



COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY

WORKING GROUP ON DRYLAND FORESTS AND AGROSILVOPASTORAL SYSTEMS

Second Session (Virtual)

17-18 November 2021

GEF-7 SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT IMPACT PROGRAM ON DRYLAND SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES (DSL-IP)

Executive Summary

The Sustainable Forest Management Impact Program on Dryland Sustainable Landscapes (DSL-IP) is comprised of a Global Coordination Project (GCP) and 11 national (child) projects. The initiative was endorsed by the Global Environment Facility in June 2021.

The first section of this document (4.a) provides a brief summary of the DSL-IP's key objectives, co-executing partners, geographic coverage and overall implementation structure. Recent developments since the endorsement of the DSL-IP are highlighted, including the program's launching event and on-going operational processes regarding setting up project management units (at global and national child project levels) and finalizing contractual arrangements with co-executing partners of the GCP.

The second section (4.b) provides an overview of the DSL-IP Global Steering Committee (GSC) including main tasks, composition and roles and responsibilities of GSC members, which includes reporting the results of the GSC meetings to the FAO Committee on Forestry (COFO) Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems.

Suggested action by the COFO Working Group

The Working Group may wish to invite its members to:

- Facilitate the linkages and interactions between respective governmental units responsible for dryland management and the DSL-IP child projects to strengthen implementation at the national level in their respective countries.
- Participate in the DSL-IP child projects' Steering Committees in their respective countries to ensure a two-way flow of information between the child project and the COFO Working Group.

- Contribute to the identification of evidence-based regional (transboundary) priorities for transboundary dryland management.
- Promote and share lessons learned with non DSL-IP countries to strengthen the regional exchange.
- Consider and approve the first report of the Global Steering Committee of the Dryland Sustainable Landscape Impact Program as stipulated in paragraph 136 of the Program Framework Document.

Queries on the substantive content of the document may be addressed to:

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a. Developments in the Impact Programme

I. Introduction

1. Through the sustainable management of production landscapes, the Sustainable Forest Management Impact Program on Dryland Sustainable Landscapes (DSL-IP), funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), seeks to accelerate and scale-up action to avoid, reduce, and reverse further degradation, desertification, and deforestation of land and ecosystems in drylands.
2. The 5-year programme with a total grant funding of USD 104 million and USD 810 million of co-financing is led by FAO in coordination with three co-implementing agencies: the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the World Bank (WB). The DSL-IP will work in 11 countries (child projects): eight in Central, Eastern and Southern Africa (Angola, Botswana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania and Zimbabwe); one in West Africa (Burkina Faso), and two in Central Asia (Kazakhstan and Mongolia).
3. The DSL-IP Global Coordination Project (GCP) will support and coordinate the DSL-IP within the 11 child projects by providing technical expertise and country-docking support to enhance the programme's overall coherence. The GCP will be supported by a consortium of partners including the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), IUCN, and the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT) to: (i) address common management challenges in an integrated manner; (ii) maximize programmatic synergies and economies of scale; (iii) ensure South-South cooperation; (iv) strengthen dialogue with relevant regional actors; (v) enhance durability through a system-wide capacity enhancement approach; and (vi) facilitate the development of knowledge products, outreach and engagement at national and regional levels, while also documenting and sharing knowledge of the results and lessons learned from implementation of the Impact Program.
4. Based on the geographic distribution of the 11 DSL-IP countries, three regional platforms/facilities (Regional Exchange Mechanisms, REMs) are envisaged under the GCP: Central Asia; Sahel/East Africa; and the Miombo/Mopane ecoregion in Southern Africa. Under the GCP, the REMs will facilitate collaboration and exchange both within and between regions as needed.
5. Moreover, the DSL-IP will maximize synergies with the GEF-7 Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration Impact Program (FOLUR-IP)¹, which is being implemented across 27 countries to

¹ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/agriculture/brief/the-food-systems-land-use-and-restoration-folur-impact-program>

promote sustainable integrated landscapes and efficient food value chains at scale for eight commodities (beef, cocoa, corn, coffee, palm oil, rice, soy, and rice).

II. Developments and next steps

6. The GCP and the 11 child projects were endorsed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in June 2021, and the programme was officially launched on 3 June 2021 during the Global Landscape Forum's virtual event 'Restoring Africa's Drylands, Accelerating Action on the Ground'². The GLF event was strategically organized to convene partners and stakeholders belonging to different sectors and scales (local, national, regional and global) and attracted 450 online participants.

