



Global Environment Facility

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Dear GEF Council Member,

I am writing to notify you that we have today posted on the GEF's website at www.TheGEF.org, a medium-sized project proposal from IFAD entitled ***Regional (Algeria, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, Yemen) MENARID Cross Cutting M&E Functions and Knowledge Management for INRM within the MENARID Programme*** to be funded under the GEF Trust Fund (GEFTF).

The objectives of the MSP include an integrated knowledge-base approach through cross-cutting M&E functions and knowledge management (KM) for INRM with in the MENARID programme framework established.

The project proposal is being posted for your review. We would welcome any comments you may wish to provide by July 01, 2009, in accordance with the new procedures approved by the Council. You may send your comments to gcoordination@TheGEF.org.

If you do not have access to the Web, you may request the local field office of the World Bank or UNDP to download the document for you. Alternatively, you may request a copy of the document from the Secretariat. If you make such a request, please confirm for us your current mailing address.

Sincerely,

Copy: Alternates, GEF Agencies, STAP, Trustee



REQUEST FOR CEO ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

PROJECT TYPE: Medium-sized Project

THE GEF TRUST FUND

Submission Date: 26 May 2009

PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

GEFSEC PROJECT ID: 3628

GEF AGENCY PROJECT ID:

COUNTRY(IES): Algeria, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, Yemen

PROJECT TITLE: Cross-cutting M&E functions and knowledge management for INRM within the MENARID programme framework

GEF AGENCY(IES): IFAD

OTHER EXECUTING PARTNER(S): ICARDA

GEF FOCAL AREA(s): Land Degradation

GEF-4 STRATEGIC PROGRAM(s): Mainly LD with linkages to IW, BD and CC

NAME OF PARENT PROGRAM/UMBRELLA PROJECT: INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE NORTH AFRICA REGION (MENARID)

Expected Calendar (mm/dd/yy)	
Milestones	Dates
Work Program (for FSPs only)	N/A
Agency Approval date	July 2009
Implementation Start	Jan 2010
Mid-term Evaluation	June 2012
Project Closing Date	Jan 2014

A. PROJECT FRAMEWORK (Expand table as necessary)

Project Objective: An integrated knowledge-base approach through cross-cutting M&E functions and knowledge management(KM) for INRM within the MENARID programme framework established								
Project Components	Indicate whether Investment, TA, or STA ²	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	GEF Financing ¹		Co-Financing ¹		Total (\$) c=a+ b
				(\$) a	%	(\$) b	%	
1. M&E system for INRM within the MENARID framework	TA	Generate tools for systematic cross-cutting & aligned M&E functions throughout the MENARID framework	1.1: Harmonized MENARID M&E tools 1.2 : Aligned M&E approaches & processes 1.3 : Systematic M&E data aggregation and analysis	0.227	36	0.400	64	0.627
2. KM platform for INRM within the MENARID framework	TA	Develop a user-friendly knowledge management (KM) platform for INRM best practices throughout the MENARID portfolio	2.1 : Operational Knowledge Management platform 2.2 : Updated information on INRM in MENA Region 2.3 : Increased knowledge flow between MENARID projects	0.227	27	0.600	73	0.827

3. Strategy for disseminating best & successful INRM practices throughout the MENARID framework	TA	Dissemination mechanisms of INRM best practices in the MENA region	3.1 : Adopted regional strategy for dissemination of best INRM practices 3.2 : Effective Monitoring and documentation of best practices 3.3 : Innovative practices & approaches for INRM promoted	0.146	27	0.400	73	0.546
8. Project management				0.067	25	0.200	75	0.267
Total Project Costs				0.667	29	1.600	71	2.267

¹ List the \$ by project components. The percentage is the share of GEF and Co-financing respectively of the total amount for the component.

² TA = Technical Assistance; STA = Scientific & Technical Analysis.

B. SOURCES OF CONFIRMED CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT (expand the table line items as necessary)

<i>Name of Co-financier (source)</i>	<i>Classification</i>	<i>Type**</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>%*</i>
IFAD	Impl. Agency	In kind	480,000	30
ICARDA	Exec. Agency	In kind	320,000	20
National Governments	Nat'l Gov't	In Kind	320,000	20
Partner Agencies	Multilat. Agency	In kind	480,000	30
Total Co-financing			1,600,000	100%

Percentage of each co-financier's contribution at CEO endorsement to total co-financing.

** identified Co-financing resources for this project are mostly in kind

C. FINANCING PLAN SUMMARY FOR THE PROJECT (\$)

	<i>Project Preparation a</i>	<i>Project b</i>	<i>Total C = a + b</i>	<i>Agency Fee</i>	<i>For comparison: GEF and Co-financing at PIF</i>
GEF financing	60,000	667,270	727,270	72,730	800,000
Co-financing	89,874	1,600,000	1,690,096		1,760,000
Total	149,874	2,267,270	2,417,144	72,730	2,560,000

E. CONSULTANTS WORKING FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPONENTS:

<i>Component</i>	<i>Estimated person weeks</i>	<i>GEF amount(\$)</i>	<i>Co-financing (\$)</i>	<i>Project total (\$)</i>
Local consultants*	380	0	475,000	475,000
International consultants*	45	112,500	0	112,500
Total	425	112,500	475,000	587,500

* Details to be provided in Annex C.

F. PROJECT MANAGEMENT BUDGET/COST

<i>Cost Items</i>	<i>Total Estimated person weeks/months</i>	<i>GEF amount (\$)</i>	<i>Co-financing (\$)</i>	<i>Project total (\$)</i>
Local consultants*	100 weeks	20,000	70,000	90,000
Office facilities, and communications		10,000	50,000	60,000
Travel		30,000	40,000	70,000
Workshops and seminars		7,000	40,000	47,000
Total		67,000	200,000	267,000
Total (E+F)		179,500	675,000	854,500

* Details to be provided in Annex C.

** For others, it has to clearly specify what type of expenses here in a footnote.

G. DOES THE PROJECT INCLUDE A “NON-GRANT” INSTRUMENT? yes no

(If non-grant instruments are used, provide in Annex E an indicative calendar of expected reflows to your agency and to the GEF Trust Fund).

H. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M & E PLAN:

The MSP Project monitoring and evaluation will follow an M&E Plan based on the project logical framework. The M&E plan will follow GEF and IFAD M&E guidelines. The key M&E activities will comprise the following: consolidation and monitoring of benchmark and baseline data at project inception; half-yearly data collection and reporting of activity and output targets and achievements; annual project implementation reviews (PIRs); a mid-term review; and a final completion assessment. The activities will engage and be guided by the project implementing agencies as well as regional and national partner institutions and beneficiaries. Each implementing or partner agency will have clear M&E responsibilities with specific inputs to M&E activities. They will be actively involved in presenting and discussing the findings of the monitoring exercise.

