities)	
2.2.1. Establishment of 200 modern communal poultry farms for youth and women 2.2.2. Construction of 200 earth dams for fish farming activities 2.2.3. Establishment of 100 integrated vegetable gardens based on community models on at least 4-5 ha (solar pumps, compost systems, daycare facility for women, agroforestry and rotation of crops; transport systems) 2.2.5. Climate-proof 700 feeder roads and farm tracks to ensure year-round and all-weather usability (culverts, sand stabilization, side-drains to reduce erosion, etc.) and connection to markets 2.2.7. Construct/rehabilitate 200 warehouses and processing facilities that are resilient to climate change 2.2.8. Construct or rehabilitate 100 vet points 2.2.9. Support the deployment of 100 micro grid to power agricultural value chains	Assessment of the baseline situation and confirm the activities selection under the programme at start-up and identification of the specific locations in each country and target regions

4. Additionality criteria

Main assumption: Subprojects in each of the selected countries that fall under one or several of the aspects described in the table below need the funds provided by the proposed regional programme in order to be executed and thus, can be considered additional.

Aspect of subprojects	Criteria/evidence
Output 1.1: Increased access to agro-climatic information services and early warning infrastructure to support integrated climate risks management 1.1.2. Installation of 560 automatic weather stations and 700 rain gauges; upgrade/rehabilitate existing 210 hydrological stations across the 7 countries	The CIEWS equipment shall meet at least the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WMO standards - Equipment shall provide seasonal and near-term forecasts in formats accessible to farmers and strengthen early warning systems. - Equipment will be able to scale down climate impact modelling and scenario planning to the regional and local levels
1.1.5. Construction of rainwater harvesting infrastructure along 7 transhumance corridors	The rainwater harvesting infrastructure shall meet at least the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity to collect of the adequate rainwater - Built with concrete and sustainable materials
Output 2.1: Best available adaptation/ mitigation technologies (forest and land use; renewable energy) adopted and implemented with agricultural insurance schemes 2.1.1. Establish 500 Agro-Pastoral/Farmer Field Schools (AP/FFS).	The AP/FFS uses at least one the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Solar panels for irrigation - Sustainable agriculture techniques - Measures to counter soil erosion (e.g. terracing, contour bunds, drainage, agroforestry, perennial crops) - Practices that increase carbon and organic matter in soil - Water conservation and efficiency measures such as water harvesting, efficient irrigation infrastructure, check dams, flood management and drainage
2.1.2. Set up 1,000 nurseries to grow select climate-adapted varieties (e.g. heat, submergence, drought and salinity tolerant, pest resistant)	The nurseries should use at least the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Solar panels for irrigation - Sustainable agriculture techniques - Measures to counter soil erosion (e.g. terracing, contour bunds, drainage, agroforestry, perennial crops). - Increase soil carbon and improve the management of organic matter in the soil. - Efficient water conservation and use measures such as water harvesting, efficient irrigation infrastructure, check dams, flood management and drainage -
2.1.3. Promote CSA, dune stabilization techniques, restoration of degraded land and sustainable forest management on 200,000 ha	Subproject implemented in an area where at least one of the following applies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agroforestry, forest-pastoral or ecosystem-based adaptation systems and supply chains are established or enhanced - Area/ha of habitat or kilometres rehabilitated to reduce external shocks such as land degradation through replanting and protection - Evidence of human-assisted natural regeneration is provided - Where applicable, evidence of avoided deforestation is provided