7. For all 11 child projects, the next steps include finalizing contractual arrangements between the GEF lead executing agencies and government counterparts, hiring project management units, and conducting national inception workshops. At the global level, a Project Management Unit (PMU) has been established within FAO's Forestry Division. The main functions of the PMU are to ensure overall efficient management, coordination and alignment between the global, regional and country-level implementation and monitoring of the project through the effective execution of the annual work plans and budgets (AWP/Bs).

8. Together with FAO, IUCN and WOCAT will play important roles in executing the GCP. On the one hand, IUCN will be responsible for coordinating the REMs in Sahel/East Africa and in Central Asia while FAO will be responsible for the coordination of the REM covering the Miombo/Mopane ecoregion in Southern Africa. On the other hand, WOCAT will support the collection, documentation and sharing of Sustainable Land Management (SLM) and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) good practices. The latter will be selected and tailored to contribute to evidence-based decision-making for the promotion of SLM and SFM implementation and upscaling to contribute to Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets as well as Sustainable Development Goals.

9. The GCP will establish a Global Steering Committee (GSC) comprised of one representative each from FAO's COFO Working Group on Dryland Forests and Agrosilvopastoral Systems, IUCN, the World Bank, WWF, and WOCAT. The UNCCD Global Mechanism, GEF-Secretariat and the GEF-Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) will be invited to participate as ex-officio members.

10. The GSC's main role will be to provide strategic direction and ensure supervision and technical quality of the Program. The GSC will act as an advisory mechanism for the preparation and implementation of the Program and its components, for the design and implementation of the REMs, and to maximize synergies among national actions while strengthening cooperation and knowledge exchange at the various levels.

11. The members of the GSC will represent their respective agencies as focal points during the GSC meetings. The GSC will meet at least once per year in person (virtually if necessary) and with greater frequency as required, to ensure: (i) a review and endorsement of the annual work and budget plan and corresponding monitoring and evaluation framework (and any changes thereto); (ii) oversight and assurance of technical quality of outputs across the program; (iii) close linkages between the Global Project and other ongoing projects and programs relevant to the project (including GEF-7 FOLUR-IP); (iv) timely availability and effectiveness of co-financing support; (v) durability of key project outcomes, including up-scaling and replication; (vi) guidance on the program's knowledge management and communication strategy, stakeholder engagement plan and efforts and system-wide capacity enhancement strategy; (vii) timely completion of project progress reports and annual project implementation reviews; (viii) approval of Terms of References (TORs) and timely provision comments as part of the management response to recommendations for mid-term and final

² <https://www.globallandscapesforum.org/publication/the-drylands-sustainable-landscapes-impact-program-local-action-for-impact-at-scale/>

evaluations; (ix) consensus-based management decisions when guidance is required by the Global Project Coordinator; and (x) any other business brought before the GSC by one of its members.

b. Report of the Global Steering Committee

12. In its Inaugural session, the Working Group recommended that its Steering Committee (in close collaboration with the 11 countries participating in the Impact Program) coordinates closely with the Global Steering Committee of the Impact Program, and supports the implementation of the Impact Program at regional and global levels.

13. The first meeting of the GSC will take place on 15 November 2021 immediately before and back-to-back with the next COFO Working Group meeting.

14. The objectives of the first GSC meeting are to: (1) review and finalize the GSC's draft TORs as well as agree on the GSC's composition; (2) introduce the DSL IP GCP implementation structure, including roles and responsibilities of key executing partners; (3) review and approve the GCP's first year's work and budget plan; and (4) introduce DSL IP GCP's draft knowledge management strategy.

15. In concurrence with the results of the Inaugural Session of the COFO Working Group (FO:COFO/WG-DF/2019/REP) and in alignment with DSL-IP Program Framework Document³, the report of the GSC meeting will be presented by the GSC Secretary for consideration and approval during the 2nd session of the COFO Working Group meeting on the 17 November 2021.

³ https://publicpartnershipdata.azureedge.net/gef/GEFDocuments/e3681ffb-3e55-e911-a827-000d3a365662/Roadmap/PFD__PIF_ID10206.pdf