M&E will be linked to the project rationale, logical framework, annual work plans and budget as well as to the MENARID umbrella programme M&E plan. The findings of the M&E will be used to take corrective or enhancing measures at the level of project management.

The objectives of the Monitoring and Evaluation plan will be:

- To analyse project progress, impacts and achievements
- To assess the relationship between activities planned in the project document and those implemented, using performance indicators
- To re-orient the project as needed (adaptive management)
- To draw recommendations for future activities in the region
- To allow inter-project evaluations and systematic exchanges with MENARID projects as well as other GEF projects
- To contribute to the alignment of the M&E systems of the MENARID sub-projects

The Budgeted M&E Plan

M&E Activity	Responsibility	Indicative Budget (USD)
Updating and validating the project logical framework	ICARDA	5000*
Collection of benchmark and baseline data	ICARDA	5000*
Half-yearly reporting on activity and output targets and achievements	ICARDA	16000*
Annual Project Implementation Reviews (PIRs)	IFAD	6000
Mid-term review	IFAD	10000
Final completion assessment	IFAD	10000
TOTAL		52000

* These costs are part of the budget allocated for consultants under Project Management

The detailed M&E plan, including data collection and analysis arrangements, baseline information, and programme of work and budget, will be prepared at project start-up with the participation of the implementing agencies of MENARID projects. The plan should be in-line and complementing the individual M&E plans of all MENARID projects. Detailed schedules for project reviews will be developed by ICARDA and IFAD in consultation with GEF agencies and relevant stakeholders upon project inception.

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION:

A. STATE THE ISSUE, HOW THE PROJECT SEEKS TO ADDRESS IT, AND THE EXPECTED GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS TO BE DELIVERED:

One of the significant challenges facing the MENA countries is how to stop drylands degradation and combat desertification while improving livelihoods and reducing poverty through better and sustainable management of natural resources, enabling the business environment for employment creation and innovation. Past approaches and measures engaged by countries for reversing current trends of natural resources degradation had limited success. An important weakness in their implementation is due to the deficiency of integration and lack of appropriate cross sectoral synergies and exchange of information and knowledge resulting from successes and failures at the regional and local levels. Weak and fragmented environmental monitoring systems continue to generate scattered data and are often inadequately updated.

Despite the fact that many INRM projects have been implemented in the region in recent decades, limited exchanges have been promoted throughout the region. Furthermore, several INRM projects within the region do not systematically capture and disseminate the good practices that they generate. Limited cooperation and exchange of lessons is happening at both the national and the regional levels despite some good initiatives such as the GTZ/UNDP/FAO efforts on evaluation and monitoring for environmental management and impact assessment. There are often several gaps and barriers for effective mechanisms supporting knowledge generation and dissemination. INRM knowledge management often lacks adequate financing and enabling institutional environments to foster exchanges between projects within and beyond MENA countries.

The proposed MENARID Programme Framework provides overall guidance in identifying strategic priorities for GEF investments in integrated natural resource management (INRM) in the MENA region. It concerns promoting integrated NRM in the drylands of the region while improving the economic and social well-being of the targeted communities through the restoration and maintenance of ecosystem functions and productivity. These strategic priorities should maximize GEF's impacts in achieving global environmental benefits through selected investments supporting the GEF focal areas for land degradation, international waters, biodiversity, and climate change while simultaneously contributing to improving livelihoods and reducing poverty.

The MENARID reflects GEF-4's transition from single-project interventions to a more programmatic approach for GEF-supported activities. It allows GEF-4 to target its limited resources for priority issues of regional concern and to achieve higher visibility and greater impact by linking project interventions in a programmatic context. It also allows a shift towards an integrated and landscape approach to address processes that provide people with ecosystem goods and services from local to wider scales of operations. The landscape approach will embrace ecosystem principles through multi-focal area interventions.

The proposed MSP supports the long-term objectives of MENARID to achieve global environmental benefits through the implementation of multi-focal area projects that integrate biodiversity conservation and the use of sound strategies for land and water resource management while contributing to better adaptation to climate change impacts. It will provide MENARID with tools to be catalytic in action to bring about the successful integration of improved land and water resource management practices on an area-wide basis.

Besides their direct application to the projects under MENARID umbrella, results from cross-cutting M&E system will also contribute to the growing global knowledge on INRM and land degradation and desertification processes. In particular, they will report on the costs of effectiveness of the institutional model for INRM, desertification control, and the requirements for up-scaling these procedures to other countries in the MENA region.

The goal of the MSP is to establish an integrated knowledge-base approach through cross-cutting monitoring and evaluation (M&E) functions and knowledge management (KM) for INRM within the MENARID programme framework.

The MSP project aims at achieving the following two objectives:

- i. Generate tools for systematic cross-cutting & aligned M&E actions throughout the MENARID framework;
- ii. Develop a user-friendly knowledge management platform, information dissemination, harmonization & dissemination mechanisms of INRM best practices throughout the MENARID portfolio linked to existing networks.

The proposed MSP will build on existing M&E systems, platforms of knowledge management, and approaches of information dissemination used for natural resources management to aggregate impact indicators, streamlining the M&E functions across MENARID portfolio and disseminate good INRM practices in MENA region. The structure of the M&E systems to be developed should be flexible and easily adaptable for applying to a mix of interventions that might differ between projects to reflect national development objectives and stakeholders' priorities, including those of land users and local government. Harmonised M&E feedback allows the GEF to track progress in fulfilling its mission of delivering global environmental benefits in the concerned focal areas.

GEF projects are more likely to capitalize on their innovative and catalytic role when they are fully integrated with results-based management and where management activities are based on feedback from systematic monitoring and evaluation findings. Monitoring and evaluation processes can help strengthen partnerships, participation, and ownership around GEF projects and concerns, which are essential principles of GEF operations and policies. Consequently, the MSP will emphasize the quality of monitoring and evaluation systems and ensure that their findings are disseminated widely.

The MSP has three interlinked components responding to a combination of GEF 4 priorities under the LD Focal Area strategic thrusts and the main needs. The descriptive types of activities will facilitate the preparation process for developing a system wide approach to addressing transversal monitoring and evaluation across activities of INRM projects conducted under MENARID programme. Annex 1 presents the logical framework describing the project outcomes, outputs, indicators with their means of verification, and the risks and assumptions associated with the project. The list of activities and budget per outcome for every component is presented in the Project Implementation Plan in Annex 4.

Component 1. M&E system for INRM within the MENARID framework

This component will capitalise on existing systems to generate harmonised monitoring and evaluation procedures across the MENARID program. It will build on the existing indicators in these systems to suggest ways for harmonisation and

identify a core set of indicators including, in addition to those of the GEF, other relevant existing criteria that will be chosen and agreed upon during project design and implementation.

This program-wide M&E system will be developed in accordance and harmony with established GEF procedures. This will be provided by a structure to be implemented by IFAD with support from sister agencies and from GEF. Performance and impact indicators are defined for project implementation along with their corresponding means of verification. The MSP will synergize with existing M&E systems, for instance through linking with the national systems, particularly M&E tools and maps developed for North African countries and supported by the European Union (e.g. the SCIDE3 project) as well as other KM initiatives beyond the region (e.g. SIP and TerrAfrica).