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Switching from conventional logging to reduced-impact logging, and extending the rotation cycle or cutting age - Afforestation (plantations) and reforestation on previously deforested land <p>Note: Activities that drain native ecosystems or degrade hydrological systems shall not be eligible.</p>
2.1.4. Undertake mechanical/biological management to restore 100,000 ha of pastureland across the 7 countries	<p>Mechanical/biological management systems shall use/integrate at least one :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Locally proven restoration techniques - Proven erosion control measures, reduced tillage intensity, use of cover crops, crop rotation, higher inputs of organic matter in soil, processing and application of manure, perennial cropping systems, deep rooting species - Cultivation of organic soils, inhibitor management, , drainage management, improved crop breeds and biotechnology that reduce emissions, and water management (e.g. in paddy rice) - Leakage assessment, including displaced land use activities outside the project area, should be considered.
2.1.5. Promote sustainable forest management techniques for 40,000 ha of forests	<p>Subprojects shall demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Human-assisted natural regeneration techniques increase adaptive capacity of the communities (evidence should be provided) - Leakage assessment, including displaced land-use activities outside the project area, have been considered - Afforestation (plantations) and reforestation on previously deforested land - restoration of degraded natural land-based habitats - A substantial reduction in net GHG emissions or carbon intensity (tCO₂e/unit of outcome) through efficient nitrogen fertilizer use (by improving the rate, type, timing, placement or precision of application), cultivation of organic soils, inhibitor management, manure management including anaerobic digestion <p>Note: Activities that drain native ecosystems or degrade hydrological systems shall not be eligible.</p>
2.1.6. Promote the integration of agroforestry into farming systems on 26,000 ha of selected watersheds	
2.1.7. Support the integration of Assisted Natural Regeneration of trees (ANR) into 70,000 ha of rain-fed production systems	
2.1.8 . Promote Zaï and half-moon techniques on 60,000 ha	
2.1.9. Construction and rehabilitation of 175 water points (reservoirs, ponds, wells, boreholes) for farming and along 100,000 km of transhumance pathways	<p>The water points to be built shall meet at least the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Infrastructures use adequate materials to reduce water leakages and management - The design integrates techniques to enhance resilience to climate impacts (location, conservation, equipment)
<p>Output 2.2. Diversified livelihood through the promotion of income generating activities powered with renewable energy (executing entities:</p> <p>2.2.1. Establishment of 200 modern communal poultry farms for youth and women.</p>	<p>The modern communal poultry farms shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrate minimum environmental standards (ventilation, recycling and re-use of waste, system, space) - Promote local breeds - Minimum 40% of beneficiaries are youth/women - Use renewable energy sources for lighting - Use efficient watering equipment
2.2.2. Construction of 200 earth dams for fish farming activities.	<p>The earth dams include at least one of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use of solar systems to power freezers or refrigerators for conservation - Protect biodiversity (water sources, lake, sea)
2.2.3. Establishment of 100 integrated vegetable gardens based on community models on at least 4-5 ha of land (solar pumps, compost systems, daycare facilities for women, agroforestry systems and crop rotation; transport systems)	<p>Integrated vegetable gardens shall meet at least one the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use of solar panels for irrigation - Use of sustainable agriculture techniques - Use of measures to counter soil erosion (e.g. terracing, contour bunds, drainage, agroforestry, perennial crops)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adoption of techniques to increase carbon and organic matter in the soil - Adoption of water conservation and efficiency measures, such as water harvesting, efficient irrigation infrastructure, check dams, flood management and drainage
2.2.5. Climate-proof 700 feeder roads and farm tracks to ensure year-round and all-weather usability (culverts, sand stabilization, side drains to reduce erosion, etc.) and connection to markets	<p>The feeder roads shall involve at least:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An Environmental Impact Assessment (GIS, remote sensing, mapping) - Construction of culverts and side drains to reduce erosion - Include environmentally-friendly asphalt (hot mix asphalt, HMA)
2.2.7 Construct/rehabilitate 200 warehouses and processing facilities that are resilient to climate change	<p>The warehouse and processing facilities integrate at least the following :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimum environmental standards (Lightning, ventilation) - Use of appropriate local material for their construction - Integrate pest management techniques
2.2.8. Construct or rehabilitate 100 vet points	<p>The vet points shall meet minimum environmental standards (orientation, ventilation, materials used)</p>
2.2.9 Support the deployment of 100 mini grid to power agricultural value chains	<p>The mini-grids shall meet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cost and affordability - Provision of energy consumption data: if possible, on an hourly basis - Power quality (AC/DC): voltage stability, ripples and switching noise, transients, faults/ day - Power reliability - Maintenance

5. Programme targeted areas and beneficiaries:

The target areas of the GCF programme in the seven selected countries were identified and defined during the IFAD baseline investments design process. The main selection criteria were: i) the level poverty and remoteness; ii) food insecurity and nutrition; iii) climate vulnerability and unsustainable management of natural resources; iv) rural gender disparities and youth unemployment; v) absence or lack of rural infrastructure including energy access; vi) opportunities for job creation both for youth and women, and vi) possibility to create synergies with other donor-supported programs (IFAD main baseline investments, ARC contingency plans target areas, WFP and AfDB target areas). These targeted regions have a range of ecosystems and agricultural zones, such as savannahs and semi-arid regions. Agriculture accounts for over 51 percent of employment and is the main source of livelihood. Various tradable commodities are produced in the targeted regions such as maize, soybean, dairy, livestock, rice, tree crops (cashew) and horticulture, with fish farming in certain regions, including the Lake Chad and Niger River basins. The programme's target intervention regions are summarized in Table 6 and will build synergies with the new IFAD G5 Sahel + Senegal regional programme. Maps are compiled in the Appendix Map.