This component will fulfill the following three outputs: i) Harmonized MENARID M&E tools; ii) Aligned M&E approaches & processes; and iii) Systematic M&E data aggregation and analysis. Three sets of activities will be supported by this component contributing to the fulfillment of its three outputs.

The first set of activities focuses on putting in place the basic requirements for a functional Results Based management (RBM) system. It is comprised namely of the following activities: Designing an RBM system for INRM projects; Proposing a set of performance and impact indicators, measurement and monitoring methodology, and means of verification; Designing a Results Based Budgeting (RBB) system for INRM projects; Developing guidelines for the design and implementation of RBM, RBB and M&E for INRM projects; Enhancing the capacity of INRM project staff through designing and delivering specialized trainings on RBM, RBB, and M&E. The primary list of core indicators that form the basis of the proposed RBM are included in Annex 4 in the project brief.

The second set of activities focuses on engaging the project stakeholders in designing and implementing the RBM and M&E system. It is comprised namely of the following activities: Extending the M&E system to project stakeholders and ensure access to RBM data and relevant information; Defining the roles and responsibilities of project national stakeholders in M&E functions; Building the capacity of national project stakeholders on M&E through designing and delivering specialized trainings; Providing online and on-site technical backstopping to project teams and national stakeholders to undertake M&E activities; and undertaking periodic evaluations on the M&E operations, assess their quality and propose required adjustments.

The third set of activities focuses on preparing the analytical methodologies for running the M&E operations. It is comprised namely of the following activities: Designing a common database and analytical tools and software for the INRM projects; Defining the required data for all M&E operations and describe its quantitative and qualitative characteristics; Developing common methodologies and procedures to undertake all required data analysis; Designing analytical procedures and reporting format to process and present financial data of INRM projects; Developing reporting guidelines and formats to present M&E results and recommendations.

The aligned cross-cutting M&E system will provide common guidelines to assist all projects in the MENARID portfolio for systematic assessment of their performance and impact based on common and standard basis, with a view to maximizing them and aggregating data. The system will provide common principles for continuous and periodic review and a feedback loop for operations to report on progress toward regional program results.

One of the main expected benefits from this cross-cutting programme-wide M&E is to reduce transaction costs for M&E functions across the GEF portfolio in the region. In addition, the MSP will offer opportunities for systematic mutual learning, knowledge building, and dissemination, which will drive replication in a variety of contexts, at both the regional and national levels.

Component 2. KM platform for INRM within the MENARID framework

Knowledge, along with commitment and capacity, is one of the three pillars of sustainable natural resource management. Access to good information and knowledge is paramount to the success of processes at regional and global levels. Supporting learning, innovation, and application of what is already known, is fundamental to progress towards more sustainable management of land, water, biodiversity resources and climate change adaptation. Barriers to knowledge exchange in the area of INRM in MENA include fragmentation of information, overwhelming volume of

information, access to information, relevance, not enough information sharing, and lack of opportunity for two-way flow of information.

The project will test and implement ways to improve knowledge connections (in all directions) among MENARID projects and between these projects and national programmes. Hence, a Knowledge Management (KM) platform should be tied to organisational objectives and is intended to achieve specific outcomes. All GEF-funded projects and activities under MENARID should contribute to the INRM Knowledgebase. The knowledgebase comprises: (i) expertise, skills, and research results; (ii) facts and information, reports on programme impacts and activities, and other data; (iii) awareness or familiarity gained by experience of a fact or situation; acquired through individual INRM projects within MENARID and elsewhere.

This component will fulfill the following three outputs: i) Operational knowledge management platform; ii) Updated information on INRM in MENA region; and iii) Increased knowledge flow between MENARID projects. Three sets of activities will be supported by this component contributing to the fulfillment of its three outputs.

The first set of activities focuses on establishing the knowledge management platform and ensuring that all the requirements for its effective functioning are put in place. It is comprised namely of the following activities: Acquiring the hardware, software and human expertise for developing the KM portal; Forming the system development team including the technical developers in addition to a representative sample of all stakeholders; Designing the KM portal based on the database and analytical tools as required in activities; Undertaking awareness sessions on the technological, organizational and training requirements for utilizing the KM platform; Preparing guidelines for stakeholders to acquire technological, organizational, and training requirements; and Designing instruments to measure organizational preparedness, utilization and contribution to the KM portal.

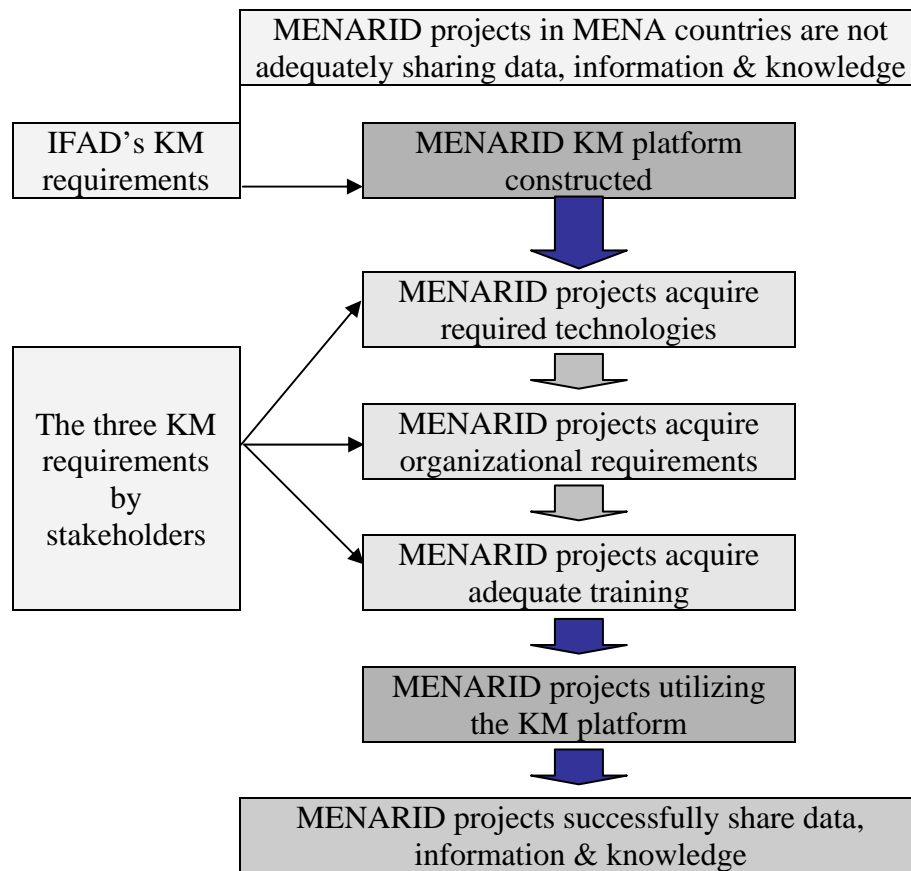
The second set of activities focuses on providing updates and comprehensive information on INRM in the MENA region. It is comprised namely of the following activities: Forming a content management team to upload the KM portal with initial data and information; Collecting information on INRM in the MENA region; Collecting data on the characteristics of collaboration taking place between users of the MENARID KM portal; and Collecting feedback from stakeholders on the content of the MENARID KM portal and their perception of the improvements in KM practices.

The third set of activities focuses on assessing the increasing knowledge flow on INRM between MENARID projects and national and regional partners. It is comprised namely of the following activities: Publishing statistics on the KM portal's incoming and outgoing traffic; Analyzing the characteristics of the users of the KM portal; Collecting data on sources, forms and extent of support stakeholders receive for either starting or sustaining their utilization of the MENARID KM portal; Assessing the contributions of MENARID projects to the KM portal and their benefits; and organizing face to face and virtual meetings for MENARID projects.

Developing a supportive knowledge sharing and learning infrastructure will include among others, web sites and e-forums to support and strengthen knowledge sharing, learning processes and promote innovation networks based on participatory/community-driven and iterative approaches. This will support knowledge sharing among projects partners and GEF agencies within and outside the region, as well as with other players working on natural resources management and degradation issues. It will identify the knowledge holders across projects and motivate them to share by fostering partnerships for broader knowledge sharing and learning and by supporting capacity building for accessing and applying knowledge. The proposed KM platform will build on existing systems such as KARIANET.

The proposed KM platform will be designed as an interactive system for sharing information and knowledge about participatory INRM and its sustainability in the MENA region. It should provide relevant documents and case studies as well as information such as contact database of projects and organizations, news and announcements of events, relevant web links, a gallery of useful resource materials, a forum for online discussions, and a free Web hosting service. Knowledge and information are intertwined. Effectively managing information includes making use of the results and knowledge generated in individual projects elsewhere in the region.

The platform will be fundamentally based on strong and dynamic cooperation through linkages among GEF agencies and through exchanges and synergies among countries and projects. The detailed description of the knowledge management framework is presented in Annexes in the project document. The simplified schematic diagram below describes the proposed KM Platform.



Component 3. Strategy for disseminating best & successful INRM practices throughout the MENARID framework

The challenge for INRM projects is sustainability. The costs, implications, and commitments required to maintain that balance may vary for each situation, but lessons learned and knowledge and experience gained from other INRM projects can help avoid missteps in crucial areas. Through this component, the proposed MSP will generate mechanisms for spotlighting success stories and develop solutions that should be tested in other MENARID projects and beyond. Application of cross cutting M&E system and KM exchanges addressed in component 1 and 2 will facilitate the identification of lessons and good practices. By developing a dissemination strategy and replicability approaches, it will facilitate the transfer of experiences, lessons learnt and best practices, thus promoting their replication both at regional and country levels. Hence, it will devise approaches and methods to comprehensively, monitor, document, scale-up, and replicate innovative cases from proven success stories, effective pilot initiatives and experiences, and best practices identified in the MENARID projects to be managed and promoted under a diversity of situations.

This will include strategies to reach out through innovative communications, and promote advocacy strategies to influence policy on key INRM issues with emphasis on addressing the multi-sectoral dimensions of interventions. Furthermore, this component will highlight more understanding regarding the issues related to scaling out and scaling up best INRM practices.

This component will fulfill the following three outputs: i) Adopted and implemented regional strategy for dissemination of best INRM practices; ii) Effective monitoring and documentation of best practices; and iii) Innovative practices & approaches for INRM promoted.

Three sets of activities will be supported by this component contributing to the fulfillment of its three outputs.

The first set of activities focuses on developing regional dissemination and technology transfer and diffusion strategies for INRM. It is comprised namely of the following activities: Developing a regional communication strategy for INRM projects in MENARID; Identifying key sources of information and target groups and establish linkages; Preparing guidelines for selecting information, knowledge and best practices to be disseminated; Publishing INRM best practices and experiences; Organizing regional seminars to present and discuss best practices in MENARID.

The second set of activities focuses on identifying and disseminating best practices for INRM. It is comprised namely of the following activities: Designing a specific module within the M&E system targeting INRM best practices; Supporting national stakeholders in up-scaling best practices within and beyond the project area; Documenting best practices and extract lessons learned, challenges and opportunities in undertaking INRM activities; Developing evidence based guidelines for INRM activities; Promoting best practices among MENARID countries and globally.

The third set of activities focuses on identifying and disseminating innovative practices for INRM. . It is comprised namely of the following activities: Defining innovative INRM practices and identify case studies within MENARID; Documenting innovative practices; Organizing regional thematic workshops on innovative practices in MENARID; Preparing electronic publications and audio visuals on innovative practices; Linking MENARID to relevant regional and global thematic networks to exchange knowledge and experience.

The global environmental benefits that will be yielded through this MSP are mostly related to its contribution to knowledge capturing, knowledge management and knowledge dissemination with regard to Integrated Natural Resources approaches and investments that generate global benefits while contributing to livelihoods improvement. This MSP will increase cost-effectiveness of GEF operations and reduce M&E transaction costs while contributing to better cooperation between GEF projects in the region and beyond.

A. DESCRIBE THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH NATIONAL AND/OR REGIONAL PRIORITIES/PLANS:

The first benefit of the proposed MSP is reduced transaction costs for M&E functions across the GEF portfolio in the MENARID countries through avoiding duplications and promoting synergies. The proposed MSP will contribute to improved governance and enhance the effectiveness of public sector organizations and institutions. The system will provide reliable information on the implementation of programmes, facilitate analysis of projects performance, and improve M&E practices. Through the collection and collation, analysis and dissemination and the application of information on the progress and impact of projects and programmes, the system will ensure transparency and accountability; promote service delivery improvement and compliance with statutory and other requirements and a learning culture in the public sector.

By disseminating results through the envisaged KM platform and by linking to other appropriate communication channels (such as the CoP and CRIC of the UNCCD), the MSP will also contribute to emerging a shared vision and the harmonization of the use of consolidated monitoring and evaluation based on standard indicators in sustainable INRM initiatives at the country level. In such way, the GEF can play an important role in the implementation of the UNCCD.

As a result, countries will be able to make better decisions on a strategic and technically sound basis on national efforts for sustainable natural resources management, and particularly for combating land degradation and desertification. In this regard, the proposed shared KM platform and crosscutting M&E system will also provide valuable basic approaches for country Parties to fulfill their obligations under the UNCCD, through efficient implementation and evaluation of NAPCCD and other relevant environmental conventions according to standards and set of commonly recognized criteria.