Target groups are: (i) small producers engaged in staple crops (millet, maize, sorghum and groundnuts), livestock (dairy and beef, sheep and goats, chicken) and non-timber forest products (forestry) value chains characterized by subsistence production and the reduced size of agricultural land and livestock capital; (ii) rural smallholder farmers that are extremely vulnerable people to climate change and climate variability; (iii) rural marginalized communities including persons living with disabilities, the elderly, widows and widowers and displaced people, and iv) young people (educated or not), women heads of households, which are all characterized by a pronounced weakness or lack of production capital (agricultural and livestock) and a lack of economic opportunities and jobs.

6. Barrier analysis

Main assumption: There are barriers that the subproject would not be able to address without the funds provided by this regional programme in each of the participating countries. These barriers are compiled into the table below.

Aspect	Criteria / evidence
Limited access to agro-climatic information services and early warning infrastructure to support integrated climate risk management, particularly activities 1.1.2	Inadequate climate risk information services and limited knowledge and understanding of climate change impacts hinder capacity to better plan and develop integrated adaptive approach and solutions and assessment of existing climate risk information services
Limited adoption of best available adaptation/mitigation technologies (forest and land use; renewable energy), particularly activities 2.1.1; 2.1.2; 2.1.3; 2.1.4; 2.1.5; 2.1.6; 2.1.7; 2.1.8 and 2.1.9; 2.1.10	Very limited adoption of best adaptation/mitigation technologies (forest and land use; renewable energy) and when they are used, they are fragmented and not often linked to climate risk transfer mechanisms
Limited range of livelihood options and access to renewable energy sources, particularly activities 2.2.1; 2.2.2; 2.2.5; 2.2.7; 2.2.8 and 2.2.9	Very limited adoption of integrated climate resilient agriculture practices that enable farmers to diversify their sources of income, and limited access to renewable energy sources; assessment of current and past livelihood options in the selected sites and communities is required
Limited funds available particularly for the targeted regions and communities for the selected activities above	Access to financing, particularly climate finance, is very limited; an assessment of sources of funding channelled to the selected sites and selected activities is required
Weak policy, institutional coordination mechanisms and capacity on integrated climate risk management	Assessment of similar policies, institutional coordination mechanisms and capacity on integrated climate risk management existing in other countries and regions is required
Limited technical capacities	Assessment of beneficiaries' capacities to implement integrated climate risk management is required
Limited access to agricultural insurance, as private insurers are reluctant to develop this market; farmers and countries are reluctant to pay premiums; and financial institutions charge high interest rates, which limit investments	Assessment of current and past insurance products and services in the selected countries compared to other countries and regions

7. Investment analysis

Main assumption: Different land uses are more financially or economically attractive than the ones offered by the programme (but not as climate resilient or sustainable), and thus would be more likely to be adopted without the funds provided this regional programme.

Aspect	Criteria / evidence
Performance and capacity of agro-climatic information services and early warning infrastructure to support integrated climate risk management	Comparison of expected performance of CIEWS based on a suitable indicator in a scenario where programme has been implemented and one without it shows that performance and capacity enhanced when subproject is implemented
Level of adoption of best available adaptation/mitigation technologies (forest and land use; renewable energy) combined with agricultural insurance schemes <i>versus</i> other alternatives	Comparison of expected performance, based on a suitable indicator, in scenario <i>without</i> programme-supported adoption of best practices combined with agricultural insurance schemes and a scenario <i>with</i> this programme's support shows that the uptake of the said best practices is greater with support, thus contributing to greater resilience and adaptive capacity
Range of livelihood options, available to farmers, especially ones powered with renewable energy sources	Comparison of expected performance based on a suitable indicator in scenarios with and without programme's support shows that the promotion of income generating activities powered with renewable energy significantly helps farmers diversify their livelihood options (activities 2.2.1; 2.2.2; 2.2.3. 2.2.5; 2.2.7; 2.2.8; 2.2.9)

Comparison of risk transfer mechanism with micro-insurance	Comparison of expected performance based on a suitable indicator against the without project supported access to micro insurance through activity 3.1.9 and others
Benchmark analysis	Comparison of expected performance based on a suitable indicator against applicable benchmarks in the market

8. The Sahel Programme scenario: mitigation impacts

Main assumption: The net climate change mitigation impact of the project is positive.