It will also provide an added-value for the countries through improving the quality of the pertinence of technical reporting, as well as adequately evaluating the reporting process and products in order to extract lessons learnt. It

responds to several needs expressed by countries in their NAPCCD, NAPAs and other documents regarding south-south cooperation and exchanges of lessons between stakeholders in the region. It will also contribute to CAMRE's (Council of Arab Ministries of Environment) advocacy and policy work specifically on reducing land degradation and ensuring ecosystems resilience in the Arab countries that have projects under MENARID.

C. DESCRIBE THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH [GEF STRATEGIES](#) AND STRATEGIC PROGRAMS:

The results-based cross-cutting M&E system will provide timely, useful information on progress being made on INRM across MENARID projects portfolio. This information will be channeled to key decision-makers involved in individual projects, the overall MENARID programme, and the broader INRM agenda. The results-based M&E system provides a tool that will generate bases for investment and programme improvement, mutual learning, accountability purposes, and will enhance stakeholder participation.

Results from the proposed project will contribute to the Focal Area Strategies by demonstrating the added-value of MENARID for system wide change, successful up-scaling practices, and improved knowledge on INRM. They will also provide additional tools and bases for MENARID to be open to promote cross-focal area synergies. By targeting sustainable integrated management of natural resources as a whole, the MSP will contribute to cross-focal area strategies and particularly facilitate linkages between SLM, integrated water resource management, biodiversity and climate change.

The proposed cross-cutting MSP relates to component IV of MENARID dealing with knowledge management, sharing and up scaling of best practices. It is designed to ensure that MENARID operations are monitored and evaluated in a coherent and systematic manner. The key barriers and bottlenecks addressed in this MSP are related to knowledge management, institutional limitations, and sectoral (cross sector) integration.

In addition to their direct application to the projects under MENARID umbrella, results from the cross-cutting M&E system will also contribute to the growing global knowledge on INRM, land degradation and desertification processes. In particular, they will report on the costs and effectiveness of the institutional model for INRM, desertification control, and the requirements for up-scaling these procedures to other countries in the MENA region and beyond. The structure of the systems to be developed need to be flexible and easily adaptable for applying to a mix of interventions that might differ between projects to reflect national development objectives and stakeholders' priorities, including those of land users and local government.

Harmonised M&E feedback allows the GEF to track progress in fulfilling its mission of delivering global environmental benefits in the concerned focal areas. GEF projects are more likely to capitalize on their innovative and catalytic role when they are fully integrated with results-based management and where management activities are based on feedback from systematic monitoring and evaluation findings. Monitoring and evaluation processes can help strengthen partnerships, participation, and ownership around GEF projects and concerns, which are essential principles of GEF operations and policies. Consequently, the GEF will emphasize the quality of monitoring and evaluation systems and ensure that their findings are disseminated widely. The M&E system will also build on existing tools such as the BD tracking tool for SO₂, the IW tracking tool on a case by case basis where applicable.

D. JUSTIFY THE TYPE OF FINANCING SUPPORT PROVIDED WITH THE GEF RESOURCES.

The project will not provide financing support with GEF resources.

E. OUTLINE THE COORDINATION WITH OTHER RELATED INITIATIVES:

The MSP will build on experiences and lessons learned from similar completed and ongoing (GEF and non-GEF) initiatives within and outside the region. It will capitalise on the ongoing global KM: Land project, a multi-agency effort led by the GEF/UNDP to develop indicators to demonstrate the benefits derived from actions on SLM, and that is intended to lay the foundations for a comprehensive system to track progress across the focal area. It will equally build on national systems in place and those being established for different areas and components of natural resources management, particularly under NAPCCD. The MSP will link to regional networks, platforms and processes (such as

KARIANET). The proposed M&E and KM systems will also build on GE agency systems to avoid duplication, promote flexibility and enhance synergies and compatibility of systems.

The approaches of cross-cutting M&E system and KM platform will be shared by all GEF agencies and made available to affected countries and all relevant stakeholders who are interested in linkages with MENARID strategy. Conversely, the knowledgebase on INRM will be continuously updated and enriched through experiences and information gained from agencies and partners.

The consolidated M&E and KM platform to be developed by the proposed MSP will encourage individual projects under MENARID umbrella to build on their interventions with the ongoing work throughout the MENA region. This MSP will allow MENARID to recommend stronger linkages with ongoing efforts to support coordination and establishing donor-country platforms for financing UNCCD, CBD and UNFCCC implementation.

Because the linkages that occur in NRM systems create the need to integrate across spatial and temporal scales, the proposed project will necessarily adopt multi-scale approaches to capture this inter-connectivity and off-site effects. Nevertheless, so far there has been insufficient exchange of experiences on strategies and delivery mechanisms among stakeholders. Projects in different countries have followed different approaches towards promoting sustainable INRM, arresting land degradation, combating desertification, and mainstreaming SLM, as a function of their agro-ecological, economic, social, and political environments. By looking at the issues in an integrated way, the MSP will come closer to the partner stakeholders' perspective of their livelihood and their environment. The sharing of experiences is important to enhance the efficiency and scope of INRM investments.

The implementation of the proposed MSP project will involve cooperating and interacting with national institutions, GEF agencies, and other partners. This will facilitate harmonization and alignment of monitoring and evaluation approaches and methods and KM and dissemination in terms of INRM across international programs and national sustainable INRM priorities.

F. DISCUSS THE VALUE-ADDED OF GEF INVOLVEMENT IN THE PROJECT DEMONSTRATED THROUGH INCREMENTAL REASONING :

Without GEF

It is not uncommon that end-of-project evaluations conclude that expected project outcomes are not achieved and that projects have mainly focused on monitoring activities completed rather than impacts produced. Projects supported by GEF and other international agencies in the area of INRM have consistently faced similar problems in the past. This is largely due to the lack of a harmonized results-based M&E system for INRM activities as well as to the insufficient exchange of knowledge among projects to overcome such challenges.

Barriers to knowledge exchange in the area of INRM include fragmentation of information, overwhelming volume of information, access to information, relevance, not enough information sharing, lack of opportunity for two-way flow of information. MENARID will contribute to ongoing efforts that seek INRM with its major focus on investments on the ground. Designed as such MENARID is likely to generate significant amounts of data and knowledge that will continue like in many other projects in the region to be fragmented and unshared. Individual projects may contribute to knowledge sharing but will need a driver for a wider dissemination across the region and beyond its borders. Furthermore, without this cross-cutting GEF MSP, GEF operations will continue to generate fragmented indicators and data leading to difficulties in aggregating impact and evaluating GEF reach and cost-effectiveness of its operations. Without this project, the region will continue to lack necessary incentives, tools and financing for INRM knowledge capturing and dissemination.

With GEF

The multi-focal area nature of MENARID is incremental as it will drive an integrated investment and operationalize cross-sectoral NRM activities in the countries and the region. MENARID may offer potential incentives for using RAF resources in combination with other focal area resources, especially those not part of the RAF. Furthermore, the GEF alternative would also offer a basis for harmonized M&E, sharing of lessons, knowledge and wider up-scaling of good

practices. Harmonized and centralized M&E/KM function is an important added-value of MENARID, the programme framework would be a knowledge incubator/disseminator for INRM in the region and will help the GEF in aggregating the M&E data in a systematic and coherent manner.

By offering a coherent approach to knowledge management and sharing of good practices across the region, the proposed project responds to the gap identified during MENARID preparation and provides harmonized M&E system and shared common KM platform. This will ensure a benefit for better interactions, an added-value for consolidated impact monitoring and reporting. By putting emphasis on portfolio-level results, common success indicators, and aligned M&E reporting, the proposed MSP will improve considerably the chances for effectively mainstreaming and scaling up INRM best practices throughout MENA. Through a well-articulated strategic partnership, GEF-supported investments will provide models and actions to be considered by decision makers for up-scaling throughout MENA region.

The MSP will support the intended global benefits of MENARID through:

- Up-scaling INRM investments that generate mutual benefits for ecosystems and local livelihoods
- Promoting national coordination mechanisms for INRM and improve harmonization/synergies between GEF and non-GEF investments in INRM
- Aligning approaches to harmonization and M&E
- Improving knowledge on INRM and disseminate information for up-scaling
- Promoting Inter-sectoral, multi-focal area and cross-conventions synergies

The MSP scale-up strategy will also delineates the mechanisms for which sustainable NRM investments will be scaled-up. Result-based M&E data and knowledgebase platform will be valuable bases for a prioritization process through which the MSP will identify the investments that will have the greatest potential for replication and scale-up and therefore ensure efficiency and pertinence of investments. Ultimately, this MSP will significantly lead to increased GE impact and increased impact by GE dollar through wider replication of good practices.

G. INDICATE RISKS, INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS, THAT MIGHT PREVENT THE PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S) FROM BEING ACHIEVED AND OUTLINE RISK MANAGEMENT MEASURES:

Risk	Risk rating	Risk mitigation measure
Insufficient mobilization of resources because of countries and some partners cannot sufficiently secure co-financing in line with the GEF required ratio for the MENARID portfolio.	Low	IAs and EAs will stimulate partnerships to maximize co-financing opportunities, and individual MENARID projects will leverage the required resources to co-finance their individual M&E systems.
Stakeholders are not sufficiently active in sharing information and are not motivated to be involved in project-level M&E reporting.	Low	Capacities will be built for regional management and cooperation at various levels through regional exchanges, forums, workshops, and targeted training within MENARID individual projects. Furthermore stakeholders' sensitization information and participation will be promoted through web-based forums and user friendly. The KM component of the project is designed also in a way to directly address the motivation and interest of stakeholders.
Inadequate technical capacity devoted to information gathering and management.	Medium	Linkages will be established with existing experiences dealing with institutional strengthening. Individual MENARID project will ensure that adequate training on M&E modalities is provided when needed. The KM component of the project is designed also in a way to directly

		contribute to increasing the technical capacity of stakeholders.
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H. EXPLAIN HOW COST-EFFECTIVENESS IS REFLECTED IN THE PROJECT DESIGN:

The first benefit of the MSP arises from the strategic regional portfolio approach to investing in MENA in INRM under the MENARID, a GEF strategic partnership framework. The primary underlying principle of MENARID programming framework is looking at cost-effective options that would lead to a maximum impact on the global environment per each GEF dollar. The proposed MSP will support MENARID to provide options that are firstly cost-effective, that do not generate high transaction costs and that do minimize overlaps and duplications of activities and interventions. Coordinated M&E functions will improve efficiency of individual projects. Through harmonised M&E and efficient knowledge sharing and scaling up of success stories, cost-effectiveness MENARID programme will identify ways and means to maximize the impact of GEF interventions on both people and ecosystems in a targeted manner. Individual projects will systematically ensure that their operations are cost-effective and impact-oriented. The MSP will provide the vehicles to transfer the coherent body of knowledge and processes built through MENARID portfolio across borders and to decision makers, allowing for cross-country and sub-regional comparison. The MSP provides a strong mechanism for cooperating with a wider array of potential types of partners while helping align their efforts around a common goal and across sectors. The main expected benefit from the harmonised programme-wide M&E and KM platform is reduced transaction costs for M&E functions across the GEF portfolio in the region. A regional approach allows best cost savings such as through reduced transaction costs for countries and GEF agencies, as expectations and goals become more transparent, economies of scale that can be harnessed as replication of successful models ramps up.

PART III: INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION AND SUPPORT

A. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT:

IFAD as lead agency for the project, as well as for MENARID umbrella programme, will undertake the overall lead on the supervision of project implementation and serve as the interface between agencies and the GEF Secretariat on project management and implementation. IFAD will also closely follow-up the project activities with the Executing Agency – ICARDA. ICARDA will be responsible for day-to-day management of project activities and delivery of its expected results.

GEF cooperating agencies within MENARID will be consulted at all stages of project initiation and implementation and will be engaged in all relevant project activities. Through their respective projects within MENARID, GEF Agencies will provide inputs to the M&E system and the knowledge management platform. They will also contribute to the MSP through sharing their SLM experiences and lessons learned within their local SLM projects. These projects will be the direct beneficiaries of the M&E and KM products.

B. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENT:

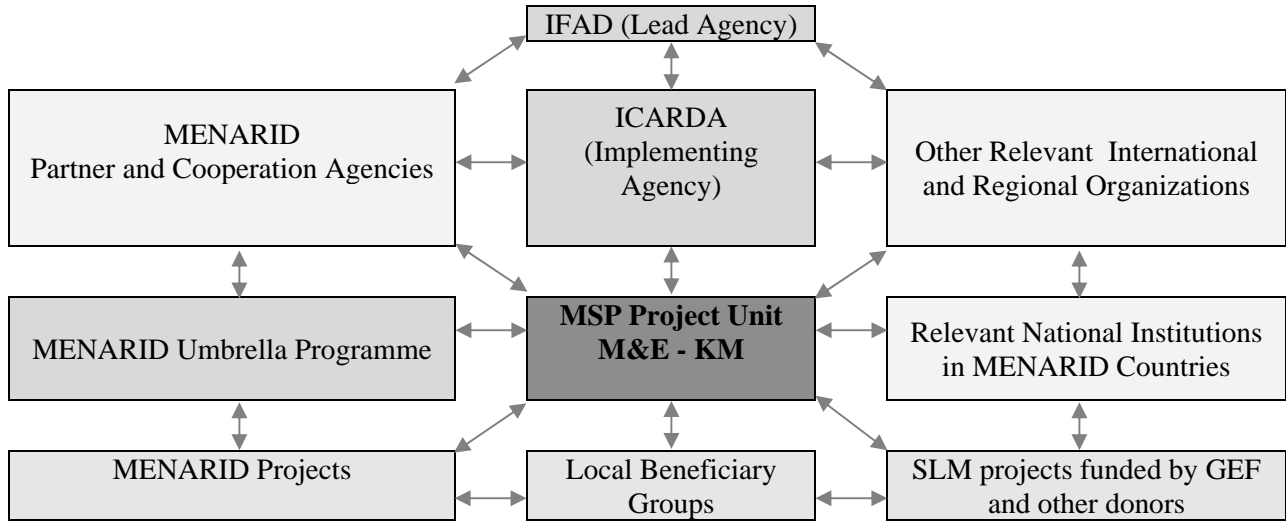
Overall project implementation will be the responsibility of IFAD. Day to day project management and implementation of the project activities as well as some activities related to monitoring and reporting will be the responsibility of ICARDA as described in the M&E Plan. Implementation will be largely a cooperative effort. UN sister agencies namely UNDP, UNEP, FAO, UNIDO and World Bank will be engaged in an active partnership and contribute to achieving the project objectives.