Aspect	Scenario/Evidence
Estimate of the net sequestration in the project in tCO2	<p>Use the EXCAT and fund carbon methodology attached in Annex 22 (CDM/ UNFCCC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sequestration in the project refers to the biomass resulting from project implementation. It includes aboveground and belowground biomass of trees. - Baseline corresponds to the biomass in the scenario that would occur in the absence of the project according to the most plausible scenario. Most often, the most plausible scenario is the continuation of activities initiated prior to the start of the project. - Leakage refers to emissions that occur due to a shift of activities (mainly agriculture and livestock) from inside to outside of a project area as a result of project implementation. - Other project emissions refer to emissions resulting from burning of biomass during land preparation or fires.

9. Co-benefits

Main assumption: The project will create positive co-benefits related to: the establishment of climate information systems that inform farmers, governments and other stakeholders on the best mitigation and adaptation activities to implement; the restoration of degraded land; conservation and avoided deforestation through activities identified under output 1.2. output 2.1. and output 2.2..

Aspect	Criteria / evidence
Climate change mitigation benefit	<p>Demonstrate that all activities in each of the 7 countries and targeted regions will have positive mitigation impacts, namely reduced emissions from unsustainable land use, deforestation and forest degradation thanks to the adoption of sustainable forest management and conservation practices and techniques to increase forests' carbon stocks, and improved access to renewable energy sources (mini grids), which will result in the avoidance of 21 466 499 MtCO2e</p> <p>Assessment using appropriate methodologies is attached in appendix 22 which assess direct and indirect impacts on forest and land use, renewable and non-renewable energy</p>
Climate change adaptation benefit	<p>Demonstrate that all activities, country project and the regional programme will have positive impacts on the well-being of communities by comparing their current situation to their anticipated conditions with the programme's support for enhanced CIEWS networks, climate resilient adaptation measures, diversification of livelihood and risk transfer measures.</p> <p>Assessment of country and regional climate change and climate variability scenarios and impacts in the absence of the programme based on available studies</p>

Positive impacts on smallholder farmers and rural communities	Demonstrate that all activities in the 7 countries increase resilience and enhance the livelihood and food and water security of smallholder farmers and rural communities through integrated climate risk management of natural resources (water, soil, ecosystems). Assessment based on appropriate methodologies that assess direct and indirect impacts on each of the community groups, including potential impacts on ecosystem services identified as important for the communities (including water and soil resources)
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10. **Preliminary climate risk assessment guidance** for all activities in the seven selected countries proposed under outputs 1.1, 2.1 and 2.2:

- Assessment of the vulnerability of the subproject to climate change in the future
- Identification of climate risks that the project may face
- Potential adverse impacts of project operations on the vulnerability of ecosystems and communities
- Assessment of mitigation strategies to address the risks
- Assessment of monitoring systems.

11. Investment Cycle for subprojects

It will include the : 1) eligibility assessment (2) screening, (3) pre-due diligence, (4) due diligence and (5) execution presented below:

Eligibility	Screening	Due diligence	Execution
Subprojects listed 1.1.2 and 2.1.1; 2.1.2; 2.1.3; 2.1.4; 2.1.4; 2.1.5; 2.1.6; 2.1.7; 2.1.8; 2.1.9;2.1.10. 2.2.1; 2.2.2; 2.2.3 2.2.5; 2.2.7; 2.2.8 and 2.2.9; met all eligibility criteria above	In each country and target region, the subprojects will be assessed based on the climate screening criteria	After the subproject has been deemed eligible, the steering committee and the PMU of the baseline investment will clear the subproject and its budget as planned in the FP.	The EEs will proceed to sign contracts and agreements with service providers and implement the subprojects