The direct link of the MSP with all MENARID projects will ensure the participation of the responsible agencies as well as national institutions as they will perceive direct benefits through sharing their achievements and lessons as well as learning from other experiences to enhance their practices and overcome some of the challenges. The project will work closely with national staff to extract INRM best and innovative practices to package and disseminate to the regional network. The project will also disseminate such practices and lessons learned to national beneficiaries. GEF agencies will be responsible for feeding in data and information to the M&E and KM systems.

ICARDA will be the Executing Agency to implement the project and ensure the day to day management of its various components and activities. It will create the necessary knowledge networks linking up all relevant stakeholders and follow up/report on the implementation of all the MSP activities.

IFAD as a leading implementing agency for this project will take responsibility for ensuring the smooth and effective implementation of the project and will provide continuous briefing on the project status and implementation achievements to the partner institutions and GEF (see Figure 1 - Project Implementation Structure).

Figure 1. Project Implementation Structure



PART IV: EXPLAIN THE ALIGNMENT OF PROJECT DESIGN WITH THE ORIGINAL PIF:

The MSP project design is fully in-line with the original PIF. The proposed objectives and activities are still focusing in the establishment of the M&E system and the KM platform. The consultation with MENARID Agencies confirmed that the MSP should follow the original PIF design as the need expressed during the PIF phase are still valid. No major changes occurred in this context over the past period in the region. The global and national impacts of the project remain consistent as well as the engagement of identified partner agencies.

PART V: AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for CEO Endorsement.					
Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	Date (Month, day, year)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Kevin Cleaver Assistant President, Programme Management Department IFAD			Naoufel Telahigue Programme Manager, Global Environment and Climate Change, Programme Management Department IFAD	+39 06 54592572	n.telahigue@ifad.org
<i>Please do not forget to copy the IFAD/GECC Registry on all official communications, GECCregistry@ifad.org</i>					

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Narrative Summary	Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification	Assumption / Risks
<p>GOAL An integrated knowledge-base approach through cross-cutting M&E functions and knowledge management(KM) for INRM within the MENARID programme framework established</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number and % of projects aligning their ME functions by PY 2 and PY4. ▪ Number of lessons shared and up-scaled throughout the MENARID portfolio and beyond by PY4. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Baseline survey conducted by PMU & relevant technical staff plus countries' relevant authorities ▪ Mid-term & ex-post evaluations ▪ Representative Governments' departments' survey at mid-term & project completion ▪ Analysis of field survey information ▪ Project management reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implementation of project requirements ▪ Adoption of integrated & cross-sectoral policies & approaches in sustainable management ▪ Policy dialogues on supporting mechanisms ▪ Implementation of Governments' strategies for quality control & environmental improvements
<p>OBJECTIVES i-Generate tools for systematic cross-cutting & aligned M&E functions throughout the MENARID framework</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number & effectiveness of INRM best practices in view of agencies applying M&E in INRM projects ▪ Extent & number of personnel per project trained and aware of M&E requirements for MENARID (at least 1 by project by PY1) ▪ Number and % of indicators that are used by more than 5 MENARID sub-projects by PY2 and PY4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Baseline surveys ▪ Mid-term & ex-post evaluations ▪ Project monitoring & evaluation reports checked in bi-annual workshops for all stakeholders ▪ Baseline & mid-term surveys using participatory & group approaches ▪ Baseline & mid-term surveys ▪ Mid-term evaluations & project management reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project design tailored to meet priorities & capacities of MENARID countries ▪ Government commitment to INRM following M&E plus KM approaches ▪ Availability of adequate persons & skills in using M&E plus KM in INRM
<p>ii-Develop a user-friendly knowledge management (KM) platform, information dissemination,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number & coverage of information systems on INRM (60 % by PY3) ▪ Number & effectiveness of INRM best practices in view of agencies applying KM in INRM projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Baseline & mid-term surveys ▪ Activity reports produced by the relevant authorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cross sectoral planning systems strengthened, both in budgeting & operations ▪ Targeted groups continue getting needed support

<p>harmonization & dissemination mechanisms of INRM best practices throughout the MENARID portfolio linked to existing networks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Flow of information exchange between projects (in number and quality) 	<p>plus contribution from stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project monitoring & evaluation reports checked in bi-annual workshops for all stakeholders ▪ Impact monitoring results of campaigns & networking 	
<p>OUTCOMES Component 1 1. Tools & approaches for streamlined M&E functions for INRM within the MENARID framework</p>	<p>Output 1.1: Harmonized MENARID M&E tools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ % of projects that follow MENARID's M&E requirements systematically (at least 90 % by PY4) ▪ Availability & quality of set of core indicators & MENARID indicators database & tracking system ▪ Availability & quality of best practices guidelines for INRM M&E <p>Output 1.2 : Aligned M&E approaches & processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Extent of annual increase of involvement of MENARID's relevant stakeholders in project M&E functions (at least 70 % of involvement rate by PY2) ▪ Extent of improvement of the quality of M&E practices in the MENARID framework <p>Output 1.3 : Systematic M&E data aggregation and analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ % of required data covered and managed properly through M&E approaches (at least 70 % by PY3) ▪ Number & quality of reports reflecting proper data analysis on cross-sectoral basis (project impacts, focal areas, ecosystems...etc) (at least 70 % by PY3) ▪ Number & quality of financial flow data reporting (disbursement rates, co-financing etc) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Baseline, mid-term & post project surveys ▪ Mid-term & annual surveys using participatory approaches with relevant authorities & stakeholders ▪ Project monitoring & evaluation technical reports ▪ Impact assessment reports ▪ Cost standards variance analysis reports ▪ Field surveys on relevant thematic selective areas ▪ Analysis of financial flows management reports ▪ Impact monitoring & evaluation reports ▪ Field surveys to relevant stakeholders with participatory evaluation analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policy agreements with governments of the MENARID framework are on-going ▪ GEF/IFAD support to the MENARID framework is continuous ▪ Staff training for the required tasks is adequate ▪ Continuous monitoring of projects outcomes

<p>Component 2 2. Tools & approaches for streamlined KM platform for INRM within the MENARID framework</p>	<p>Output 2.1 : Operational Knowledge Management platform</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ % of INRM projects that follow KM requirements systematically (60 % by PY3) ▪ Distribution, extent of use & quality of KM portal for serving MENARID projects (70 % by PY3) ▪ Availability & quality of best practices guidelines for INRM KM approaches ▪ Number & extent of projects showing coherent performance following KM platform requirements (at least 40 % by PY3) <p>Output 2.2 : Updated information on INRM in MENA Region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Distribution, extent of use & quality of data available in guidelines, fact sheets & formats on INRM themes in MENA ▪ Frequency and number of updated inputs (by year) <p>Output 2.3 : Increased knowledge flow between MENARID projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number & extent of use of stakeholders exchanging relevant information in the MENARID framework by PY2 and PY4 ▪ Number & level of MENARID GEF projects managers/stakeholders participating in bi-annual meetings ▪ Number & level of support to KM systems of relevant INRM projects in MENARID framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Baseline, mid-term & post project surveys ▪ Bi-annual workshops for linking KM portal to INRM KARIANET ▪ Mid-term & annual surveys using participatory approaches with relevant authorities & stakeholders ▪ Project monitoring & evaluation technical reports ▪ Impact assessment reports ▪ Cost standard variance analysis ▪ Reports ▪ Field surveys on established networks ▪ Annual project reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Training & motivations to relevant stakeholders to engage properly in data communication ▪ Policy agreements with governments of the MENARID framework are on-going ▪ GEF/IFAD support to the MENARID framework is continuous ▪ Appropriate extension messages developed & disseminated
<p>Component 3 3. Strategy for disseminating best & successful INRM practices in the MENA region</p>	<p>Output 3.1 : Adopted regional strategy for dissemination of best INRM practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Availability & quality of a regional strategy for disseminating best practices by PY 2 ▪ Number & geographic coverage of regional seminars on local knowledge for INRM & adaptation for climate change ▪ Number & levels of participants from MENARID 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mid-term & ex-post evaluations ▪ Participatory assessment of impacts ▪ Project monitoring & evaluation reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Appropriate strategy developed & properly disseminated ▪ Relevant authorities & stakeholders responding positively ▪ Continuous abiding by quality control requirements for result-based approaches

	<p>countries in the regional seminars</p> <p>Output 3.2 : Effective Monitoring and documentation of best practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Extent & quality of monitoring the implementation & up-scaling of best practices (at least 40 % by PY3) ▪ Extent of geographic coverage of best practices both within & outside the MENARID countries (at least 60 % by PY3) ▪ Number & quality of documents, including guidelines, produced & distributed relating to best ▪ Practices by PY 2 and PY4 <p>Output 3.3 : Innovative practices & approaches for INRM promoted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number & coverage of seminars on lessons learned on use of innovative approaches & techniques ▪ Number, distribution & level of stakeholders participating in the seminars By PY2 and PY4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Annual project reports ▪ Sample survey analysis ▪ Mid-term reviews & evaluation reports ▪ Participatory assessment of knowledge gained ▪ Sample survey analysis ▪ Participatory assessment & evaluation of ex-post reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Technical assistance & support properly materialized & maintained ▪ Participatory approaches are well monitored & conducted ▪ Objective external expert evaluators secured
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ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF)

The project design is fully aligned with the original PIF and further building on comments and feedback that was received from agencies through the MENARID Task Force meetings and email exchanges. To be completed after circulation for comments ...

ANNEX C: CONSULTANTS TO BE HIRED FOR THE PROJECT USING GEF RESOURCES

<i>Position Titles</i>	<i>\$/ person week*</i>	<i>Estimated person weeks**</i>	<i>Tasks to be performed</i>
For Project Management			
Local			
Project Assistant	900	22 (portion on GEF funding); total duration is 100 pw	Assist project team in ICARDA for project implementation and coordination/follow up for the coordination of various components and events
Justification for Travel, if any: Travel for organizing and participating in regional workshops and seminars and coordinate the implementation of project components with MENARID sub-projects.			
For Technical Assistance			
International			
KM Expert	2500	13	Design the KM Platform
M&E Expert	2500	16	Design the M&E System
GIS Expert	2500	12	Design the GIS System
Evaluation Expert	2500	4	Project Evaluation
Justification for Travel, if any: Travel to the project office and to participate in regional meetings if necessary			

ANNEX D: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES AND THE USE OF FUNDS TO BE COMPLETED BY IFAD PRIOR TO SUBMISSION

A. EXPLAIN IF THE PPG OBJECTIVE HAS BEEN ACHIEVED THROUGH THE PPG ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN. TO BE COMPLETED BY IFAD PRIOR TO SUBMISSION

B. DESCRIBE FINDINGS THAT MIGHT AFFECT THE PROJECT DESIGN OR ANY CONCERNS ON PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION, IF ANY: This project implementation will be dependent on a strong communication flow among all GEF agencies and their respective projects under MENARID. The momentum should be maintained throughout project implementation to ensure that information and data are exchanged on a timely manner. It will also depend on a strong exchange of knowledge through the KM platform. Although this platform will ensure that knowledge is captured and disseminated, this outcome will similarly depend on the effort that will be carried out at the individual project levels to capture and provide knowledge under their respective KM functions. Particular attention will be needed for this aspect not only at this MSP level but also at the scale of individual projects under MENARID.

**C. PROVIDE DETAILED FUNDING AMOUNT OF THE PPG ACTIVITIES AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION STATUS
IN THE TABLE BELOW: IFAD TO COMPLETE UPON SUBMISSION**

Project Preparation Activities Approved	Implementation Status	GEF Amount (\$)				Co-financing (\$)
		Amount Approved	Amount Spent To date	Amount Committed	Uncommitted Amount*	
Review of the basic elements pertaining to cross-cutting M&E systems for MENARID	Completed	7,000	6,000	1,000	-	8,000
Identification of barriers and gaps to KM and information exchange related to INRM in MENA region	Completed	7,000	6,000	1,000	-	8,000
Development of the MSP proposal and preparation of related documents	Completed	31,000	16,580	7,420	7,000	40,074
Project management	Yet to complete	-	-	-	-	24,000
Travel	NA	6,000	-	-	6,000	8,300
Documents editing and translation	NA	8,000	-	-	8,000	1,500
Contingencies	NA	1,000	-	-	1,000	0
Total		60,000	28,580	9,420	22,000	89,874

* Any uncommitted amounts should be returned to the GEF Trust Fund. This is not a physical transfer of money, but achieved through reporting and netting out from disbursement request to Trustee. Please indicate expected date of refund transaction to Trustee.

ANNEX E: CALENDAR OF EXPECTED REFLOWS N/A